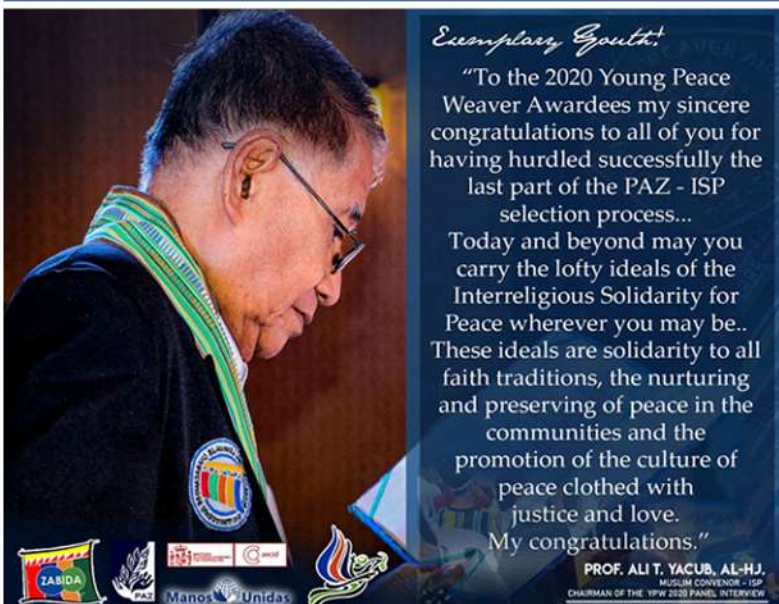


YOUNG PEACE WEAVER AWARD 2020



The Interreligious Solidarity for Peace together with Peace Advocate Zamboanga and Zamboanga Basilan Integrated Development Alliance would like to extend our Salutation to our 2020 Young Peace Weaver College Awardees. May this recognition will serve as an inspiration to all of you to continue your journey bringing peace and harmony to your communities. With heartfelt gratitude, we say thank to our panel members

1. Prof. Ali T. Yacub, Al-Hj 2. Ms. Sarah Sales 3. Vandrazel Birowwa 4. Pastor Rogelio Alfaro Jr.



Prof. Ali T. Yacub, Al-Hj. in his congratulatory message to Young Peace Weaver Awardees of 2020 as he expresses his high hopes for the awardees. #PartnershipforHumanSecurity

Dr. Grace Rebollos, Zamboanga Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. President to Young Peace Weaver Awardees: "You are our continuing hope amid this pandemic"





A great leader once said: "Observe good faith and justice towards all nations. Cultivating Peace and Harmony with all." This powerful phrase is my objective as a Young Peace Weaver of this era. Thus, it is a challenge for us young peace advocates to be the Hope of the Nation amid this Global Pandemic. We must blaze the trail of peace and call to creativity and innovation. Hence, this award does not only stand this day, but as for me, this award will stand in my heart forever. I will be ever grateful to ZABIDA and PAZ for this Opportunity. My never ending applause for your virtues and efforts for the City of Zamboanga."

DANNA JYN D. AGUSTIN
 Western Mindanao State University
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Being a peace weaver, we should always think positive things as we will going to surpass this pandemic. By thinking positively, we can create strategies in order for us to survive and be a good citizen by following the new protocols in this pandemic. There are a lot of changes as this pandemic affects each individual in many aspects, specially in our daily living. This crisis helps me realize a lot of things one of those realization is that in reality we cannot leave alone. We should extend our selves in helping others. Being a peace weaver, I consider helping others as my mission, even in a little way that I have. Communicate others specially my family and friends giving advices to them is one aspect of attaining inner peace. Inner peace is caring for others, inner peace is connecting to others lives, inner peace is loving one another, inner peace is extending a helping hand. Inner peace is in me."

CRISANTA DELA RAMA
 Southern City Colleges
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"This is our new normal, new world, choosing peace in the middle of pandemic is the other way to help our community. To all youths out there who are struggling with their inner peace, especially now where all of us are facing different problems and challenges, please look to a brighter side and don't lose hope. We are all in this together."

SITTI RAIZA D. TULAWIE
 Southern City Colleges
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"It is with a great honor to be a young peace weaver awardee and I would like to send my gratitude to PAZ, ZABIDA, Mydev family, A3B Family, SK family, Brgy. Recodo and specially my Family. You were part of my journey as a youth leader and to where I am now, for that, I thank you so much. As a peace weaver, we can be able to showcase our potentials and leadership to guide young ones especially the minors to stay at home and give fully time to their family."

We as a LEADER, we become the image of inspiration amidst this Pandemic to the young people. To be a peace weaver, is also a big responsibility and I would use this platform to show to young people how important it is to build Inner Peace, which is, we as an individual, we are responsible with our own little actions, to provide safety not just for themselves but for the community because we are all impacted by the Corona Virus one way or another I.

The one thing that surely must cut across all these levels is being overwhelmed with the constant influx of information and misinformation both on and offline. You see, hear, read one thing and before you have a second to grasp it, you are flooded by a completely different set of information. I bet we are all also experiencing multiple stages of panic, paranoia, fear, uncertainty and disbelief or even all of us.

