

Hi Dear Roya,

I'm Nelly. I'm 20 years old. Thank you for your kind letter!

When I was reading it I was trying to imagine what you look like in my head. So now, if you are trying to do the same thing, just imagine a young girl with a little bit of dark skin color and with black curly hair. This is also my first time writing a letter to someone who I don't know. I hope that one day I will be able to meet and talk to you in person, maybe in Georgia, in Ukraine, or in any other country in the world; or maybe in Armenia or in Azerbaijan, who knows. I actually have met a few Azerbaijani young people before and had the opportunity to talk to them in person. And let me tell you one thing: I got only good and positive impressions of them.

Just like you, I also believe that one day everything will be over, the world will become a more peaceful place, and I will have the chance to have many more Azerbaijani friends, and we both will be able to visit each other in our countries. Recently, during a conference in Ukraine, I was taking part in a cultural night. All the participants had to shuffle the names of the countries attending the conference and had to pick out just one piece of paper. That paper was going to say which country's dance you are going to learn. I picked out Azerbaijan. I was actually very interested and excited to learn one of your traditional dances. It was called "Naz elama". We had to dance it with a partner, and my partner was one of my Georgian friends. We noticed how similar the dance moves of all three of our traditional dances are: the beautiful hand moves for the girls, and the clapping for the boys. An Armenian and a Georgian dancing an Azerbaijani dance: sounds fun, right? That was the day when I felt how many similarities we have in our cultures, in our nations and even in our dances. I felt some kind of warmness and familiarity while dancing it. I was thinking that one day if we all could concentrate more on our similarities, and less on our differences, we would be living in a more perfect and peaceful world. If peace is an ocean, then I want to have my drop of water in it.

My friend, I agree with you that we, me and you, need to do everything to prevent the repetition of the past. I want us to continue believing that my and your generations will become the ambassadors of peace.

Thank you for your time. I hope that one day I will meet you in person and I will be able to get to know you better. But before that, I am going to attach my email address to this letter. I will be happy to hear from you:).

With love,

Your first Armenian friend

Nelly