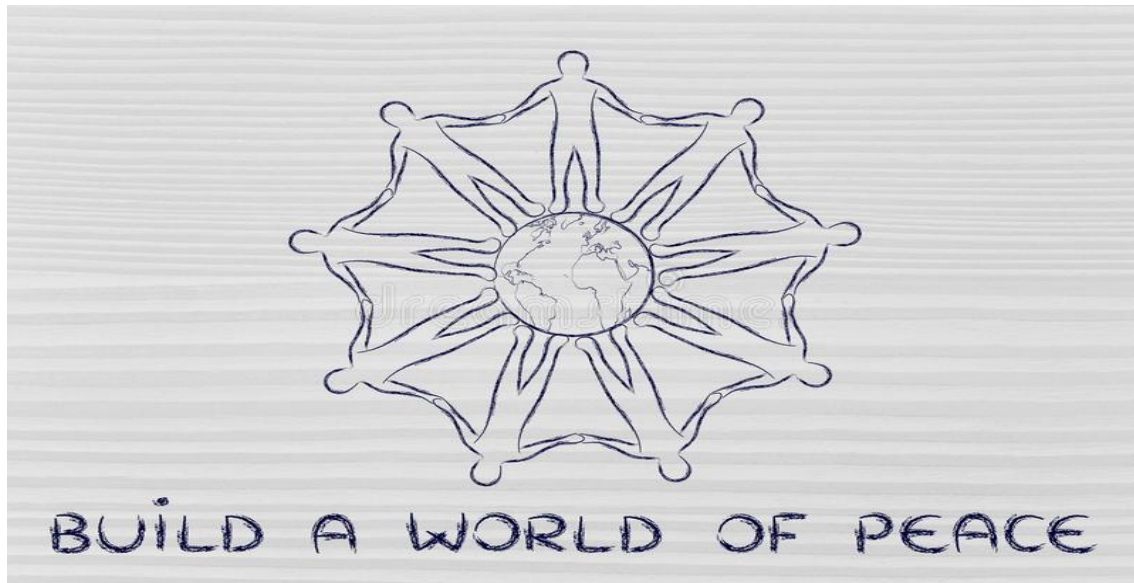


BUILDING PEACE AND SOLIDARITY



Advancing peace and solidarity within a nation or amongst nations is complicated and it can only be achieved with the help of collective action. The primary objective of any nation is to inculcate within its people a sense of unity and trust and to develop it both, nationally and internationally.

Introduction

Africa, just like every other continent has been facing numerous challenges as far as establishing peace and development are concerned, even after the launch of a good deal of peace initiatives. A large number of resources have been utilized to carve out peace agreements, which ultimately collapsed due to varied reasons. Peace and solidarity are the key elements of any normal nation.¹ It is the responsibility of both, the states and the people to maintain peace and solidarity amongst one another and any kind of violation of human rights is not appreciated at any level. It is very important to create and maintain balance between the traditional values and progressive values within and amongst the nations.

Need for Building Peace in Africa

Peace can be defined as a state of tranquility or freedom from civil disturbance or chaos.² It can either be either positive or negative. Meaning, it can be obtained either by the absence of violence or by taking peace-building initiatives and promoting presence of reconciliation and co-existence keeping in mind the rights of the people and maintenance of justice. Social solidarity is essential for the achievement of positive peace. It focuses primarily on social welfare and social well-being of the community of people as a whole. The multiplication of violence across the globe has resulted in the breakdown of societies and caused damage to human life, education, health and even the environment inter alia. Hence, it is the foundation on which the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is based.

Within Africa, a number of peace-building activities lay importance on social solidarity. One amongst many indigenous traditions is 'Ubuntu', which is followed by the eastern, central and southern African communities.

¹<https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/african-approaches-to-building-peace-and-social-solidarity/>

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/peace>

As per this tradition, all humans are interdependent and we participate and share interests in the society we live in.

Achieving Social Solidarity

Social Solidarity is basically a sense of belongingness, which makes people feel united and connected to each other. In simpler terms, it is a feeling of oneness. The term 'social solidarity' denotes strength and mutual consciousness of the people living in the society and it is the only thing that holds the society together. It is a responsibility imposed against other individuals as well as the society. Social solidarity aims at achieving the community goals and creating a sense of commitment towards the interests of people. Therefore, it is rightly said that social justice can be achieved through social solidarity.

Class solidarity in the current scenario is not only ideal but a necessary means of tracing how the world around us works and maintains relations with other nations. There are many rationales behind stimulating the concept of social solidarity. It may be because the democratic, economic or social requirement of each nation may be different. Challenging corruptive practices and promoting decentralization of power, improving ways of governance and equitable distribution of resources are some ways of advancing the idea of social solidarity. It is one way of reconstructing a nation's government and civil society. It can be as small as wearing a mask in these compromising times of Covid-19 pandemic and following necessary norms as precautionary measures in order to protect people from getting affected by the virus.

Conclusion

Reconstruction and implementation are the most challenging parts of the process of strengthening peace and social solidarity in the society. Both these concepts go hand in hand and are inseparable in nature. Advanced or progressive cultural ideologies and methods emphasize more on human dignity and well-being of every individual living in the society. Besides that, they also provide valuable insights into how Africa can be reconstructed peacefully by using its own value-systems that promote peace and solidarity. Recognition and compliance of corresponding duties and obligations by other states and private persons holds paramount importance in this context.

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