

Let's work together

“There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return”, this were the astonishing words said by the great late Nelson Mandela. However, we can only hope for a better future if we fight and stand together as one nation and not consider each other as different. Citizen diplomacy is the richest and most dynamic way we can all be involved in the cultures and dialogues of countries whose borders are different than ours.

However, citizen diplomacy might not be easy to practice as we are in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, citizen diplomats can help communities respond without violating the Covid-19 regulations by supporting, creating awareness, caring and creating ways to communicate. To illustrate, citizen diplomats can make use of Microsoft Teams platforms to host cultural activities where individuals from different countries can share the traditions, arts and beauty of their cultures. Participants can show their arts by painting, drawing and designing sculptures. They can also present their cultures by writing stories, playing dramas, reading poems and singing songs.

Citizen diplomats can volunteer by starting up charity projects where anyone can donate money which can be used to purchase groceries or household items that can be distributed to the less privileged. The money can also be donated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services to fight Covid-19. They can start awareness programs for certain issues in Namibia such as Gender Based Violence, mental health awareness, autism awareness, Global warming, artificial intelligence and pollution. They can also create person-to-person communication schemes by making world wide zoom gym classes for people to achieve health goals together. Would you participate?

Traveling internationally gives an experience which can be the most fascinating way for an individual to explore new ways of living. International experience can help an individual improve relationships and enhance mutual understanding of different religions and respect for other cultures. This can affect individuals hope in humanity because they experience the love and beauty of interacting with different multi- cultured and raced people.

We can celebrate our hope in humanity by acknowledging the blessings and positive things in our lives. To give you an idea, in 2020 the world had many racial issues that caused division amongst people. We can however fix these and by doing that we can have hope in humanity. Examples of days such as Culture Day, Family Day and Valentine's Day can assist us to celebrate our hope in humanity.

The Namibian people has shown advocacy the past year as young women and men protested in the Streets of Windhoek to raise awareness about Gender Based Violence (GBV). Tear gases were thrown, gun shots were fired and many people of ages 16 and above were arrested, but that did not stop them from fighting for their rights. There are also GBV awareness programs in my city Windhoek, such as the Monica Gender Violence Solution and the #Be free Movement