But mostly it's compounding the already uncertain future that young people face today. For me to help young people with this kind issue, I would like to address to young people that we shall always filter what we read, what we see and what we share because peaceful mind starts with sticking to authentic sources that we tend to read and share to people.

However, this crisis shouldn't be a call to panic regardless of how tough that might be under the circumstances. This is a reason to organize ourselves better. Well there is no time like now for young people to do what they do best: self organize, self-mobilize and come together no bars held just like you have in the biggest crisis of all climate change. Come together in global solidarity. Thank you! Keep safe and Godbless. In Sha Allah!

#We heal as one
 #YouOnlyLiveOnce"
NUR-IN KADIL JALANI
 Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



#JourneyForPeace Isabelo Pinote, Jr. of the Western Mindanao State University awarded as Young Peace Weaver - College division today 16 June 2020. Isabelo together with his proud parents received his medallion, Certificate of Recognition and token.

This is supported by ZABIDA under the Convenio 3 Project funded by AECID and Manos Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSecurity



Ali T Yacub, Al-Haj and Mr Vandrazel Birowa Peace Component Program Coordinator - Convenio 3 Project.

This is supported by ZABIDA under the Convenio 3 Project funded by AECID and Manos Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSecurity

As a student leader the only thing that I can do is, to inspire others youths to be more responsible of what they're doing, because being a responsible person can take us to a great and simple living without a risk in our life's."

JOHN MARK D. RUBIO
 Tulungatung National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



#JourneyForPeace Alyssa Marie Ebrole of the Ferndale International School - Senior High School awarded as Young Peace Weaver today 16 June 2020. Alyssa together with her proud teachers received her medallion, Certificate of Recognition and token.

This is supported by ZABIDA under the Convenio 3 Project funded by AECID and Manos Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSecurity



"When I became the student government council president of the higher education department of Pilar College of Zamboanga City, Incorporated last 2018-2020, it gave me opportunities that widened my understanding when it comes to diversity and individuality. I met a lot of amazing people with different cultures, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives. In a way, I'm also different from

the stereotypical type of student leader people are used to. I'm impulsive, I have tattoos and body piercings, and I grew up from the back alley of society where violence, discrimination and bad habits were rampant.

My life story would tell you that I was in turmoil in the past. I lost myself so many times and it wasn't easy for a young boy to grow up and understand life on his own.

Back then, I grew up with a father who misunderstood me. I was very stubborn and hard-headed. I ran away from home and didn't finish my college education. I refused to be taught because of my pride and ego. I began to realize that my life was in shambles when living alone became too hard for me. I slept several times with an empty stomach. I've been with some unwanted people in society, and I had to live a life like theirs. Since then, I found myself trapped. It was extremely dark, and I felt very hopeless.

But one day, I found a very small reason to deeply understand my own self. I realized that I lack peace of mind—something that had been missing from me.

After finding that missing "peace", I became an optimistic person. My life started to recover and I finally reconnected with my family. I now understand the love of my father. I went back home and decided to continue my studies. I became a student leader—not an ideal one, but someone who can be looked up to. I became part of so many organizations who promote positivity in our society—environmental conservationist, education advocate, peace advocate, and many more.

For me, if you want to advocate for peace, you must first create it within you. Peace is like a seed. Plant it inside your heart, nurture it, and it will become the tree of peace. Let others have its fruit so they can plant that seed inside their hearts too. Perhaps my life is destined to teach and inspire others — to be that source of light for those who lost their ways. With this Young Peace Weaver Award, I will carry this torch high enough to illuminate the lives of many. We have to understand ourselves deeply so we can understand others as well. Remember, we cannot shade the world with just one color. Let us flaunt and embrace our differences.

To my beloved school and fellow Pilarists, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow and to lead as an example. I am happy to share this achievement with you all. Muchisimas gracias Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance Inc., Interreligious Solidarity for Peace and Peace Advocate Zamboanga for choosing me as one of the YOUNG PEACE WEAVERS OF 2020.

Keep safe and God bless everyone!"
Sincerely yours,

GLENBERG C. SALVE
Pilar College
Young Peace Weaver 2020



#JourneyForPeace Renibon Galvez of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University - Senior High School awarded as Young Peace Weaver today 16 June 2020. Renibon together with his proud mother received his medallion, Certificate of Recognition and token.

This is supported by ZABIDA under the Convenio 3 Project funded by AECID and Manos Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSecurity



"Mil gracias a Dios por esta bendición! Todo'l honor, gloria y alabanza ay contigo lang, Señor ☺ Being a Peace Weaver Awardee is an honor and a duty to uphold and demonstrate an involvement in projects or activities which are peace-building in nature and to contribute to the attainment of PEACE, HARMONY and UNDERSTANDING in every community engagements that I have.

And to prove that every one is capable in surpassing challenges that will be thrown to us by life and to always remind ourselves that "We are not a Failure" because we make mistakes every now and then but it's because we're striving and trying our very best to be better each day.

