

We must learn to live in true collective security, not on the edge of war. The role of education in moving humanity away from the nuclear abyss is fundamental and indispensable to any future prospects for world peace.

Education can help to develop a sense of shared values as well as a sense of identification with future generations. It is necessary to bring a global perspective into the classroom; education must be internationalized.

The educator Edwin Reischauer, in his book Toward the 21st Century: Education for a Changing World, said we will never operate successfully unless the bulk of people develop a sense of world citizenship.

"This is clearly the biggest educational task of all, for millenniums of history have conditioned men to think in terms of smaller and more exclusive units, while suspicion and hostility toward other groups lie deep in their patterns of thought."

As we move toward the 21st century, it becomes obvious that the next generation will need more knowledge and understanding about the rest of the world than their elders presently possess. We are here talking about much more than the development of a few specialists. There must be millions of contacts between individuals which will help to develop an awareness of other people and a sense of shared interests. The interdependent nature of today's world, and the world of the future, must become as inherently understood by today's youth as the world of the isolationist, independent sovereign state has been by previous generations.

A sense of world citizenship should be developed early in life. The breaking down of barriers and the acceptance of political, societal and cultural differences must be accomplished while minds are yet open and flexible. We must form our young people's attitudes now so that they can become stewards of the planet in the future. A new global ethic must take hold, one based on a vision of social justice, tolerance and hope.

Professional educators are the first to know that elementary and secondary education can work to break down feelings of suspicion and hostility and to provide instead an enhanced understanding of world problems and sense of world citizenship. Education can foster an awareness and, above all, an empathy for peoples of diverse histories, cultural and religious backgrounds, peoples whose political and economic situations might not even permit them the luxury of education. Since peace and world development are fundamentally ethical problems, they must be of concern to those who are entrusted with the education of youth.