

## **The Pugwash movement and the renunciation of war**

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It is a privilege to stand before you at this Pugwash Conference, a gathering that has given humanity hope when hope is in short supply.

The title of this session, “*The Pugwash Movement and the Renunciation of War: Dialogue Across Divides*,” is not only a subject of discussion. It is a moral imperative, a scientific responsibility, and an existential necessity.

Pugwash reminds us that **science must be conscience**. Knowledge without ethics is dangerous; but knowledge married to humanity is liberating.

I come to you not only as a physician and a professor, but as a man whose life has been seared by the fire of war. I was born in a refugee camp in Gaza. I built my career in medicine — in Israeli hospitals, delivering children from mothers of all faiths and nationalities. I believed then, and I believe now, that health and humanity know no borders.

As scientists and citizens, we carry the privilege of knowledge. With that privilege comes obligation. Our role is not only to diagnose the sickness of war but to prescribe its cure: dialogue, dignity, and peace.

I am a Palestinian Canadian refugee who was born, raised, and lived in Jabalia refugee Camp in the Gaza Strip. The son of refugee parents who are survival of the Nakba in 1948 where they were expelled from their home.

As a refugee My life was a war and continues to be a war to this day.

As a child, my life was a war: In this world: people are fighting to live, and others are living to fight. I never tasted my childhood. I found myself in a life as challenging as a raging and wild ocean. As life increased my aches, pain and suffering it also amplified my maturity, awareness, strength and I did not allow all the difficulties to kill my dreams.

Even though we are now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it seems humankind has not learned the lesson. We still have nations, countries dominating, oppressing and occupying other nations and countries. We still have

parties, factions, media, groups who want to control how people think and how they live.

That's why we still have war and conflict around the globe and the world is endemic with violence, hatred, injustice, poverty.

As a wounded, bereaved father who lost beloved children, family members, sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins; I feel the suffering of all human beings. War is a defeat and failure to overcome arrogance, ignorance, fear and bloodshed.

**War:** War is a contagious destructive disease. My life is and was a war.

War is one of the greatest determinants of morbidity and mortality.

Studies show that in modern conflicts, up to **90% of casualties are civilians**, most of them women and children.

We know from public health research that the scars of violence are not only immediate. War rewrites the biology of those who survive — through trauma, through toxic stress, through the intergenerational

transmission of fear. Conflict is an **epigenetic poison** that inscribes itself into the DNA of children before they are even born.

**Compassion:** The killing and death don't hurt the dead or murdered; it hurts the living. And if the murdered, killed, weak and victim cannot cry or speak out, it's the moral, ethical, and human duty and responsibility of the living and loving to act and speak out for them and that the lost holy souls to be injected into a vein of hope..... *Dwight Eisenhower:*

*“Every gun that is made, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed”*

*“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”*

My suffering and the world's suffering is manmade. This is the hope and our responsibility to unmake it. Every day each of us adds a small portion by watching it thinking it's not important and saying what we can do. What makes the evil flourish are the good people who do

nothing. The killing ... Compassion is responsibility to speak out and act. If the killed, murdered and weak cannot speak.

### **But what is war? What is violence**

Violence: when we violate someone's dignity, rights and survival. This violence is systemic, systematic, structural, cultural, political, and human violence

How much war do we see on the screen?

How much of the suffering do we know about in our world?

Is it the soldier who is killed or wounded?

Or the innocent child, daughter, mother or old?

It's our children or grandchildren dying before they are fully adults, or being disfigured, wounded or mentally scared for life. They are dying in silence, and no one knows or hears about them.

We hear and see just the numbers.

Its hundreds of thousands of human beings dying years before their time

It's our children who see their buddies, limbs blown off their bodies.

Its millions of people separated forever from the ones they loved

The physical costs are easier to see: the loss of life, limbs, and other horrible disfiguring injuries. Less visible, but no less damaging, are other kinds of loss, children abruptly orphan.....

War and injustice are genocide, torture, propaganda, dishonesty and slavery of humanity

War and injustice are not just to be documented but to be prevented

Even though we are now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it seems humankind has not learned the lesson. We still have nations, countries dominating, oppressing and occupying other nations and countries. We still have parties, factions, media, groups who want to control how people think and how they live.

We live in unprecedented era. That's why we still have war and conflict around the globe and the world is endemic with violence, hatred,

injustice, poverty. This violence is filling every corner of our world in homes, and in streets.

No one knows loss until it happens

No one knows the suffering until they have suffered

No one knows freedom until they have lost it

How simple is war when we see it with glasses.

We need all to advocate and speak out

What makes the evil to flourish. And we all are potential victims.

“He who looks at the sea	Does not know the sea,
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He who sits on the shore	Does not know the sea,
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He who comes to see a sight	does not know the sea
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Only he who immerses himself( dives, takes risk and forgets the sea in  
the sea

Any free person will refuse to die in silence. You cannot ask people to coexist or accept injustice; this is injustice. Injustice leads to violence and violence begets violence and hatred.

Tragedy cannot be or put an end to our life. Responding to tragedy with my book titled: I shall not hate. **My answer was:** I could have chosen hatred. But I declared to myself and to the world: *I shall not hate*.

This is not resignation. It is resistance — the most profound resistance to the epidemic of war and hatred.

**Gaza Now and before:** It was Gaza, it's no longer Gaza!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Before October 7 Gaza Strip was: Before October 7: out of 5 children, 4 were mentally disordered. Hopeless, lifeless, jobless, lightless, helpless, free less.

It was a hell now it's a ghost. Mass murder, mass destruction, mass displacement and mass suffering.