Amidst the current pandemic the world is facing, we need to keep in mind one thing. Human beings are engineered to collaborate, to care, and to help. We are all designed with the ability, will, and persistence to rise up and overcome every obstacles being thrown at us.

The Pandemic is teaching us that there are no highs and lows, at this point everyone has a part to play, because we are created with hands to create tools in rendering help and services to the people in need, a mind to tap into our superior intelligence in creating mitigation strategies, isolation techniques to lessen the pathogens spread, and a conscience to know that we, as a children of God would never let a fellow soul be deprived with the same opportunity.

Now is the time you can ask yourself what can or should I do in times like this? and the answer for me is HELP WHENEVER YOU CAN."

ISABELO A. PINOTE JR.
Western Mindanao State University
Young Peace Weaver 2020

#JourneyForPeace Danna Jean Agustin of the Western Mindanao State University awarded as Young Peace Weaver - College division today 16 June 2020. Danna together with her proud sister received her medallion, Certificate of Recognition and token. This is supported by ZABIDA under the Convenio 3 Project funded by AECID and Manos Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSecurity



#JourneyForPeace Naica Mae Singgo of the Zamboanga Polytechnic State College awarded as Young Peace Weaver - College division today 16 June 2020. Naica received her medallion, Certificate of Recognition and token presented by ISP Muslim Convener Prof.

Ali T Yacub, Al-Haj and Mr Vandrazel Birowa Peace Component Program Coordinator - Convenio 3 Project.
This is supported by ZABIDA under the Convenio 3 Project funded by AECID and Manos Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSecurity



"Empty streets, locked doors, eerie silence.

As darkness engulfs our community, so does our souls. Uncertain of what the future is, we have developed day by day a great amount of angst and agony in our hearts. Conquering this war against an imperceptible enemy, we have no choice but to fight in any possible way each one can. Indeed, every individual plays a vital role in our offense and defense. As medical practitioners become more vulnerable to this fatal virus and make big sacrifices everyday, local government units and task forces also increase their efforts to aid in preventing the spread of the disease and provide necessities to their respective community. More individual and groups in the work force, especially NGOs, are doing the best that they can to assist and lessen the burden from our unstable government. Apart from all of them, little do we know that we ourselves are in this battlefield too.

Chained in our small rooms and vast thoughts, we must not only be physically healthy and safe but mentally stable too. In this trying times where in our mind is sometimes controlled by detrimental circumstances around us, it is definitely not easy to win against it. Surging cases of COVID-19, late night shows by our dear president, lack of medical supplies and support for hospitals, VIP treatments for ECQ violators, unjust implementation of policies, and challenged press freedom are just some of the blazing fire in the screens of our phones as we continue to scroll through it. We cannot ignore the fact that what we see will not affect our perception and definitely, will not instigate fire in our hearts too. As young as we are, we have been actively engaging in these social issues, which is a good thing as a responsible citizen, but is actually harming our inner peace and mental health. Despite this adversity, we continue to overcome and express ourselves. We let those fears cast aside and we speak up to our heart's content.

In this dark episode of our lives, we are not the 'bata lang' for us to stay still and apathetic. We cannot achieve the level of fully being healthy physically and mentally if we suppress our thoughts and emotions. Our minds will never be in peace if we let this negativity just forever linger inside. Ofcourse, along with expressing ourselves are respect to one's opinion, healthy discussions, avoiding ad hominem remarks, critical thinking and facts-based perspective. Believe that every Filipino's words are powerful. Definitely, our strong voice is our greatest caliber in achieving a humane and harmonious nation.

In this status quo, standing up for what is right is as important as empowering the people around us to obey laid rules and initiate efforts. As we let our mouths speak, our hands must act too. More than anything, tangible and beneficial actions are what we are in dire need right now. Even in our own little ways, we must help hand in hand in eradicating this virus and rising above together from this crisis.

Amidst this chaos, I personally would like to extend my deepest gratitude to PAZ Inc., together with ISP and ZABIDA, for this heartwarming recognition. Moreover, for awarding this in the comfort of our homes. Acknowledging young leaders in such way is a great opportunity and avenue for us to convene with individuals of the same vision as ours. My Alma Mater, Regional Science High School for R-IX, you have also been a blessing in disguise for me to discover this amazing path. My family and Marahuyow, for the unconditional love and support all the way, thank you. Finally, my love and warmth also goes to my YSP kapatids & fam and all the meaningful bonds we have built through the years of relentlessly volunteering and serving our communities.

Walking through this path does not stop by receiving an honorable award, this is definitely just a beginning to mark a higher level of civic engagements and youth empowerment. Together, we continue to journey towards solidarity, and I am with you as an advocate and a Young Peace Weaver!!

EEMAN MARWA I. PANDANGAN
 Regional Science High School for Region IX
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"A PEACEBUILDER must come with great responsibility. To uphold the truth and empower the society in advocating peace. Being awarded as a Young Peace Weaver is a great responsibility to carry. You were given the opportunity to influence the people including the youth to generate peace between the marginalized and vulnerable ones. Everyone deserves peace. In order to achieve this golden goal, we must INFLUENCE, INSTRUCT, INSPIRE, INVOLVE, and INFORM the community for positive social change.

