A Humanist Perspective on Peace

Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. Affirming the dignity of each human being, it supports the maximization of individual liberty and opportunity consonant with social and planetary responsibility. It advocates the extension of participatory democracy and the expansion of the open society, standing for human rights and social justice. Free of supernaturalism, it recognizes human beings as a part of nature and holds that values—be they religious, ethical, social or political--have their source in human nature, experience, and culture. Humanism thus drives the goals of life from human need and interest rather than from theological or ideological abstractions and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny.

Peace and harmony are not necessarily synonymous because achieving harmony may require subsuming freedoms to settle discord.

Peace without justice is not peace because it requires demographic groups to forego their rights to freedom and self-determination.

Therefore, law and order alone does not bring peace. Only law with justice will provide peace.

Only when laws provide justice, equality and the recognition of the dignity and worth of every individual as a person can there be peace.

Only when cohorts refrain from forcing their beliefs upon others can there be peace.

Only when humans realize that they alone have the power to establish or destroy peace, and that it is their inherent duty, as humanitarians, to provide and secure peace for all the Earth's brothers and sisters, will there truly be peace. [1]

[1] The Humanist