World peace, within the reach of hand through CISV.

After the wake of World War I and World War II, there was a need of something that would remind people about everything that the Human Rights stand for. Since then, several international organizations have been created to stop wars between countries and to provide a platform of dialogue (such as the United Nations) but struggle and war are still present as it used to, even though today’s conflicts aren’t global as the World Wars. Nowadays, conflict happens mainly because of the inability to accept other cultures and the non acceptance of different points of view. Nothing had been done to actually prevent war, at least not until CISV international was created.

Up to date, the word “peace” is commonly seen as a dream or as a idea, rather than something achievable. Peace is not only the absence of war, violence and hostilities at national and international levels, but it is also the enjoyment of social justice, equality and the entire range of human rights and fundamental freedoms within societies. Peace does not mean a lack of conflict, it is a situation of trust, a sense of security and cooperation among peoples. Through history, some of the most extraordinary and benevolent leaders have used peace talks to establish this idea of respect between individuals or nations. However, this talks often have resulted in the escalation of conflicts.

This essay will thoroughly work to explain why we see peace is a possibility, if children are educated and inspired, with the help of CISV International. As Mahatma Gandhi said, “in a gentle way, you can change the world”, and there's no more gentle way of doing it, in our opinion, than with the education of our young ones.

The main reason why countries enter in dispute is obvious: they ignore the previous signs that countries show, that an aggressive argument is about to begin, certainly due to lack of communication and lack of respect toward other cultures. In fact, Joseph Grieco, a professor of political science, stated in “The Introduction of International Relations”, a book he wrote in 2014, that while war is not inevitable, generally it is also something that does not happen overnight. There are warning signs that point to the outbreak of armed conflict exists prior to the time that war actually breaks out. He states that “the conduct of war is a military opinion, but the decision to go to war, is a political one.” If we focus on this last statement, we can understand why CISV works, and why this organization strongly defends that peace is possible through children. In other words, war can be prevented, by helping children develop to their full potential as future leaders and active citizens, and by creating opportunities for them to learn and make international friends so they can become ambassadors for a more just and peaceful world.

Nevertheless, not everyone agrees with CISV’s ideology, which defends that everyone, despite their culture, is the same. Donald Trump, United States’s president, has established through several speeches, that a huge wall should be built to separate United States from Mexico and other countries. This, with the intention of not allowing immigrants to enter because of the idea that immigrants are only going to take advantage of the United States resources, and that they are all criminals. Even though the president may have factful reasons for believing this, one of his major issues is lack of understanding a hearing of what people from other countries need. Mr. Trump is only seeing that illegal immigrants are entering his country, and illegally use its resources. But what he’s missing is the ability to see that this immigrants are looking for a place to live because of a need, and that in their perspective, America is the best country to find it.

To sum up, the world has changed since the time of the World Wars, and CISV has evolved along with it. Based on Dr. Doris Allen’s original vision, CISV aspires to be a unique and pioneering peace organization. Over the years, CISV volunteers have organized 7,000 international educational programs for about 300,000 participants. At the end of the day, the example and education that is given to children today will be reflected in our future, and we cannot change how the world acts if we do not start by changing how we act first.