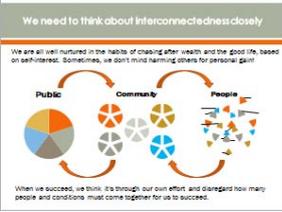


Title: Peace As A purposeful Goal and Sustainable Peace Effort

Slide No.	Geshe Zopa's speech
<p>Slide 1</p> 	<p>First of all I would like to express heartfelt "Tashi Delek" greetings to all who have gathered here, distinguished recipients of this prestigious award, guest speakers, my brothers and sisters.</p> <p>My talk will be on peace as a purposeful goal and sustainable peace efforts.</p>
<p>Slide 2</p> 	<p>In many parts of the world today, we are witnessing conflict and violence in the name of religion and in the name of national pride. But instead of helping mankind to progress, they are inflicting unspeakable suffering on millions. World peace should therefore not be just nice words but seriously worked upon as a goal that has meaning and one that needs to be sustained.</p>
<p>Slide 3</p> 	<p>As a monk, my offer of input is that achieving peace needs to begin with each country, each community and each person realising the interconnectedness of all existence. How do we accomplish this?</p>
<p>Slide 4</p> 	<p>By introducing secular ethics into the education system – all the way from schools to institutions of higher learning and reinforced in the home by parents and through public media as well. We are all well nurtured in the habits of chasing after wealth and the good life, based on self-interest. Sometimes, we don't mind harming others as long as there is profit in it for us. When we succeed, we think it's through our own effort and disregard how many people and conditions must come together for us to succeed. We need to think about this interconnectedness closely. We need to set aside time and effort to be clear about this. From the young to the old, there is a need to cultivate new and positive habits of seeing this interconnectedness and living our lives ethically. Only then, can any peace we arrive at be stable and sustainable.</p> <p>I have always admired India and offer it as an example of a nation of religious harmony. There may be the occasional disruption to this but overall, communities of different faiths, different walks of life and different social customs co-exist peacefully in a spirit of tolerance.</p>

<p>Slide 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interconnectedness</p>  <p>The teachings of Gautama Buddha and the great Indian Nalanda pandits speak of "The wisdom of interdependency and the attitude of cherishing others' well-being more than our own."</p> <p>Why should we do so? Because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All sentient beings are same as us. They seek happiness as we do and wish to avoid hardship, as we do. ➤ By seeing this common aspiration, we should feel within us a sense of empathy and compassion. ➤ Our birth and our survival depend on others. 	<p>The teachings of Gautama Buddha and the great Indian Nalanda pandits speak of the wisdom of interdependency and the attitude of cherishing others' well-being more than our own. Why should we do so? Because all sentient beings are same as us. They seek happiness as we do and wish to avoid hardship, as we do. By seeing this common aspiration, we should feel within us, a sense of empathy and compassion. After all, our birth and our survival depend on others.</p>
<p>Slide 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ways To Promote World Peace In Our World</p> <p>From the day parents interact with their child, to the schools who teach the alphabet and numbers in the school, to the workplace – all that communication should contain the values of :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ universal responsibility, ➤ an attitude of loving kindness and compassion, ➤ a view of interconnectedness. <p>If we are able to groom our children in this way, our world at both the individual and global level will be happier and more peaceful.</p> <p>If we are able to live our lives with such principles, it will create the causes for our own happiness and the happiness of others.</p>	<p>In my view, from the day parents interact with their child, to the schools who teach the alphabet and numbers in the school, to the workplace – all that communication should contain the values of universal responsibility, an attitude of loving kindness and compassion; and a view of interdependency. If we are able to groom our children in this way, our world at both the individual and global level will be happier and more peaceful. If we are able to live our lives with such principles, it will create the causes for our own happiness and the happiness of others.</p>
<p>Slide 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ways To Promote World Peace In Our World</p> <p>If each and every individual is able to study this philosophy well and apply them to one's daily life -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One's personal life and environment is transformed into one that is filled with happiness and positive potential. ➤ It will also influence others around oneself, making it possible for others to gain the same joyful experience. <p>If a community of people do likewise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ That entire community will enjoy a positive inner and outer existence. ➤ It will influence a State, a nation and finally influence the world community to enjoy the peaceful world. 	<p>If each and every individual is able to study this philosophy well and apply them to one's daily life, the immediate impact is that one's personal life and environment is transformed into one that is filled with happiness and positive potential. It will also influence others around oneself, making it possible for others to gain the same joyful experience. If a community of people do likewise, that entire community will enjoy a positive inner and outer existence, which in turn can influence a State, a nation and finally influence the world community to enjoy the peaceful world within and without.</p> <p>While these ideas may not be new, most of us expect others to start the transformation process, to be kinder to us, to be better towards us. No. Instead of only imposing on others and waiting for transformation in others to happen, we ourselves should make the first move towards change. This is the power of individual and we all have that ability.</p>
<p>Slide 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ways To Promote World Peace In Our World</p>  <p>The great Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world"</p>	<p>As the great Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world". The key is whether we as individuals are willing to embark on making changes.</p>

