

Sustainable Globalization
Eric Urbaniak (Peace Flag Raising, 2021)

When I first enrolled in HON 201, Peace Through Law, with Hope May during the fall of freshman year, never did I expect that I would cross paths with international peace efforts again in my lifetime. This was ignorant, because I lacked awareness of the interconnectedness of nearly every social and environmental justice issue. Now, as a second year student pursuing a career in sustainability, I look back to my class with Hope May and remember the Red Thread that connects us all, and brings people together in hopes of ending any assertion that Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion should not be the groundwork for a globalized world.

We live in a diverse world, where everyone has the capacity to bring something to the table, whether that be a literal dinner table, or the Table of changemakers which Teresa just spoke about. And simply put, a world without equity and inclusion is a world that won't last, or one which is not sustainable. That is why we are here today, on Earth Day, to celebrate our triumphs from the past, and our aspirations to create a better, and more peaceful future.

Peace is all around us. It is in your home, in your work, in your friendships, and in the open spaces around us which we share with clean air, clean water, and nature. To me, a peaceful world is one in which I am able to find solace wherever I am. Yet, peace is not something that needs to be discovered- we all have the ability to project peace into the world. Just because we are citizens of specific countries, does not mean we can avoid the notion that we are all global citizens. We can advocate for peace and strive to cultivate a world where peace is the universal law.

So, it should be no surprise to you that I was ecstatic to learn from my roommate Michael Buzzy, that this year marks the inaugural year of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Ratified by 50 countries, this treaty dictates that any willing country can sign on and work to disarm and disassemble all nuclear weapons residing in the host country. Since world war two, nuclear weapons have plagued the world with fear, and only corrupted any attempts to establish a peaceful world by portraying facades of peace that hide past, present, and future paths of destruction. As stated by Stewart Udall, a former U.S. senator and legendary environmentalist, "We have, I fear, confused power with greatness." Much like it is bold to give up power, it is equally bold to step up and make a positive change that draws the attention of power. This is why it is equally important for all individuals to be an advocate for a peaceful, and sustainable world.

Therefore, today, on Earth Day, take a moment to assess what you have done in the past year to make the world better, and what you will do in the next year. As a global citizen, you have the ability to affect change toward your cause. Like I previously stated, all issues are interconnected, so pursuing positive change in any domain will benefit everyone, through the cultivation of a more peaceful, and more sustainable world.

I'd like to thank Hope May, Michael Buzzy, and the CMU Center for International efforts for making this event happen, especially on a day as impactful as Earth Day. I'd also like to thank Teresa Homsy, Maddie Thomas, and all the other student leaders who helped to make Earth Week at CMU a

reality. Finally, I would like to end with a quote from CMU's own Mimi Gonzeles-Barrilas, from yesterday's Voices that Matter presentation, "Activate your Activism." Thank you.