

Promote Tolerance, Encourage Understanding!

What can I do to eradicate racism, homophobia, xenophobia, sexism and all intolerance from my community?

Life is an inevitable dialogue between different cultures and countries, between so unlike people: rich and poor, black and white, men and women. This dialogue is extremely difficult because of people's diversity. Only when we find unity in variety, become more sympathetic, kind and rallied, learn to understand and respect the others, this discussion becomes pleasant and easy. And our task is to do everything possible to achieve mutual understanding.

The first idea which comes to my mind is about a large variety of my society. These are my friends, relatives, people from my school and the citizens of Daugavpils. No doubt, that various kinds of intolerance exist and prosper in the majority of us. Of course, we can remain passive, thinking: "I am just a tiny vessel in an enormous ocean of people. If so many incorrect stereotypes, beliefs and fears are in these waters, there is nothing I can do about it. There is even no sense to try." But if we want to leave in the world of tolerance, understanding and love, we have to struggle for it. If everyone thinks so, we will be able to take a victory over intolerance and fears inside people. And wherever I go, whoever surrounds me, I will always be on the side of peace and consent. Undoubtedly all intolerance brings huge harm to our mankind. Let's take racism for example. Racism is a belief, which is based on the statements about unequal physical and mental ability of human races. But scientists have proved that on a structure of body, physiology and psychology all human races are very similar. That is why the theories about the existence of "the highest" and "the lowest" races have no basis. But, despite of it, nowadays the display of racism is not a rarity.

My contribution to the eradication of racism could be my own articles to Internet, to school and town newspapers. I will write about pernicious influence of racism on different generations. It became the reason for slavery and the idea of fascism. I will emphasize that love to other people should be the main focus in children's upbringing. All what I want to scream out to the world is expressed in the words once

said by Abdul-Baha: " The variety in human family has to be the source of love and harmony like in music, where lot of different notes mix up and derive the perfect motive. If you meet people of another nationality or with another colour of skin, do not express mistrust, be glad to meet them, let them feel your kindness. Think of them like of colourful roses in the beautiful garden of mankind and be pleased of your belonging to them."

Secondly, I could also submit the project to the council of my school about the realization of the competition called " No to racism!" in the hall. Each class will have to present his ideas about the ways of struggle against racism. During this activity I will acquaint everyone with culture, art, music and outstanding people of different races subjected to humiliation.

Homophobia is often discussed problem. The majority feel animosity and fear to homosexuals. It has become the reason for their cruel beating and even murders. The aspiration of people to suppress all displays of homosexuality inside themselves can be the expression of homophobia. Homosexuals are exposed to be sneered and offended. The common-heard opinion in my community is that they are sick and infectious people who are able to influence the others very badly. The Bible is against homosexuality. But at the same time it says that we have no rights to condemn the others, whatever they do. (Johan 8:3-11). That is why I will write articles about the philanthropy and patience, directed against the hatred to homosexuals.

Then, in assistance with school council, I can invite a doctor and a psychologist to my school. They would explain everything about homosexuality and homophobia to students, because both of the problems include medical-psychological basis.

Often we are afraid of something new, but nobody will deny that at the same time the unknown causes interest. That's why my task is to do everything possible to increase this interest and help to overcome fear of the foreigners called xenophobia.

It is important to achieve the rapprochement. How can I do it? I am the participant of the international project and have taken part in American Summer Camp. We have the opportunity to share our experience, to tell about different cultures, lifestyles and to show that we all are the same to many students, gathered together in the hall. I have already persuaded many people to take part in such projects and will continue doing it. What is more, I can organize the celebration of one holiday in American and German traditions, because students from the USA and Germany study in my school.

Sexism is discrimination by sex. People often prefer to accept men, not women, to the leading posts. But the statement that men are better leaders than women is not proved. Traditionally, men dominate in technical branches, but social spheres are at disposal of women.

There is The Study of Future Career in my gymnasium. I can invite the expert from there, who will make students, especially girls, become interested in getting good education. If women are good at their professions, they have more chances in making excellent careers. I can write articles to my town newspapers about sexism, take part in discussions and debates, which can be organized in my school.

William Hestlitt said: "Love for freedom is love of people, love for authority is vanity." Human is born for freedom, but not for slavery. That is why we must not be in the captivity of prejudices, fears, hatred and arrogance. Only when we get released from these circuits, we will be able to give sincere love and care instead of egoism, which leads to destruction. I call everyone to think about that because we are strength together. Let's overcome the barriers, which divide us, and we will see what happiness and harmony is possible in our world!

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