



Do we need the United Nations in today's world?

The United Nations proves vital in the cooperation and growing interdependence of today's countries.

It is a warm summer morning, in the middle of July. The year is 1974, and we find ourselves in the middle of a conflict that splits the glorious island of Cyprus in half. Not only does newly-elected president Archbishop Makarios III have to fend off threats from the Turks, wanting power of the nation, he is now on the verge of being overthrown by his own people, namely the Cypriot National Guard and EOKA B, a right-wing ideologist party.

The United Nations response is imminent and immediate. Only five days later a proposition named Resolution 353 is made to all involved parts to withdraw all foreign military personnel currently present in Cyprus and setting up strict borderlines to cease all gunfire for each country's military which are not to be crossed.

The United Nations also push on for countries to enter negotiations to restore peace on the island, and constitution government to its people.

Meanwhile, as conflicts start to arise and escalate, the nation and the people is now at threat. President Makarios addresses the United Nations Security Council, blaming Greece for invasion of his country, while pleads for help to the United Nations are received from the other end as the Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit calls for assistance in stopping the "genocide of Turkish Cypriots". As the countries are unable to reach a conclusion, heavy and brutal fights are continued in the streets of Cyprus. Tanks are being deployed and heavy artillery fire is constant contravening the ceasefire called upon by the United Nations.

Cooperating with the European Union, the United Nations Security Council manages to safely occupy what is now known as the United Nations Buffer Zone, a 346 km² area located in the capital city of Nicosia driving out military forces of both parties and resuming peace in the country. Not only is this location key to maintaining the peace between the Turkish and Greek Cypriots, it also manages to integrate Turkish and Greek Cypriots living in small villages within the buffer zone.

This is just one of many peacekeeping missions carried out and administered by the United Nations, who strives to maintain equality, peace and development of all nations of the world as well as the well-being and freedom of its people.

I believe that the United Nations are a vital organisation for the cooperation of the nations of the world. It is impossible to put a value on such an organisation as the United Nations for the work they do. They impose a sense of security to the world and continues to set examples for uniting the world, nation by nation.

I would be nothing short of honoured to be able to carry out the work that United Nations employees do every day, knowing that it serves a greater purpose than just what I do here, today. Furthermore they always strive to evolve as an organisation, by taking into account everyones opinion without discrimination of any kind, despite race, gender or religion.

Another impressive feat of the United Nations council is also the remarkable unselfishness displayed by all members. They don't strive to earn big money, become world famous as a company, or to display power, they solely work for their purpose which has been the same since it's foundation in 1945, to maintain international peace and security, develop the spirit of cooperation and friendliness among the nations of the world, promote and encourage respect for human right and fundamental freedoms, and to solve international problems of economic, social and cultural character and development of people.

Stepping aside from the more serious world crisis issues, the United Nations also work effectively in engaging the community and sparking their interest in the work they do around the world. The United Nations recognises the youth as being the future for our society, and are doing an excellent job in attracting people from all corners of the world, uniting them all as children of one world.

Coming from a small town in the northeastern corner of the Swedish Arctic regions, I see many people even long into adulthood who are unaware of all that is out there in the world to see. Many have not even travelled outside their own city, which to me is quite sad because the world, in all it's many forms, is so beautiful, and there is so much to see and discover, which is why I have decided to apply for this contest. You can't help but feel a tingling sense of excitement running through my body writing this, it really is an extraordinary opportunity given to teenagers like myself.

It is definitely important to engage people in a higher level than they are working at. Careers especially, one section where I think United Nations really can provide eye-opening insights for young adults who are deciding on their path in their working life. From an early age, we are encouraged to work hard, and study to become get a high-end education so we can work as doctors, engineers, lawyers, CEO's or other high-salary jobs, but one thing that no one ever mentions is the possibilities that come with these kind of jobs, and how you can help so much more people than what usually is done.

Planning on working as a surgeon? Join Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), help people globally who are in urgent need of medical care.

Studying engineering? Great cooperations exist today between global world- and peace foundations such as United Nations, Red Cross and UNICEF, where you can assist in building hospitals, wells and schools for children in countries who are in greater need of it.

When I grow up and work, I have always had the ambition to work as globally as possible, if I get the opportunity, and I know the United Nations would encourage everyone to think likewise. This is why I would be honoured to take part of an inspiring journey to the headquarters in New York, and take active part of the global work being done by the national organisation that is the United Nations.