Everything is on the process, however, if we are strong-minded then nothing is impossible. A peace-loving society will bring social transformation and that is what I want to experience and up to the next generation. The future is in our hands and let's start to rebuild peace starting from our homes to communities. Seeing the people enjoying a peaceful life is really rewarding.

Amidst this COVID-19 pandemic is really depressing. Let's encourage people by feeding them positive thoughts. Everyone is deserved to be loved and not be isolated. Peace is not just an absence of conflict but also a state of mind. Let's make it a habit.

I will leave this message with these words, "Peace is breaking the cycle of violence by safeguarding the marginalized and vulnerable ones through good and proper communication."

NAICA MAE D.S SINGGO
 Zamboanga City State
 Polytechnic College
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Thank You Peace Advocates Zamboanga for this prestigious award that you have given me. Honestly, I was shocked and definitely didn't expect this because I didn't even share my whole story of peace during the interview but nevertheless I'm very grateful that I'm a recipient and precisely I'm proud to be a Young Peace Weaver awardee.

Today, we are faced by a health crisis that causes a lot of changes on the way we live and the way we interact with others. I know that we aren't used to this "New Normal" style of living yet, but for sure this is the best way for us to be safe and not be affected by the virus. Most of us are actually worried and anxious about what can happen in the future if this Virus will continue to spread but believe me if we are being Obedient and become responsible citizens, we can actually be living in a safer environment. Positivity, Cooperation and Faith plus Self love and Self care will totally bring us to our Inner Peace.

May we continue to Pray and put our trust in the Lord because he has better plans after this Pandemic. See you all in the finish line."

ALDRIN S. NACION
 Manichan National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020

"I am no different to you. I was just a kid with no direction. A competitive student who only saw camps and seminars as opportunities to advance in my academic standings. But, my perspective started to change as my ideals were slowly shaped by the people I met in PAZ.

In times where I felt like everyone was blinded, I was seen. In moments when I thought the world was deaf, I was heard. When I felt like I was voiceless, they made me speak. These are just few opportunities that PAZ tried to transpire for me. Going against the world just like what I do right now. Nothing was easy but not everything is difficult, just learned. Little by little, I learned to stand on my own feet, now starting to perpetuate my own narratives— trying to be a good influence to others. I have gained the power to believe in my abilities and took the chance to not only do it for myself but the common good of everyone. It was then when I tried to reconcile activism with kindness— an approach most people forget.

Young Peace Weaver Award is just the tip of the iceberg because the essence of it lies beneath what we have done and what more we can do for the community. COVID-19 might have disrupt our mobility to volunteer and connect to more people but with the advancement of technology, we can still stay true to our advocacy and fulfilling what we have promised. The real thing comes after being given the award because we become influence of peace, role model to the youth and an instrument of hope. Certainly we can never change the world but we can do so much more to alleviate people's sufferings. This pandemic is just one of the bigger challenges our generation is ought to conquer. As leaders of the future, we must choose to be on the side of history that we want to be written in.

That's why I would constantly say to "Always believe that you can be!" Because I know that each one of us can do something great."

With Love,

Amir Balimbingan
 Ateneo de Zamboanga University- SHS
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Growing up we always heard of heroes and their superpowers, seeing different protagonists in books and movies, there was a point in our young lives that we ought to defeat evil with our superpowers. Fast forward our perception of heroes is not as absolute as once it was. We admired heroes because they were always the good guys, bringing peace and defeating antagonists. As we grew, the black and white shades of reality were not as dull as we wanted them to be. We now understood that sometimes, those who seemingly bring fort peace are those who perpetuate them, while those who wore villain-like costumes were the real heroes.

Regardless we still wanted to have powers, to save the world, and to protect our loved ones. Unfortunately, we can't always have a utopia, as much as we wanted to save the world, who were we to do it? How are we even going to do it?

I learned that wanting to save the world is a progressive process, where the little things we can offer are essential to the formation of the bigger picture of success. To grow up is to see the world differently, when I did I grew more accustomed to change and development. Today I write this narrative, aspiring to inspire a young set of leaders to always have the urge to seek your own version of superpowers.

Becoming a recipient of the Peace Weaver Award, I knew that the power I always wanted to have, was it with me from the day I set out to look for it. That power was to believe - believing in what we can do and the impacts we can bring.

I have always been afraid of rejection and invalidation, wanting to save the world is not a common goal you hear every day, but even in the face of a global health pandemic I am here writing this passage because I believed and I'll continue on believing in our collective powers as the youth - bringing change."

JOHN CARLO C. OBOY
 Ateneo de Zamboanga University - SHS
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Assalaamu'alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh!

