

Dear Nara,

Hi, my name is Mane, I'm 17 years old. I would like to start by thanking you for your letter. I've never thought that I would be talking to someone from Azerbaijan but I'm really happy that I got the chance to, because I believe that the only way we can solve this is by talking and trying to understand each other. This could also be the beginning of a very great friendship. I really like your ideas about peace, and I believe that sooner or later millions of people will gather around the same idea, and realize that nothing is more important than that.

Just like you, I've always dreamed of having peace between our two countries, because there really was a time when we lived together, side by side. When I was a kid, I always thought that if two countries are neighbors they must have the strongest and the most peaceful relationship. That's why the hate between our countries always surprised me. I always wondered, why couldn't we just stop killing each other, and why couldn't we just live in peace? Have you ever thought about what our countries would be like if we weren't enemies, if there wasn't any war and if all of those people weren't killed? I believe that both of our countries would be in a much better state than they are now because war never brings anything good. I, too, don't want to remember the past; of course it can never be forgotten, but I believe that we can never think about the future if we always remember the past. Yes, we all have our personal stories and bitter memories. We all have lost a loved one and we all have grieved. I'm sure that both of us had a time when we were full of hate towards each other and believed that revenge is the only way. But it's not, it's truly not. None of our people – neither ours nor yours – want this to continue, even those people who say that they would never agree to live in peace; that they would never forget the past and would never forgive. But this isn't about forgiving. This isn't about ignoring the past, but understanding that what has happened cannot be changed. We can never change our past, but as you said, it's in our hands to build our future. We can come together and do everything for our future to be completely different from our past, to be full of happiness and love. Together we can make that happen. Together we can make a change.

Sincerely,

Mane