

**My Kind of World**  
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Currently, the world can be seen as a bit of a scary place. It is home to violence, suffering, tears, anger, frustration, hunger, disease, and sadness. These have become commonplace on the six o'clock news. It has become a world where prejudices are common, and nations are more concerned about their own economy, rather than the ethics of a human race.

I'm tired of seeing the world as a scary place. I want to know the people behind the suffering, tears, anger, frustration, hunger, disease, thoughts, and numerous differences. I want to help other nations, even if it means a may have to go with a little less so others may have a little more. I want to live in a global village, and know my fellow village people. I want to live in a world where people are truly connected, by understanding, empathy, kindness, spirit, peace, and love.

While this dream world may never exist, or at least take a very long time, it starts with one person at a time. It starts with communication. It starts with you, with me; with us.

I believe that in order to attain a world where people are open, honest, trusting, and at peace with one another, links of communication must first be opened. People have to be able to understand, or at least empathize with each other. People have to be honest with themselves, and with others. I believe that in order to reach this point, links of communication should be set up early in life. That is to say, that communication and conflict resolution should be a mandatory class in high-school, and taught and emphasized in elementary school. These mandatory communication classes would work on things such as how conflicts come into being, how to resolve conflicts, and how to break down biases, prejudices, and stereotypes. This could be achieved by people sharing their thoughts and feelings in something called power circles; going around a circle sharing whatever is on your mind at the moment, and trusting the other participants that whatever is said in the circle will not leave it. In addition, leadership, group-building activities, and active global citizenship would be emphasized in the classes. Through having open communication lines with people in our schools, homes, and local communities, we will be able to break down stereotypes, prejudices, biases, and naiveties. It will also lay the foundations for global communications.

The next step after the local mandatory communication classes would be global communication. This could be as simple as having an unknown pen pal in another country, sponsoring a child in Africa, or joining a local group of people that are going to another country to learn and speak to the locals, perhaps helping to build a school, or just become connected on a local global level.

I truly believe that a global world of peace, conflict resolution, understanding, trust, and global friendship is acquirable, and communication, open hearts and open minds are all that is needed.