

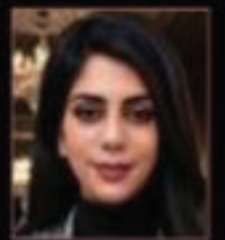


“There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children”

Nelson Mandela

In a world riddled with conflicts and injustices done to them, it is with heavy hearts that we must confront a painful truth: “we have failed our children”.

An Apology to the Children of the World



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Wars, displacement, starvation, diseases, child trafficking, violence, child pornography, suicides due to exams, the lack of peace, stability, protective ecosystems, sense of being unwanted or ignored, limited access to education, lack of rights, is leading heartbreaking reality that confronts all of us.

It is high time to collectively stop this vicious repetitive cycle of suffering and extend a sincere heartfelt apology to the children of the world. In the midst of chaos, it is crucial to acknowledge the interconnecting factors that perpetuate the suffering of children



It is time to take collective responsibility and change systems with more stringent vigilance, so every child can grow in a safe, accepting and encouraging world. We must assertively stand for no wars ever, prioritize access for all children to nutritious food, healthcare and relentlessly combat child trafficking, child pornography and every form of inhumane exploitation. Strengthen our legal systems to ensure that perpetrators and abusers are held accountable and punished severely.

globally. Wars ravaging regions, leaving countless orphaned, traumatized, and the struggle to survive without protection and basics like food, water, medicine, and rehabilitation. The displacement that follows forces the vulnerable into overcrowded refugee camps, exposing them to further abuse and exploitation. For in wars there are no victors on both side only casualties and suffering. Starvation and preventable diseases snatch away the dreams and aspirations of millions. Child trafficking, another painful reality, steals away childhoods, as innocent lives are bought and sold like commodities, subjected to unimaginable horrors that will forever scar their tender spirits. The consequences of our inaction are haunting. We have failed as custodian to offer the children of the world a compassionate, just, and sustainable future. Trauma which children experience impacts their mental health, inhibiting their ability to form healthy relationships. Those children who are not victims of war, displacement or

trafficking and are blessed to have homes and an ecosystems to protect them, they fight a different battle daily that of expectations from parents, societies, an illusory future where being more is necessary and they must achieve it. Their school bags get heavier with no time for play or simply to be a kid, which is responsible for the alarming increase in suicide and self harm the world over. They struggle to meet expectations, peer pressure and live up to social media's fake world which is based on comparison and competition. Apathy and complacency has allowed these atrocities to persist despite our best efforts we have failed to eradicate these atrocities towards children. It is time to take collective responsibility and change systems with more stringent vigilance, so every child can grow in a safe, accepting and encouraging world. We must assertively stand for no wars ever, prioritize access for all children to nutritious food, healthcare and relentlessly combat child trafficking, child pornography and every form of inhumane



exploitation. Strengthen our legal systems to ensure that perpetrators and abusers are held accountable and punished severely. Moreover, the provision of comprehensive support systems that include education for all, mental health services and social integration is needed locally to nurture their resilience and facilitate healing.

It is time to stand up, to speak out, and have a non-negotiable stand when it comes to their rights, hear their voices, and work for their well-being.

The future will question us for our action and inaction and as we stand ashamed today the question is, "What example are we setting for them?"

The gift of a child is a blessing, let's not



have our hands covered in their blood or our conscience heavy due to inaction in times where action is called for.

"The soul is healed by being with children". Fyodor Dostoevsky

Clearly a new narrative needs to be written for the old ones time and again has proved to be counter production and have failed to protect our greatest asset: OUR CHILDREN.

I hope each one of us can reflect on how we can do more and be better this day forward for the children.

"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, they make this world a beautiful garden."

Khalil Gibran

“Forgive us Children of the world, we will try to do better, for each of you deserve better. May smiles be fought for than wars and protectors not be violators of their futures. The active participation of women in decision making roles is needed as women are the mothers of mankind and a mother knows how to nurture and protect the unit of a family. Also, the participation of the youth is imperative to speak the language of peace as they relate better to the children, more importantly the youth are filled with new innovative ideas which are a voice of change on its own and excellent role models to young minds.”



She is a humanitarian, passionate about subjects swept under the carpet, a social impact champion and a thought change advocate.

She is a recognized speaker on the power of storytelling, women's role in the 21st century, cultural inclusion, diversity and women empowerment.

Her niche is that she only writes women-oriented stories and stands with risen phoenixes in their victory over darkness. Her love for diversity is why she chooses different countries to develop the premise for each story, based on its ethos, language, culture and history, to give her audience an opportunity to understand the struggle of women in different parts of the world and to journey with these characters. Her books have strong global messages impacting women, to start a dialogue to factor change. Ann relocated to Turkey in 2019 and now lives in İstanbul.

Her first series is a trilogy, called Sand and Sea, Book 1 - Footprints in the Sand, is a current bestseller, published in January 2019. The second book Child of Two Worlds, was published in 2021. Presently, she is writing the last book of the trilogy, titled as Kun Faya Kun, which will be published end of 2022. The first book, Sand and Sea: Footprints in the Sand, is translated in Turkish yet to be published.

In July 2021 she released a poetry book called, Verses: Of A Risen Phoenix, which is a

collection of women centric poems, touching upon various subjects and stages of feminine journeys. Her books are available on Amazon, Kindle, Google, etc. All copyrights are held with the author.

Ann D'Silva has written many stories on women empowerment which is registered under her name to be created into scripts on domestic abuse and marital rape, adoption, abortion, human trafficking and prostitution. These subjects are very close to her heart, as she aspires to impact thought change, through her work concerning prevalent taboos, stigmas, psychological and physical violence against women.

Since we sadly live in a masked world, where words don't match actions and women inclusion and dignity, is still a feeble voice in many parts across the globe.

★ EXPLORE About the Author

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Ann D'Silva is an Indian writer who hails from Mumbai, she spent over two decades in the corporate world in senior management roles across the globe, before she chose to give up defined routine and pursue her calling as a writer.