

**From the President's Desk**  
**October 3, 2022**

Sunday, October 2, was the International Day of Non-Violence. Yet it seems violence, in many forms, surrounds us. These seem to be exceedingly trying times.

An unjust war in the Ukraine, fueled by a power-hungry Russian regime, leads to the death of thousands of Ukrainians and a multitude of both Ukrainian and Russian military personnel, many of whom don't even know why they are fighting.

Twenty-two year-old Mahsa Amini died in an Iranian hospital days after having been arrested by morality police for allegedly not complying with the country's rules on women's dress. Soon thereafter, protests began and have been ongoing for weeks. The leadership of Iran is working to silence the protesters through internet blackouts, arrests and even more deaths. Amnesty International reports that the government crackdown has led to the death of at least 52 additional people, with hundreds more people injured.

We also have our share of injustices in the United States. People taking advantage of their positions of power resulting in child abuse, human trafficking, police brutality, sexual harassment and abuse. People who kill others based only on the color of their skin, their nationality, their religion, who they love...Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Daunte Wright...the list of victims goes on. Research shows us that Latinos are also disproportionately victims of such brutality, but are oftentimes left out of the conversation.

Violence against all minority groups has been on the increase. Attacks on those in the LGBTQ+ community have been on the rise. COVID-19 resulted in racism and violence toward Asians.

Many churches, synagogues, mosques and temples have increased security per mass shootings in religious homes. Schools have also had to increase security as they, too, are targeted.

We are outraged, but oftentimes feel powerless. What can we do?

It feels overwhelming, sometimes so much so that we are devastated and even immobilized in our grief. Sometimes the situation isn't initially fully clear and we pause to assure ourselves we have a correct understanding of the situation before acting.

Yet, once we are able, we can start by giving a voice to those whose rights are violated. Call out injustices...whether they be based on race, gender, sexual preference, religion, individuals taking advantages based on power...whatever the injustice may be.

We can model treating others respectfully, making an effort to try to understand why others believe what they believe by listening to their stories and their experiences. You don't have to

agree with their beliefs or adopt their practices. Rather, simply act humanely and seek to understand. This is part of the goal of an education: to better understand others in our world.

And, if we are fortunate enough to have means to help, we can volunteer for or donate money to organizations who can directly assist those in need.

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." ---  
Benjamin Franklin

Dr. Robin E. Bowen  
President  
Arkansas Tech University