Everyone has their own story about how they are spending quarantine life. How we spend our days being told to stay inside our homes. Luckily, I am a lady with a roof to settle in. Some may find these quarantine days as a boringly-spent-vacation, others may consider it as an opportunity to reflect with themselves. Let us view this days-inside-the-house as a door in changing ourselves for the better. Use this time to reflect on ourselves, manage our toxic behavior, overcome our weaknesses to the extent of turning them into our strength. Bond, laugh, talk, eat, and pray more together with your family or you can just enjoy your peace being alone. Let us learn to dance in the rain. Our world will heal and so do we. One day we can all look up and thank God that we made it.

Alhamdulillah! Receiving this prestigious award overwhelmingly makes my heart be crammed with such fulfillment. With humblest respect, I offer my profuse gratefulness to Interreligious Solidarity for Peace and Peace Advocate Zamboanga for making me one of those lucky— jubilant learners who are striving for peace. Also, I am thanking everyone who inspired me to do so, my family who ceaselessly supported me all throughout and pampered me with unconditional love and care, my friends who pushed me to share my capabilities and skills, my SSG Adviser and Class Adviser who endlessly supported every bright step that I take. For everyone who molded me into who I am now, you have my utmost respect and admiration. Thank you and may we all have peace in our hearts."

HUSNA A. HAYUDINI
 Baliwasan Senior High School- Stand Alone
 Young Peace Weaver 2020

"Bismillahi Rahmani Raheem.

Not long ago, I was just a little girl with no passion, no ambition, nothing at all. I just wanted to live my life and be happy. Hindi ko alam na may mga bagay din palang nakalaan para sa akin, gaya nito - Peace Advocacy. PAZ opened a lot of opportunity for me to be inspired and to be able to inspire others. Yes, it is so magical that I cannot believe I am who I am right now, all of those volunteering works, camps, parades, training and healing sessions, games, talks, and many more with empowered people became a part of me that I learned to love and appreciate. You know? When you get that feeling of being attached to something you never expected to give back.

I would also like to convey my message of hope in this trying times, COVID 19 is our unseen enemy, it is humanity versus the virus. This is the time where we must use our strength to remain safe. Let us not let the virus destroy ourselves, stand still and be brave, abide the rules and regulations implemented, let us help one another, and let us not forget to pray for help from the Almighty. Our prayers must be accompanied by our rightful actions like wearing masks when going out and maintaining social distancing.

I am a living proof that you don't need a title or a position as a leader to do something for the people, whoever or wherever you are, how small or big your act is, you can make a change as long as you are inspired, determined and passionate about what you are doing. XXXX

Volunteer, Youth Leader, Peace Advocate or whatever you may call it, tungo sa kapayapaan! "

FADWA A. MOHAMMAD
 Claret School of Zamboanga City
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Felicitación de Paz y Abrazo!

Damas y Caballeros firme acordar que el riqueza es no hacer gente, el fama no defini un persona, entonces el educación, saber, cultura, y fe el dever riqueza y definición que el un persona ta lleva avió.

Na este tiempo de crisis como un jovencito puede yo hace mi papel cómo ejemplo na otro jóvenes que yo segui na maga reglamentó de leyes del de aton gobierno y queda responsable na maga movimientos que io ta hace.

Na este tiempo de crisis muchu ta perde ezperanza por causa del ambre, ración y muerte. Necesita kita uni un grande fuerza para combate con esté, que puede llevar victoria kanaton na guerra que kita ta enfrenta ahora.

No kita perde esperanza y debe firme kita confia con Dios, kay ele sabe todo los cosas aquí na mundo. Este un Desafio na vida de maga gente y que ta serví como llamada del señor que el mundo bien trambullikaw ya y debe el maga gente aprende na di illa maga pecado y cambia vida. Debe ya abrí el ojos del maga gente especialmente el maga jovenes que ta perde camino, nesesima sila busca el paz internó. Que amo lleva kanila en paz na di illa maga corazon y pensamiento.

Como un joven puede yo apodera con otros jóvenes na manera de quedar inspiración para kanila na mi maga trabajo y liderato. Ahora na este punto de crisis aquí na mundo, puede yo ayuda guía y serví camino con otros jovenes para puede sila encontrar el paz interior na di illa corazón y pensamiento en este tiempo se CoVid19 pandemic y rezar con el señor por el salvación y buen salud a todos. Juntó-junto kita pelea con este crisis y para duro na este momento de vida y man ayudahan para queda kita bueno a uno y queda librao na todol miedos en este tiempo."

FRANCIS VIC T. LUNA
 Culianan National High School-SHS
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



Assalamualaykum!

"Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace." —Dalai Lama

In this generation, arguments are just a simple matter for some of the people. We can't avoid different kinds of trouble that anyone of us might face. It is hard for the people to change of their accustomed if they are used to do it. But if many of us will unite, cooperate and do more actions towards peace, definitely, some will influence and make them follow with our steps. You need to have courage in your heart, do not stop doing good deeds. If you have faith and trust, your surroundings won't affect the real you instead, you will affect them with what they have seen on you. Your pure intention and sincerity will make them realize that world will become more beautiful, peaceful, free from negativity, and worth to live in. If you are surrounded by the dark, let yourself be a light in it. The feeling of fulfillment in your heart is priceless. And it is what we called the true SUCCESS!!

