

MANY VOICES: ONE VISION¹

Never forget our voices.

As individuals we speak of deeply personal experiences but make no mistake, these stories are not ours alone. We speak for all of our brothers and sisters who suffer in every country, on every continent, in every part of the world.

We speak for every child whose days are filled with unspoken fear or who is tormented by ethnic violence.

We speak for every person living with the constant threat of losing homes, family, or livelihood simply because of the color of their skin, their ethnic origin, their faith or identity.

We speak to ensure that globalization does not become the new face of colonialism.

We speak for everyone who is forced to wear physical or psychological chains of bondage that may enslave the oppressor as well as the oppressed.

With one voice we demand that all nations and peoples of the world work together to lift the human spirit by recognizing

That TRUTH and an honest accounting of history is the only way to acknowledge and move beyond the collective pain of our past;

That JUSTICE encourages everyone to be more just when it is applied fairly, and threatens all of us when it is denied to even one of us;

That LIBERTY inspires all people to create, invent, grow and prosper and can only enrich the many cultures of the world;

That PEACE among all people and all peoples regardless of race, ethnic origin, faith or identity should be the paramount goal of the United Nations;

And that RESPECT for diversity should be enshrined in the law of every nation and promoted in the heart of every person.

¹ Statement of the 21 Voices which was delivered to Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights on September 6, 2001 during the World Conference Against Racism.