

**Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance**  
**Sen Alejandra Reynoso Sanchez**  
**Mexico**

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Today's debate relates to many global challenges such as democracy itself, human rights, equality, peace, security, and sustainable development.

From this space of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I want to refer to what hinders the construction of a peaceful society in Mexico and is generating violence and intolerance in society.

First, Mexico is going through a serious problem of violence. The high homicide rate makes the current government the most violent in our history. And this is because its security strategy has failed and organized crime has grown stronger.

But the problem of drug trafficking is multidimensional. Although Mexico is a transit country for drugs; we require the help of other governments to reduce drug abuse. And we require the help of the legislators of these countries to stop the sale of the weapons that drug traffickers are using for their homicides.

But the violence that is experienced is not only generated by organized crime, there are other factors that are confronting our societies, and I am referring to hate speech.

In Mexico, the presidential conference is used daily to attack various sectors of society: political parties, legislators, businessmen, journalists, or the media are attacked in the same way. Rulers or legislators of other countries are exhibited and attacked from that platform. Simply for thinking differently, for pointing out the risks to democracy in Mexico, or with the purpose of inciting the division of our society.

It's unbelievable, but the hate messages also reach the middle class attacking them simply for having development aspirations.

This, without a doubt, is only causing division and confronting Mexican society every day.

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But this space is not only for sharing our concerns, but also for sharing our occupations, our proposals.

I want a society with Peace, I want a Mexico that recovers the capacity for coexistence, a society that is committed to living authentically in community.

That is why in the next few days in Guanajuato I will be starting a great project, the same one that I want to invite you to participate in: The Embassies of Peace.

We are in time to build security, to build Peace. What will we do to achieve it?

We are calling on all sectors of society to participate: mothers and fathers of families, private initiative, Educational Community, the Media, Churches, local governments, and organized civil society.

Peace is built from inside homes, from schools, from the workplace, from the apostolate in the church, from neighboring communities, from communication from governments.

We need to leave the messages of hate and division, we need to talk about peace, it is essential to respect and be respected if we think differently, we require tolerance and respect for the Faith we profess.

Just as democracy must allow coexistence in a society, it is necessary to put an end to hateful messages that generate intolerance and put freedom at risk.

Let's choose dialogue instead of conflict; let us choose life instead of death; let us choose peace instead of war.