



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters,

Although I'm unable to be with you in person, I am delighted to have this opportunity to send a message to those of you who have come together at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. to Chant for Change. The ideals to which President Abraham Lincoln devoted his life—equal entitlement to freedom and human rights for each and every one of us—resonate just as strongly with us today. As our human population continues to grow and we all become ever more interdependent, it's crucial that we recognize our shared humanity, and with it, our mutual responsibilities.

Today, it is vital that the younger generation, guardians of the future, develop a deep awareness of the futility of war. We can learn from the great achievements of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. to recognize that in the long-term non-violence is the best approach to redressing injustice. If the twentieth century was a century of violence, let us make the twenty-first a century of dialogue.

The challenges we face today call for an approach based on ethical awareness and inner values. Safeguarding the future is not just a matter of laws and government regulations; it also requires individual initiative. We need to change our way of thinking and recognise that we all belong to the same human family. Differences of faith, race or nationality are secondary in the context of our sameness as human beings. As social animals the best way to take care of ourselves is to take care of each other. This is the kind of recognition that gives rise to the trust and inner peace that is the basis for peace in the wider world.

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