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If not now, when is a better time to advocate for peace? We have been living at the peak of violence. Instead of moving forward, we have begun taking steps back. We have seen riots, violence, disrespect, and pure anger. We are the most divided we have been in a long time. The media only informs us what fits their story. The people around us advise us in the way they feel and believe. Hate comes from a lack of compassion, and with that comes the lack of education. People do not go out of their way to educate themselves on prevalent topics or different aspects of the world. Once we begin to open our eyes to everything around us, we will come together; to understand diversity and praise what each population offers. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. were father figures in spreading education.

Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other." The fight for social injustice has been under heat since the days of Martin Luther King Jr. We lack understanding because, in life, we are not urged to consider diverse populations. We are not taught to appreciate other people and why they believe the way they do. Today, it is one race against the other, but why not take the best traits to establish the most culturally diverse country? Why not be proud and utilize it to our advantage? As King once said, we should love as it is "the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Relationships are based on four principles: Respect, understanding, acceptance, and appreciation." Gandhi preached the importance of peace and provided the exact reasons we fight. He educated people about the tragic events around them. Because without awareness, most people believe what they hear. They believe those with a skewed opinion and therefore make it their own. There is a lack of understanding when the whole picture is not laid out in front of you. That is a factor in the rise of anger and violence.

I call to the education system to teach diversity. To teach children and young adults about neighboring countries, religions, races, cultures, sexualities, disabilities, and everything that makes us all unique. To understand, we must learn first and think about all sides of a situation. I also encourage everyone individually to do their part and research. We spend so many hours of our day in front of screens; we could use that time to find helpful resources to understand events and the people around us. If we are educated, it will prevent the spread of inaccurate and misleading information, which causes many violent acts. Education will allow us to be open-

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minded individuals who will drive out the violence with compassion, peace, and understanding.
As Gandhi long ago said, "You must be the change you want to see in the world."