Slide 9



Presently, we all tend to look at only outer changes – for example – **we get very excited about technological progress, industrial advancements and scientific pursuits but something is still missing** because while these great material advancements are impressive, it has been misused by some leaders causing death and famine in many countries, labour exploitation, environmental degeneration, and the threat of nuclear war in the near future. **Where is the peace amidst this technological advancement? The answer is that it lies in the people who use the technology and those persons need to be well-imbued with good ethics for peace to be achieved and sustained.**

Slide 10



We might think, “What can I as one individual do for world peace?”

Slide 11



We have seen how social media has gained tremendous power through one person sharing information with another and so on. So, we should never underestimate this thing called “just one person”. For my part, I have been taking every opportunity to express the above responsibilities to practice and promote good ethics at talks, even if only one person in the audience is paying attention.

So, here I am making a sincere and strong request to all the participants to analyse and think deeply about how we can promote the understanding of the interconnectedness of humanity and the value of good ethics. The time has come for us to work collaboratively on this as much as possible. For the sake of peace and not just short term peace but sustainable peace.

The Nobel Peace laureate His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet always advises that many problems are created by us and can therefore be resolved by us. **Everyone has a role in this - from country leaders and officials in charge of nations, to religious organizations, to families.** Vigilance and strictness should be enforced on whomever which indulges in misconduct that harm people in the name of religion and misuse of political power.

Slide 12

Conclusion

A peaceful and successful future for ourselves, our societies, our world and the protection of the future generations and the environment will not be possible if there is no peace and ethical discipline within our mental continuum.

Only then can we bring about an inner revolution within ourselves that will break the old bad habit of living for my benefit and abandoning all concern for others who made our survival and success possible.

We need a clear understanding of the interconnectedness of all living beings, as this will help us cultivate empathy, loving kindness and compassion.

Only then will we cease to think in terms of your problem is not my problem and the related negative mindsets of greed and anger.

In this way, world peace and protection for now and future generations can be accomplished and preserved.

In conclusion, a peaceful and successful future for ourselves, our societies, our world and the protection of the future generations and their environment will not be possible if there is no peace and ethical discipline within our mental continuum. Therefore, we need a clear understanding of the interconnectedness of all living beings, as this will help us cultivate empathy, loving kindness and compassion. Only then will we cease to think in terms of your problem is not my problem and the related negative mindsets of greed and anger. Only then can we bring about an inner revolution within ourselves that will break the old bad habit of living for my benefit and abandoning all concern for others, who made our survival and success possible.

In this way, world peace and protection for now and future generations can be accomplished and preserved.

Slide 13

Conclusion

The world does not need even one more selfish person. There are already 8 billion of us in that category.

The world desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storyteller educators and lovers of all kinds who are raised on good ethics.

The world does not need even one more selfish person. The world desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storyteller educators and lovers of all kinds who are raised on good ethics.

Slide 14

Thank you

Thank you.
Geshe Tenzin Zopa
FPMT Touring Teacher