

What Dignity means to me

DIGNITY IS...

- *Listening respectfully to someone who has ideas that are very different from your own.**
- Feeling like your ideas don't matter
- Pitying a child who lives in a war zone.**
- *Recognizing that prisoners are human beings**
- Feeling sorry for a girl who isn't allowed to attend school.
- Feeling like you deserve special treatment because of who your family is, how much money you have, what country you come from, etc.**
- *Realizing that even people who do terrible things have dignity**
- *Apologizing when you make a mistake**
- Distrusting someone because they practice a different religion than you do
- Feeling like your religion, country, and culture are the best in the world
- *Doing your part to make sure that all human beings have food, shelter, safety, opportunity, and freedom**
- *Knowing that you are important, that you matter**

MY EXPERIENCE WITH DIGNITY

- I have always been treated with dignity
- Someone I am close with has experienced being treated without dignity
- I have witnessed others being treated without dignity
- I have personally experienced being treated without dignity
- I have always treated everyone with dignity
- At some point in my life, I have disregarded someone else's dignity
- If I see someone's dignity being disregarded, I step in and try to help.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

- * I believe that the people who do not honor and recognize all human being's dignity don't deserve to be treated with dignity.**
- * I believe that violations of dignity are only a problem if it impacts me, my friends, and my family.**
- * I believe that no one can take away my dignity**
- * I believe that treating dignity with contempt leads to a breakdown in everyone's access to freedom, justice, and peace.**
- * I believe that treating all people with dignity is a faulty concept because not all people are valued equally.**
- * I believe that sometimes it is difficult to treat others with dignity**
- * I believe that all human beings deserve to be treated with dignity, regardless of their class, race, religion, behaviors, beliefs, politics, sexuality, etc.**
- * I believe that "when we honor others' dignity, we strengthen our own" (Donna Hicks)**
- * I believe that we can all do more to incorporate dignity into our lives**

Note: the items that are bolded and preceded with an asterisk "" are examples of dignity.*

DIGNITY + ENTREPRENEURISM

CONSIDER LOCAL AND/OR GLOBAL PROBLEMS THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT PEOPLE'S DIGNITY

Consider the problems listed below and then create your own list. Select one item from either of the lists to be the focus of your entrepreneurial endeavor. Circle it.

ACCESS TO

1. Adequate housing
2. Clean water and sanitization
3. Good healthcare and medication
4. Education
5. Electricity
6. Computers and the Internet
7. Shelter/housing

YOUR LIST

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR HOW TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM

Describe a product and/or service that you could create to address this issue. Every idea—even one that sounds impossible—has merit and should be considered. Questions to contemplate are: How does this problem violate dignity? What would need to happen to restore dignity? What would the product/service offer? Who is the target customer?

RESEARCH YOUR TOPIC AND TAKE NOTES

Questions to consider are: What is the problem? Why does the problem exist? What are the forces that keep the problem from going away? Who is impacted by the problem, both directly and indirectly? What data is available about your problem and what does it reveal? How does the problem negatively impact the individual and society in general? How would the individual and society in general benefit if the problem were solved?

Dignity Images



In this image, Vedran Smailović, otherwise known as the Cellist of Sarajevo, plays his cello in the ruins of the bombed out National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, known as Vijećnica. During the Siege of Sarajevo in the 1990's, Vedran Smailović repeatedly risked his life to play Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor at the sites of funerals and sniper and mortar attacks



Demonstrators marching on Washington, 1963, with Martin Luther King, Jr. at the left

“Roughly 250,000 people marched through Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963. Called The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the event called the nation’s attention to the injustice and inequalities that black Americans faced because of the color of their skin. The Declaration of Independence states that ‘all men are created equal.’ But even after the Civil War and the end of slavery, people of color found themselves treated unfairly. They weren’t allowed in many public schools, they had to eat at separate restaurants and use separate bathrooms, and they had to pay taxes and pass literacy tests to vote. The idea was to keep blacks “separate but equal.” The demonstrators in this image were marching for equality.”

Text credit: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/2003/08/the-march-on-washington-for-jobsand-freedom/>



“A Chinese man temporarily blocking a line of tanks on June 5, 1989, the day after demonstrators”

“On the morning of June 5, 1989, the day after the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing, when Chinese troops attacked pro-democracy demonstrators camped on the plaza, a man carrying shopping bags stepped in front of the war machines, waving his arms and refusing to move. The tanks tried to go around the man, but he stepped back into their path, climbing atop one briefly. Onlookers assumed the man would be killed, but the tanks held their fire. Eventually the man was whisked away. This image appeared on front pages all over the world. Decades after Tank Man became a global hero, he remains unidentified.”

Modified from <http://100photos.time.com/photos/jeffwidener-tank-man>



Image credit: <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/terrorism-fundamentalism/20295-syria-s-white-helmets-say-assad-must-be-prosecuted-for-war-crimes>

“The Syrian Civil Defense, known commonly as the White Helmets, is a volunteer corps of Syrians who act as first responders in the Syrian civil war, which is now in its sixth year. Established in 2013, the group’s charter is simple: to carry out search-and-rescue operations to save the maximum number of lives. When airstrikes rain down on rebel-held parts of Syria, a group of 3,000 civilian volunteers are usually the first to respond. Inspired by a Quranic verse that says ‘to save a life is to save all of humanity,’ the group has rescued more than 60,000 people—a feat that earned them the Right to Livelihood Award, commonly known as the ‘Alternative Nobel Prize,’ in recognition for their ‘outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement in rescuing civilians.’ It has also put them in contention for the Nobel Peace Prize.”

Text source: <https://www.theatlantic.com/news/ archive/2016/09/syria-white-helmets/502073/>



Image credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dignity_Statue.jpg

Dignity of Earth and Sky is a statue in South Dakota that honors the Lakota and Dakota Native American tribes. The sculptor Dale Lamphere said, "Dignity represents the courage, perseverance and wisdom of the Lakota and Dakota culture in South Dakota."

Text source: <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/explore-with-us/spotlights/dignity-earth-sky>

