

## University for Peace

### New Tools for Change – Media Peace and Conflict Studies

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**YOUTH**, a short and easy word to say, however, it means the future, a young person who dreams, who will become an adult and maybe create a family, have a career and grow old someday. Everything is part of a cycle, the cycle of life. The youth, usually think about having fun, playing soccer, skateboarding, bicycling, playing any sport without really worrying about paying bills, work, buy food for the house and managing the house, tasks that are normally performed by their parents. It is a time for experiences and discoveries. Some say that youth is a state of mind, by the fact that even adults have a joy in themselves, a joyful way "young" to be.

Along with the age, comes the responsibility, a period of education and respect, which we must learn well and it's going to be our personality when adult. There are young people who sadly face certain difficulties in their lives, parents cannot afford to pay a good school, financial or social problems, the young is affected. Other factors such as discrimination, mortality, safety, sexual exploitation, forced work, slavery, death, raped, among others, throw away the future, traumatizes and makes the person not develop skills to become a successful professional and have a dignified life. All these facts affect really bad the future and education of a young kid in the most important phase of your life. On the other hand, a teenager who comes from a successful family, gets a higher education, have a good health, he tends to have a more balanced professional and personal life, more successful and have the possibility of living longer.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works for children rights and protection, as well as their education, and have the mission of building a world where the rights of every child are realized, every children is educated to become better citizens in the future:

*“All children have the right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. Yet, millions of children worldwide from all socio-economic backgrounds, across all ages, religions and cultures suffer violence, exploitation and abuse every day. Millions more are at risk. [...] Some girls and boys are particularly vulnerable because of gender, race, ethnic origin or socio-economic status. Higher levels of vulnerability are often associated with children with disabilities, who are orphaned, indigenous, from ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups [...] Violence, exploitation and abuse are often practiced by someone known to the child, including parents, other family*

*members, caretakers, teachers, employers, law enforcement authorities, state and non-state actors and other children. [...] Abuse occur in the homes, families, schools, care and justice systems, workplaces and communities across all contexts, including as a result of conflict and natural disasters. Many children are exposed to various forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation, armed violence, trafficking, child labor, gender-based violence, bullying, cyber-bullying, gang violence, female genital mutilation/cutting, child marriage, physically and emotionally violent child discipline, and other harmful practices.“*

As we see nowadays, the world itself is calling for help. We are living in a violent world with many conflicts occurring, and it is our duty to and duty of the future generations to change this situation, learn, discuss and promote peace worldwide.

In Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica is not different. Teenagers have dreams, they all have plans for the future, go to college, have a job, be a good professional and live a dignified life, enjoy quality of life and the wonderful nature, which Costa Rica offers the best.

Ciudad colon is a lovely and beautiful town in Costa Rica, it has a good climate, many recreational attractions, music, sports and beautiful nature. Young people daily go to the skate park to enjoy and have fun, they meet regularly to discuss and gather a group of friends. This is a great way to avoid some of the problems already discussed in this article, such as drugs, violence, problems with behavior problems with parents.

To conclude, the youth are the hope and future of a nation, they will be the future managers, politicians, who will help in the development of a country, in any area that might work. I leave here my hope that today's youth can live in a more peaceful world in the future, and finally create conditions of stability and well-being, necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

## **References**

UNICEF, United Nations Children´s Fund. Available in: <http://www.unicef.org/>