



LivingSidebySide® Youths Speak



"The old saying 'an eye for an eye' would leave the whole world blind. Because of the attitude that it's a problem of 'good guys' and 'bad guys', there is a feeling that the good guys should win. But it's not a battle. It's a problem that must be understood and a solution that must be beneficial to both our peoples."

– Saar Peer, Israel

"I learned different ways to deal with conflicts and the difference between debate and dialogue. I also learned about different cultures, traditions, and languages. Stereotypes don't do us any good because the act of one person isn't the act of all people."

– Stella Palado, California, USA

"My neighborhood in Chicago is very drug infested with things that are not fit for a young man like me to see. My behavior has changed a lot at the Global Youth Village. I am a better listener now and I see that I have really good potential. This experience has made me a new leader and a more responsible person. I believe in myself now."

– Zilijan Jones, Chicago, USA

"I changed my character and my whole perspective. I became more appreciative of things and more serious about looking at stereotypes. In my school the kids are mainly African American and Hispanic. I realized that although someone may look angry, or on first impression, think they are part of a gang, everyone is a person and you have to take time to get to know someone and not assume you know who they are right off the bat."

– Israel Ortiz, Chicago, Illinois, US



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