

Sermon on the UN

Welcome are the oppressed, enslaved and vulnerable;
You will find freedom and justice in these halls.
Welcome are the silenced;
Your voices will be heard without judgement or discrimination.
Welcome are the exiled, degraded or denied;
We offer protection and equality. We honour your worth.
Welcome are those suffering from unspeakable contempt, injustice and violence;
We offer you shelter and recourse.

To those children who have faced war, walked torn roads, had innocence ripped from your belly;
We deny you nothing.
To those who fear no transformation is coming;
Have hope. We see your plight and fight to reach you.
To those who believe that there is dignity and worth in every person;
Our doors are open, sit at our table.
To those with power and authority;
Tyranny is not progress, treat your charges with right not might.

You must do to others what you would have them do to you;
As is written in all nations' beliefs and hopes.
No one is above this law;
It is of the heart and conscience.
The law of the human soul manifested by our purpose and work.
The law which can unite nations.

Caroline Walling

Lean In

Welcome home ... Women of the nations,
We've been expecting you!
We are sorry so many boundaries have stopped you getting through,
We acknowledge we've neglected you.
United Nations needs to turn hashtags into actions, and we need you,
Be with us the decision makers,
We need fierce female pioneers.
We need a spark of genius
With the full flame of the sisterhood.
And women reply;
Blessed are the peacemakers not the peacekeepers,
not in the shadows of your wrongdoing
but in the full light of our truth.
Women aren't on this planet to be the sacrifice,
We need action not advice.
United Nations are open arms
Lean in -
Poverty, discrimination, violence, unemployment and isolation -
Lean in -
Safeguarding human rights, fighting climate change
Lean in -
Sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression
Lean in -
It is better for us to be friends than foes
It is better for us to be educated, self-sufficient and watch nations opportunities grow
Lean in ...

Dianne Casey

The UN 75th Anniversary

T'was the night before the 75th Anniversary
And all through the UN,
Only the Secretary General was still working,
The only sound was his pen.

His task was monumental
His deadline drew near.
To deliver a speech on the UN's achievements -
A task that left him quivering in fear.

Successes a-plenty, but many failures too,
World leaders and the media would be watching
What, oh what, was he to do?

The next day afternoon, as the clock struck two,
Giving his audience a resolute eye,
To the podium he stepped -
Let his thoughts fly.

'Deaths in War' is down - a fraction of what it used to be!
Literacy has improved, now 86% of people can read.
Decolonisation has changed the face of our world
A decrease in Polio by 99% - that's a super deed.

Small pox eradicated, HIV infections cut in two,
But so many issues and problems still exist,
So much work yet to do!

The hour is upon us,
The time for prevarication has passed!
This is not the time to shout 'Fake News',
We must act fast.

Our world is warming, all experts agree.
Plastics, pollution, deforestation.
Hunger and malnutrition still the primary killer.
780 million people live below the poverty line.
Modern slavery still abounds.
Quarter of a million children are fighting in conflicts across our lands.
What solutions can be found?

Esther Bonner

One World, United

One world. United

75 years

But the nations keep on fighting

Lining pockets with the profits of war

Where the rich reap the rewards

And the poor do the dying

One world. United

75 years

But the nations keep on weaponizing

Women and children invaded

Abused by blue helmets meant to protect

The price is their lives discarded

One world. United

75 years

But the nations keep us divided

186 voices but Palestine kept silent

Indigenous rights still non-binding

And we stand and watch all the refugees drowning

One world. United

75 years

But the nations keep on denying

Mother earth is crying

But the powerful turn a blind eye

Because money is worth the planet burning

One world. United

75 years

But the nations keep on classifying

First world solutions shouldn't become

Third world problems

We need to be one world. United

Julie Easley

Unite our Nations

Unite the nations in our own town
In a time of divide,
Reach out with kindness
Restore faith in humanity - in some small way, everyday
Bridge the gaps in poverty,
Give to those in need, not just in money
But in company, awareness, empathy.
Pressure those with power to do more for those without.

Unite the nations in your school
In a time of name-calling and stone slinging
Speak out for someone else,
We're not all that different if you're prepared to look
Remember, blind hate is based in fear,
Thinks people need an enemy,
And rather you than he.
It doesn't have to be this way.

Unite the nations in your place of work
Be an ally to minority
Don't take credit from others' pockets
Notice who is hogging conversation
Give space to those staying silent
If we share our resources equal
Dish out of opportunities equal
If we view our colleges as equal
Keep striving for equal
How much longer will we need to fight to be equal?

Unite the nations in yourself
All that heritage and DNA- we are made of so many places
Taught from so many cultures,
Built on so many traditions
So much we could learn from each other,
If we only listen, if we only try
We could unite the nations of our town

Sarah Crutwell