You will find the slaughtered, the wounded, the displaced, the expelled,  
the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the cold and the missing. Corpses  
scattered in the alleys, side roads,

Now Gaza and Gazans are homeless, waterless, foodless, health less,  
warm less, childless, parentless, school less. Futureless, limbless,  
handless, closer to death than to life.

Mass graves, collective punishment, field executions, torture,  
decapitation, bodies dissolved, maimed, disfigured.

“More children killed in Gaza in 6 months than the number of children  
killed in all the other war zones in the world over 3 years multiplied by  
4”

Do you know that mothers' breastmilk was cut off due to fear and lack of  
food!!

Palestinians wake up, sleep, and live the minutes on news of killing,  
destruction, deprivation, hunger, and death for our loved ones

O death, stop for a moment; Perhaps we can pick up the pieces of those we lost, so they can sleep without cold and noise.

We cry blood for our loved ones. Oh death, leave us some of our loved ones and We have nothing left.

**To endure this world, we need to change courses:** Jesus said: seek the truth and the truth sets you free.

We heard the word peace many many times by many people

**We speak of peace. What is peace: We need to resume trust in the international law and the Human Rights conventions, democracy, civilization which are buried with the innocent Palestinians women, children and the elderly.**

We need truth, justice, compassion, accountability, freedom, equality and dignity for all and of all. **Justice, equality, freedom, and dignity are essential, crucial to being fully human. Dehumanization facilitates discrimination, fear, violence, hatred, marginalization, conflict and oppression: our enemies are our ignorance, arrogance, greed.** Dehumanization is a trigger and a precursor to atrocities, such as

genocides and ethnic cleansing, where the "other" is framed as a threat to be eliminated.

In a time, everything is weaponized, politicized, militarized. It's time to humanize, socialize, equalize, harmonize, stabilize.

Accountability and justice are essential to the stability of our world.

Acknowledgment of the wrongdoing and accountability to avoid repetition because we all the time we are never again. Never again.

**Action:** Humanitarian law and the principles of health emergency response are vital pillars of our shared humanity. Adhering to these principles is not just a necessity, it is a moral obligation. We must strive for a world where justice, dignity, and well-being prevail.

Our leaders must rise to this moment, thinking beyond themselves, and putting humanity first. To defend humanity is to recognize that human beings and their freedom are the most sacred things in the universe.

Without this understanding, we risk losing what makes us truly human.

Building close ties between people is one of the most effective ways of preventing conflict over the long term. These ties should be built on

equality, respect and freedom. It is to these people – the hundreds of millions of men, women and children who crave a normal, peaceful and economically stable life – that the international community must devote greater attention. It is they who collectively represent the best chance for peace and yet are ironically compelled to bear the brunt of its perennial absence.

From competition to collaboration, cooperation and complementation

Partnership: From exclusive to inclusive. From reactive to proactive

From patchwork quilt to comprehensive

Not to leave anyone behind To Humanize NOT to politicize

**Hope:** You are all today and every day you bring hope. You are the hope the people count on and depend upon. Their trust and faith rest in your ability to bring light in times of darkness.

Never lose hope, nothing is impossible in life. The only impossibility is giving up on hope itself. Hope fuels the belief that we can overcome any obstacle. Compassion, in turn, is not just an emotion; it is a call to action

Your actions, your voice, and your courage make all the difference. It is our responsibility to turn that hope into change; to act with purpose and make the world we envision a reality.

Personally, I saw hope in the newborn babies I delivered. And I saw the killing of daughters and nice when an Israeli tank bombarded my house.

The killing of my loved daughters was not the last. It's just numbers among the tens of thousands of Palestinians killed. Lately nephews, nieces, and tens of family members who are under fire and uncertainty in Jabalia Camp in the Gaza Strip.

**END: DFL: In my life I am in debt.** Tragedy cannot be the end of our lives; we cannot allow it to control and defeat us. I succeeded in my life, but I will never forget where I came from. The only impossible thing is bringing my daughters back to life. Today I keep them in your hearts, minds, and souls. In memory of my daughters, I established DFL (Daughters for Life Foundation).

I succeeded to create life from death and spread hope and light from pain and suffering. The strongest members in any society are women. The

women are the author of the survival story of our world. They are the ones behind our existence and success.

In a time and a world of despair and loss of hope, women have maintained hope.

That's why I am optimistic today and will keep hopeful and optimistic about our future. And because I know when we all come together as men and women, elders, and children for the collective good for all people and the advancement of our communities and societies, the whole world will benefit.

Women are the balance of our world.

Women give life, women nurture life.

Instead of saying behind a successful man there is a successful woman.

We need to say: parallel and side by side to a successful man there is a successful woman. There is no peace without women and no peace without respect of human rights.

End: It's my solid belief that safeguarding the dignity, safety and wellbeing of human beings in any conflict exceeds any other

consideration. I fully believe that we have the knowledge, the talent, the strength but we need the good will to make the world a better one. By sharing our humanity and realizing that we all bleed the same color.

To overcome our world problems this needs honesty and truth. Truth goes side by side with responsibility. It's the responsibility of all to speak the truth and expose the lies.

We all are potential victims Justice is essential Crucial to our freedom, rights, and dignity to be fully human and protect our world and no one is above order.

It's time to look at people as people not numbers.

People are people and are equal.

To be judged not by political interest and we should not be part of it but be part to expose it. In life one cannot do everything. BUT each of us can do something. Let us all come together men and women, young and old to make the world the one we want, free, safe, secure one for us and our future generations who are the future and the hope. I came here

because I believe with all my heart that we all can make a difference.

We all need to act. Let us hope and act to make the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the century of compassion, freedom, justice, equality, humanity and equality to prevail in our world. **In their memory, and in honor of every innocent life lost, I say to you: we must replace the vocabulary of war with the grammar of justice, freedom, dignity, equality, rights and life which lead to peace.**

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