

## Letters to a President

### **Commended Entry Y9 – Nadia Atlasbaf**

To the President Biden and Vice President Harris,

Hello. My name is Nadia, I am 14 years old, and I live in northern England. I am writing to you not only because of a competition I entered but because I believe that the issues that I am raising are important, and the solution is what I hope will come out of a very successful presidency.

I must congratulate on your historic win. I can certainly say I was rooting for you. It was a relief, even in England, to see Mr Trump be taken out of office. I believe that you have the right values regarding racial, environmental, and other such issues, and I think that is very commendable.

I am Persian-British, my whole family comes from Iran. I grew up speaking Farsi and learning about my culture. However, as with any good thing, there is also a side to my Persian heritage that I am less enthusiastic about. There is a lot of baggage that comes with my Persian identity. It is hard sometimes telling people about my origins because I can feel being judged, people drawing a prejudiced conclusion from one fact of my existence, without knowing anything about me. I'm sure you are familiar with America's relations with Iran. Given that, there is a certain sort of dread that comes with this identity. You never know which politicians will say what and when. Anything could make the situation worse.

When Mr Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, it was definitely Not A Good Thing. The sanctions imposed, were even worse. Sanctions are crushing the Iranian economy. People are dying as a result. The poor cannot afford healthcare. When mothers ask their doctors how they can care for their child while prices continue to escalate, the doctors cannot give an answer because they are in the same situation. When in a taxi, while my mum talks with the driver, I can hear them fretting about the economy, how the price of a fish is the same price of what a house used to be a few years ago. People are suffering because of the sanctions, especially during the coronavirus pandemic and it is painful to watch from afar and know that I cannot do anything. Iran's economy is being decimated and America has a helping hand.

I believe that sanctions are not a good solution. They destroy the lives of everyday, normal people, especially those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. I know that sanctions aim to create better relations between the country who sanctions and the country who is being sanctioned, but the tribulations caused by them are not worth it. Furthermore, as a country with great power, the US has responsibility to help those in need and find ethical solutions wherever possible. To lead with compassion.

There must be a better solution, and I believe that you can find it.

I wish you all the best.

Yours sincerely, Nadia.