

Letters to a President

Runner-Up Year 9 - Hanae Bakali-Merchani

Dear Vice President Kamala Harris,

I would like to start this letter with a huge congratulations on becoming the first female black Asian vice president in American history. Over the last few months, you have been an inspirational role model for so many young girls, and will continue throughout history. I am writing this letter to you to inform you about some problems that have been going around the world, that you could have the power to reverse or take action on to make this world a better place.

I want you to be aware of all the conflict around the Middle East especially in Yemen. Yemen is in the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with more than 24 million people – around 80% of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance. Since the conflict surged in March 2015, the country has become a living hell for the country's children. Now, with COVID-19 spreading, Yemen is facing an emergency crisis. Sanitation and clean water are in short supply. Only half of health facilities are functioning. Children continue to be killed and maimed in conflict, while the damage and closure of schools and hospitals has disrupted access to education and health centres, leaving children more vulnerable and robbing them of their futures. Nearly 2.3 million children under the age of five in Yemen are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021. You need to help Yemen to ensure you are providing humans in poverty help that could potentially be a life-saving action to many.

Secondly I want to inform about the Black Lives Matter movement and the George Floyd trials. All around the world BLM protests have been going on for about a year now, which have made police take action into some cases such as the Breanna Taylor case and Shukri Abdi in the UK. The George Floyd trial has just taken place 10 months after his death. The public knows that it has taken a year due to the presidential election problems. Recently you said, "It will not be easy" for Derek Chauvin to get a conviction because juries tend to believe police officers. This has suggested that it will be a long fight to get through the justice George Floyd deserved. We all have to keep on pushing and fighting for equal justice.

I finally I would like you to please take massive action on the two issues above and keep fighting for the upcoming ones.

Yours sincerely,
Hanae