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I believe that all people deserve to be treated equally with regards to respect, fairness, and kindness regardless of outward appearance or nonconformist differences. Every human being has a soul and feelings that can be molded by peers both positively and negatively. Though it may be far-fetched to believe that one day all people will receive the treatment they are worthy of, I know deep in my heart that even one person can make a difference in the way they treat others and can change one life at a time.

Throughout my life, one issue that affects me the most is discrimination. Even if I am not personally discriminated against, seeing others suffer penetrates my heart and urges me to help make a change. I also believe that there is enough caring and strong people in the world to reshape society and make the world a better place. One source of my inspiration is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a great leader and speech maker, he has changed America as no other man has. He has given well deserving people the freedom they have always been worthy of. In one of his many speeches, he shared his words, "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, quality and freedom for their spirit. I believe that what self-centered [persons] have torn down, other-centered [persons] can build up."

Even small acts of kindness can make an enormous amount of difference. Even if it means standing up for one person or talking to someone who seems to be lonely, I plan to make a difference one step at a time. Instead of fighting immoral actions with anger, I plan to use kindness to set an example for those who may need guidance to understand how to treat others.

As Dr. King said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Through many of his speeches, Dr. King has inspired me to be a better person and refuse to tolerate ignorance or immoral behavior. Instead of worrying about myself, I will put my efforts into treating others the way I wish to be treated. In a society where everyone is treated fairly, there will be peace and happiness and there will be no good deed gone unnoticed. By spreading kindness one individual at a time, eventually, the entire world can live in peace. One day everyone will be seen for their personality and compassion instead of outward appearances or slight differences. King proclaimed, "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." His strong words and faith help give me, along with countless others, the hope of a brighter, more just future where appearances mean nothing.