As a Young Peace Weaver Awardee, I will not just take this honor to be known as one but to encourage everyone to be a peace maker too. I will continue to serve the city, the country and even around the world. I will not stop volunteering and show the knowledge that I have learned in PAZ (Peace Advocates Zamboanga). And I also want to take this opportunity to thank PAZ and ISP (Interreligious Solidarity for Peace) for choosing me as one of the Young Peace Weaver Awardees, this was all unexpected. Magsukul and Wassalam"

NURHAMA ANNUARI

Tuan Datu Hadji Abdullah Nuño Memorial Integrated School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020

"In face of this crisis, how can we truly have inner peace? Honestly, I too am not so certain how...

In reality, it is undeniably such an ordeal to be in these trying times. But remember that you are not the only one who is distressed in facing the severity of this dilemma. In fact, we all are. All I know is that everything is a matter of perception and outlook — whether we'd be whining of what we could have had or what we could have done, or whether we'd be appreciative of what good things persisting until now.

Amid such adversity, we are able to see people sharing a piece of humanity for each other and people who valiantly risking their own welfare in behalf of others in the frontlines. When we are able to appreciate things around us amid such fear, distress and disturbance, we are able see a clearer outlook of what is life worth living for in this pandemic. In faith, remember that God always has his plans for all of us and remember that he is at work in all of these! Let us appreciate even small and countless things that are unknowingly less appreciated like still being alive and well with your family right now, or not having problems of what food you'd be eating for tomorrow and even until today having a convenient, less difficult and less daunting means of living than some others who have not. Let us be grateful as Catriona Gray's statement reminds us that in order for us to thrive, we have to see things in the silver lining in such difficult situations!

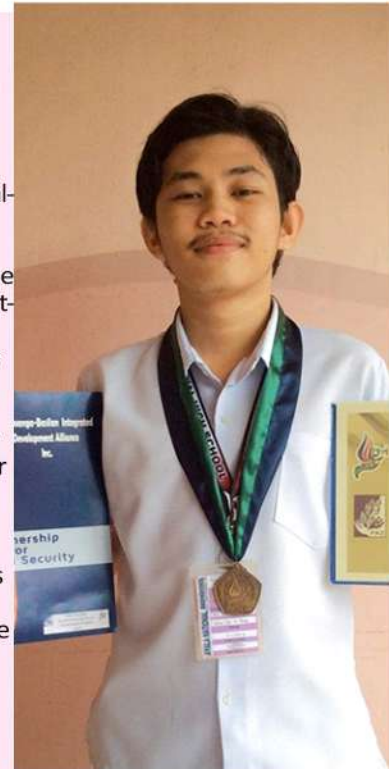
Uncertain of how long could this pandemic be; might be ending for months, years or maybe it'd miraculously end tomorrow — we will never know. But at least we can be appreciative in our daily lives, at least we'd sheer from discontent and world pity, at least we are firm mentally and emotionally, we stay intact from our inner peace.

Great thanks to ISP, ZABIDA and of course PAZ for giving us the privilege to represent youth as weavers of peace. More power to your organizations in the future! My friends, family, teachers, schoolmates, classmates and all others, I am humbled of you being part of this merit.

The right time might be soon where we'd be able to revive the real normal that we use to live. Let us continue to thrive amidst the decline."

JULIUS IAN BAYA

Ayala National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Good day!

Assalamualaykum warahmatullahi wa barakatuhu

I just want to thanks those who supported us and make us always positive at all time.

In this time of crisis Covid-19 pandemic it teach us on how to be strong and how to be united, in this time also we can show the love and compassion whether we are rich or poor. But this is not yet done, it is not the end of the world because I believe that God-the Creator test us on how to be patient because Allah says: And surely we will test you with something of fear, hunger,loss of wealth and lives and fruits but give glad tidings to those who are patient. Surah Al-Baqarah:155

In this verse in gives us hope no matter what happen it is the Qadr (decree) from Allah.

With this, I can say that we will fight against Covid-19 we will find solution, and we should trust God in every decision and situations that we face.

In addition, Thank you very much for supporting us to our beloved school principal Dr. Elga Z. Jarlega , To the school teachers and to my supportive parents thank you very much and may Allah bless us and protect us from any form of illness...

Jazakumallahu khayran
 Eid Mubarak"

HASSSAN A. SOBERANO

Sangali National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020





"Assalamualyikum Warahmatullahi Wa'barakatuhu!

When the final searching was over I was very impressed knowing I am one of the candidate who passed the interview after a long waiting of rigorous screening. It's such a great experience that my loving institution chose me to be the one of the candidate who will be joining the event and that moment will always be the one of my remarkable experienced.

Behind of this pandemic even though we didn't really feel the essence of our special ceremony a graduation we're still very much lucky that the Peace Advocate Zamboanga (PAZ) and the Interreligious Solidarity for Peace (ISP) made an initiatives on how they'll going to award those recipients like me and those efforts will always be appreciated.

