



WEAVING LIBERTY & SECURITY

Tony Blair, the retiring Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, recently asserted that the challenge of modern democracies is to reconcile liberty and security. One could add that without developing resilience among populations, we will never achieve the reconciliation and freedom Tony Blair has rightly identified.

Globalisation's manifestations are enabling light to be shone on various injustices and confrontations in a significant number of countries throughout the world. Many of these conflicts have emerged because liberty and security have been threatened in some shape or form.

High level goals, political and otherwise, have to be constantly put before nations and individuals, if positive change and international harmony are to be enjoyed.

The fear of the consequences of a clash of civilizations in our time can be lessened when young people are educated to develop personal resilience. When individuals are resilient they are able to build congenial relationships which in turn are able to enhance reconciliation, enabling security and liberty to take centre stage.

In education and domestic settings deficit thinking, negative attitudes and ideas, always have to be challenged. Personal integration with young people goes nowhere if they live in a culture of blame and complaint. There is no doubt, that teachers and parents have to educate all of the dimensions of young people, specifically developing their particular interests and talents rather than hoping, somehow, these dimensions of a student will naturally emerge. Coaching and mentoring young people so they develop confidence in themselves, focusing on particular skill sets, will help them to confront their prejudices and negative labels about others, which are dangerous and counter-productive.

One of the goals of education is to help young people to find out who they are. This includes coming to an understanding that all the 6.4

billion of us on the globe are sacred and inter-connected through our common humanity. This is why education is a moral endeavour.

We have to convince our young people that the mosaic of difference which today's world exhibits is a strength, not a negative. Active, respectful co-existence and respect for each individual are both fundamental if the world is to become resilient, free and secure. Leaders at all levels of society have a responsibility to challenge those they work with to seek truth and become committed to the development of the personal qualities which will enable Tony Blair's assertion to become a reality. The reconciliation of liberty and security will not happen unless we are committed to making it happen.

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