

Assalam u Alaykum and Peace be upon you

My name is Usama and I would like to welcome all of our guests from the US embassy to Madani Schools Federation. I would also like to tell you how delighted we are as a school to have you participate in this discussion.

The fact that you have travelled a long distance to visit our school serves as a reminder to us all that there is a lot that we can learn from each other. People are afraid of what they truly do not understand. Therefore, discussions such as this one are imperative as they will help us to build ties for the future.

The only way that that this can be achieved is by tackling issues from their grass roots. This means that everyone must get involved. There may be some of you sitting here today believing that no one person can do everything. Well, you're right, no one person can do everything, but everyone can do something. Remember, we are not competing for this world, we are completing this world.

Just recently, I and a couple of other students accompanied by Mr Laher were invited to attend the annual Live Well Conference in Westminster. We were fortunate enough to get a one on one dialogue with the minister for faith schools, Lord Nash. We discussed the role that schools play in living well together in society.

As citizens of the world, we share so much in common. We drink the same water, breath the same air and we live on the same planet. There is a lot more that unites than there is to divide us. So why is there so much friction in this world of ours? Well, the simple answer is that we don't appreciate our similarities. Instead, we just focus on our differences. Just take a moment and imagine what the human race would be capable of accomplishing if we cast aside our differences and worked together as a team. Because at the end of the day, there is only one race and that is the human race.

Just as the former President Ronald Reagan once said "In our obsession with antagonisms at the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. I occasionally think how quickly our differences would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world? And so I leave you with this question. 'Isn't there already an alien force already among us?' What could possibly be more alien to our universal ambitions than ignorance and the resultant threat that it poses to the fabric of our society?

Just before I handover to our respected guests, I want to say once more on behalf of all students and staff at Madani Schools Federations, thank you very much for visiting our school and I hope you have wonderful time at our school.