Having this meritorious recognition I'll always be grateful and blessedness of because for how many years of volunteering in any organization that I've entered I just feel that all of those tiring days, efforts, full heartedly contribution, and commitment towards my community and school I just gonna feel that I am well deserved and I'll always be humbled for bringing this prestigious awards. Of course all of this was not being through without the endless support of everyone who really trusted me at this point of time. First and foremost I would like to thanks the only merciful almighty Allah SWT for always guiding me and for always answering my prayers, I would like also to thanks my dear Alma mater TUAN DATU HADJI ABDULLAH NUÑO MEMORIAL INTEGRATED SCHOOL for always believing in me and for always giving their support I presented this awards to you this is really yours and thank you so much for my dearest school principal Dr. Olga Amolo Guevarra to our faculty staff's and to all students who showed their supports through this time. I would like also to express my sincerest gratitude to Peace Advocate Zamboanga (PAZ) and Interreligious Solidarity for Peace (ISP) for house to house delivering our medallions and certificates, and lastly for my proud parents my number one supporters who're always motivating me in every battle that I faced. Thank you so much everyone Magsukul, Magsukul, Magsukul.

Let's be United and achieve PEACE. Let us be obedient in our own ways by simply following the protocols of our government for our own safety. Make the best better even though we're at the middle of this crisis. Bow your heads and make pray don't be hopeless this is our fight and this is us. Inshaallah may this crucial situation will end soon."

ARILIN, ABNIR T.

Tuan Datu Hadji Abdullah Nuño Memorial Integrated School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020

"I am blessed and honoured by this award, I want to express my gratitude to Peace Advocate Zamboanga and Interreligious Solidarity For peace for giving me the opportunity to be one of the 2020 Young Peace Weaver Awardee.

For the past months our lives have been affected in so many ways, we are facing an immediate crisis of the so called once in a century pandemic. Wherein we are imprisoned to our respective houses, and realising the importance of proper hygiene for our health, were also conscious about the cleanliness of the surroundings to stop spreading bacterias, because the virus is a big threat. Many are suffering due to this pandemic and even claimed lives; it is now the battle of everyone vs. the formidable enemy that cannot even see with naked eye. The covid-19 pandemic is a harsh reality that we need to take it seriously. "We can either learn to face it with bravery or die trying"(Camus,Albert). Maybe, the pandemic is God's will to strengthen our faith and to test how we are going to take action in this situation.

Being a Peace Weaver Awardee and a youth of the community is something to be proud of, the only thing that I can do to have inner peace is to inspire others Through showing how to be a Disciplined person in the time of crisis, and it is the most precious virtue that a person should possess.As a Peace Weaver and a Youth, the only thing that I can do is to have intrepidity to take the situation seriously and positively. Despite this crisis never loose hope and faith to our almighty god, always think that this struggle will end and everything will be back to normal, not now but soon. In god's will. To the youth out there, always remember that the fear will not have the last word, but love and hope for ourselves,family, friends and community will be.

ROCHELLE M. ESCOSIO
 Ramon Enriquez High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"PRAY. Do not be afraid for God is with us."

Beacause of this pandemic, people's lives have changed. It gave birth to our "new normal". Plans have been cancelled and we didn't have the chance to make it real. That's probably because God has another plan for us. Though our blueprint has been aborted, do not be discouraged because everything has its reason.

At the moment, we must be a law-abiding citizen, cooperate with the rules and regulations and together, we will survive!

I encourage everyone to pray for the world. Don't give up and don't lose hope. Call on God and let Him help us.

Life is beautiful and there is so much to be grateful. Amidst crisis, let us focus on positivity and let God be the center of our everything - - - - for us to have inner peace."

ROEYAINA A. RAMOS

Manicahan National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"These past few months have been very challenging for the most of us, we have been faced by and still currently facing a great crisis. This pandemic has brought unimaginable horrors to many of us; lives were lost, families separated, and a great number people are suffering. We have to realize that our actions are more impactful than we think, that the consequences of these actions affect not only ourselves, but the people around us. Now is not the time to be self-indulgent or selfish, rather, it is a time to ask ourselves what we can do for our community, for our frontliners who are out there, relentlessly, risking their lives for us, for our brothers and sisters that are suffering, and for our families that we seek to protect. Amidst the pain and suffering that we continue to witness and endure, we shall seek comfort in stories of hope and solidarity and the fact that our actions matter, that we can contribute to healing our community and I deeply hope that we do."

ERIC CANAMA
Regional Science High School for Region IX
Young Peace Weaver 2020

"Being recognized is not just an honored but, it is a great responsibility to hold and a memory to shared with. Responsibility as how you care for others, memory as part of your journey. So, since we are facing in such a worst situation where nobody to call on but despite of this pandemic some were still engaging themselves to help others just to say that the best is yet to come.

And as a Young Peace Weaver Awardee, I'm encouraging all of you to wear your smile and covert it into laughter. Make fun of things that you wanted to do before then, we don't know by that you can discover more about yourself. And as what they said "Laughter is the best medicine" but, making fun in unique way make you feel better than yesterday.

