

Hi Dear Amelia,

Thank you for your letter for peace. I agree with you and share your idea of spreading peace among people. I'm glad to know that your relatives communicated with Armenians and have good memories.

My friends often call me Panda, reasoning that I'm "soft" and "small" (probably referring to my height). So, let me introduce myself: Panda, 19 years old, a dreamy girl. I have so many dreams about my family, relatives, and myself. I dream of establishing my own school that will provide quality education for children. I dream of charity work helping orphanages, nursing homes, and families in need. In my dreams, peace takes a special place with all its manifestations: peace at home, in human relations, and most importantly on the border.

You know, I've never communicated with an Azerbaijani in the past either, and I'm glad I have this opportunity now. I'm writing to you with high hopes that we will meet one day and that meeting will be on the opposite side of war, in peace. That meeting may take place in your country or mine. I'll be happy in either case. If that meeting takes place I'll consider my dream of peace to be half-fulfilled.

Amelia, dear, I'm for peace just like you.

Peace is one of the most beautiful phenomena in the world. It's the guarantee of harmony for the soul. It's peace that unites people around one idea and enables them to create gems of culture. It's impossible to imagine peace without negotiation, communication, and interaction with the environment. Though neighbors, our countries aren't at peace with each other, unfortunately. Over time, our nations have become hostile against each other, and have started to fight for land. They've delegated their generations to fight against the enemy, and even kill them. Looking at history, we can see that no war has ever produced any good. Casualties and lost young lives: these are the products of war.

It's time to say no to this cruel reality; to stop living with fear in our hearts, continually dreading the words, "There are casualties due to escalation on the border."

In fact, it's the governments that fight; people are mostly peaceful. My teacher, who fought in the Karabakh war, told us that Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers exchanged food and water with each other during the ceasefire.

Both your and my nations have suffered great losses, from the beginning of animosity to this day. So, as the future of countries, we should advocate peace to our nations, so no family has a loss any more.

They say Armenians and Azerbaijanis once lived in the same territory; they spoke the same language, and their children went to the same school. If there was friendship years ago, why can't it be now? Why fight if there is peace?

My aunt is from Kapan. During the Soviet Union her family lived in the neighborhood of Yerevan–Baku train station. She says that the employees of the station were mostly Azerbaijanis who were very polite and respectful towards the locals. She remembers that they used to buy tea and waffles from Azerbaijani merchants who were very kind people, too.

While working in Moscow, my father got to know an Azerbaijani person who was a sociable and respectful man.

So, my peace–loving friend, let’s become part of the long–awaited process of establishing peace.

Thank you for reading my letter.

With peaceful greetings,

Panda from Armenia.

P.S. You have a beautiful name, Amelia.