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LAW

GST 201 ASSIGNMENT.

CULTURE OF PEACE.

Every human regardless of race, conscience, language or sex has inherent right to life in peace. This statement was said by the United Nations declaration on the preparation of societies for life in peace. In 1989, Yamoussoukro, Cote d’ivoire a conference was held to mark the earliest conception of the culture of peace to overcome in a non-violent way, the culture of war. This new vision was “constructed by developing a peace culture based on the universal values of life, liberty, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights and equality between men and women” as said by Douglas Roche.

Later Professor David Adams of Wesley University Connecticut joined United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1992 as brain mechanisms of aggressive behaviors, revolution of war, psychology of peace activists and developed essential ideal of peace culture expert and presented to Federico Mayor Director General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. These 2 individuals worked and drafted a peace culture. A peace culture is a set of ethical and aesthetic values, habits, customs and attitudes towards others, forms of behaviors and ways of life that draw and express;

1. Respect for life and dignity

2. Rejection of violence

3. Recognition of equal rights for men and women

4. Support for democratic principles, freedom, justice, solidarity, tolerance, and acceptance of differences.

5. Communication and understanding between ethnic, religious, cultural and social groups.

Mayor later proposed three initiatives to culture of peace development;

1. International year for culture of peace proposal (2000)

2. Proposal for United Nations declaration and programme of peace culture action

3. Initiative of noble peace Laureates which eventually became international decade for peace culture and non-violence of world’s children.

The culture of peace is the framework for implementing human rights to peace. Culture of peace is defined by the United Nations is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve them through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.

Values, attitudes and behavior: Values mould our perspectives and interpretations of things around us however we should not confuse attitudes with modes of behaviors. Behaviors are the real actions we undertake. Therefore our behavior does not reflect our real attitude.

Ways of life and traditions: Commitment to culture of peace demands we go beyond mental attitudes to behaving in manners consistent with values. In the face of challenges we are required to be committed to actions. Once this is done, ideals of peace become our inclination. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization defines tradition as a custom meaning culture of peace need to be made a human tradition.

Championing the culture of peace: We champion culture of peace by tackling the root causes through dialogue and negotiation. Once this is done, rejection of violence and prevention of conflicts mould the attitude. The persuasion and commitment is called peace attitude. According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization culture of peace are the values, attitudes, traditions, modes of behavior and ways of life that reflect and inspire. Culture of peace involves;

Peace being: This involves personalizing the ideals of culture of peace and maintaining it as an individual. This is kind of hard to do as a human.

Peace living: Practicing in accordance to the culture of peace in our day to day dealings with others.

Peace promoting: Advancing culture of peace among the members of the society.

Supplanting violence with peace: This is the transition from logic of force and fear to force of reason and love for global implementation of human right to peace.

2000 Manifesto: six practical actions to promote culture of peace.

1. Respect all life: Respect life and dignity of each human being without discrimination or prejudice.

2. Reject violence: Practice non-violence and reject violence in all its forms.

3. Share with others: Either time or material resources in the spirit of generosity to end exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression.

4. Listen to understand: Always listen first to avoid unnecessary violence. Listen to understand another person’s side.

5. Preserve the planet: Promote planetary consumer behavior attitude. Respect all forms of life.

6. Rediscover solidarity: Contribute in community development and respect people of all age, sex, race and sizes and democratic principles to create new forms of solidarity.

Nigeria’s side of the coin: Nigeria is a very violent place with various forms of violent conflict. Making violence entrenched in our psyche, cultures and society. We as Nigerians are to ensure a Nigerian child enjoys their right to peace by championing the culture of peace.