

Hi Tatul,

When I read that you call me “neighbor” in your letter, I had emotions at that moment that aren’t possible to describe. For a moment I thought it was the neighbors in my hometown calling me in this sweet way. Indeed, there are few neighbors that live so close, yet stay so far from each other. In fact, we’re one of them. Though sooner or later, these neighbours realize that staying away from each other is pointless, and that the power of love and unity can lead both sides to prosperity. I absolutely don’t want to see neighbors like us in this situation. The neighbors I’ve known have always valued solidarity, respect, sharing, laughing, having fun together, loving, and being loved; just being good neighbors. We lived like this years ago. It’s never too late.

My name is Ilkin and I’m 20 years old. I live in Baku. I’m an economist by profession, but I’m also an amateur actor. I’m a socially active young man. I’ve attended a number of trainings on peacebuilding, and I’ve also played a role on the subject.

For the first time, I had an opportunity to meet young people from Armenia during a regional project in Georgia. I got acquainted with very sincere and nice young Armenians. During the seminar, I realized how many similarities we have on the household level and in our characters, and it was nice.

Yes, for a more progressive, loving, and prosperous future, we need to start taking steps towards peace in our midst. Prolonging this conflict brings nothing but lethal damage. Hatred kills, and love helps to live on.

Why should we be enemies while being so close? Why shouldn’t we be able to visit each other’s countries? Why shouldn’t we work together on projects for a better future? Territories, songs, food, traditions, borders, wealth: none of these are important. It’s a human being that is important. Love and emotions are important. Living and helping others to live on is important.

I accept your offer to meet in Georgia with pleasure.

Ilkin