Let us all be productive in our own way that made ourselves satisfied in everyday staying at home. Although we're not that genius to find the cure of this unseen virus but we can be still a doctor, savior in different ways. Be productive in helping each other, find ways to help because even in a small thing means a lot. Be initiative not for your own but, for all people around you because in today's world what we need is love to each other and a shoulder to lean on. By doing those things I'm pretty sure that you're not just gaining a reward instead, you put a mask of smile that no one can take it away.

With my humbled and deepest gratitude, thank you so much for believing in me our dear TUAN DATU HADJI ABDULLAH NUÑO MEMORIAL INTEGRATED SCHOOL, our teachers, advisers, friends and parents you were the reason of this improvement. You guys were part of this achievement. Thank you so much for helping me to step forward. To end this message, I would like to express my warm gratitude to Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ), Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc (ZABIDA) and Interreligious Solidarity for peace (ISP) for extending more effort to delivered our medallion and certificates your service was too amazing. You really planned such a wonderful recognition for us.

NURSIDA ASNALIN ANAMIL
Tuan Datu Hadji Abdullah Nuño Memorial Integrated School
Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Thank you so much Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ) and Interreligious Solidarity for Peace (ISP) for acknowledging young leaders in our journey towards peace. It is such a great pleasure to be one of the Young Peace Weaver Awardees and to be recognized as an instrument of harmony in the community. I never imagined myself receiving such prestigious award and I know that this would not be possible without the love and support of my family, friends, teachers, and everyone else who taught me to live a life of 'magis'.

With the vision of inspiring and influencing fellow youth, we want to build strong connections and solid foundations to help cultivate inner peace amidst this crisis. Receiving this medallion made me realize that there are still things worth celebrating and that we should not let this pandemic hinder us from being progressive. Even with the many restrictions, we can still do a lot of things - try out new hobbies, exercise, read a book, reach out to your family and friends, join online sessions, and the list goes on. We have so much time in our hands and it won't hurt to celebrate ourselves. More than that, let us also take time to help celebrate peace in the community - seek for ways that may contribute to the common good, voice out your opinion without stepping on others, think and act smart, allow yourself to be corrected, and educate yourself with what is really happening in the status quo. Together, let us cultivate peace in our society."

KIM HEART QUIMSON
Ateneo de Zamboanga University-Senior High School
Young Peace Weaver 2020



"Dreams are reasons to strive hard, a goal that will make you determinate. Facing those walls that blocks our way, a wall that will test how strong we are, but, there is always a way to penetrate the walls. I, a young peace weaver, is truly grateful to help those people who are in need. I have this advocacy for the figure generation. Saying this words. Young peace weaver, a title for those who has understand the worlds criticism, those who deserves it. People who bound to promote peace, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, LOVE, EQUALITY AND PEACE. In every aspects in our life, we have to seek for democracy and to fight for our rights. Let us spread positivity. Mostly, in this current situation that we are facing through, let us not only think of ourselves, there are people who wants help, let us mend the bond that once been broken, and live in a society where the presence of harmony and the mankind's humanity.

With that, I would like to acknowledge those people who have been supporting me. specially to my alma mater, Baliwasan Senior High School Stand Alone, to the teachers and to the SSG Organization. And also, I would like to give my thank you to PAZ who entrust me this duty. To my fellow Young Peace Weaver, let us soar high. Congratulations and God bless to all."

SITTI AIZAH A. MUSID
Baliwasan Senior High School Stand- Alone
Young Peace Weaver 2020

YOUNG PEACE WEAVER AWARD 2020



"To have received this wonderful young peace weaver award has filled me with great gratitude and thankfulness. It is such an honor to be awarded with other selfless and amazing individuals who made sure that peace and harmony would blossom in their own respective communities. The recognition by the prestigious and influential organization, the Peace Advocates Zamboanga, has warmed my heart. Because of your influence and vision, you have empowered the youth to become heralds of peace and forge a brand of unity where cultural diversity is respected and uniqueness is celebrated.

We all know that to achieve lasting peace, one must have inner peace first. However, in these times of crisis and pandemic, there is the tendency to panic, to be anxious, to fear. It is during these times that we must strengthen our faith, trust in our medical experts and most of all to always be reminded that we have each other. We cannot overcome this obstacle, without being united. We have more time on our hands, this we should use for self-reflection, to reflect on things that we have done, what we are doing, and what we plan to do in the future. But inner peace is never achieved on our own. The support of our families and friends, constant communication and connection with our loved ones despite social distancing are important factors to ensure that we do not lose inner peace amidst this crisis. With inner peace, we are able to enjoy lasting peace with friends, neighbors and loved ones.

The challenge is to always put our perspectives in check so that we may learn to accept facts and information with calmness; to find ourselves contributing to ways on how we can help each other cope with these trying times. I am starting by always having meaningful connections with loved ones and constant reaching out to friends who are far away from me.

The call for peace has never been more vital up until now. Even though we face an unseen enemy, we will overcome because we see each other for who we really are. We know and understand each other as human beings, we have faith, science, sympathy and respect for one another. That is how we overcome this battle with peace."

ESCRIVAE SCHO P. BUENAFE
 Pilar College
 Young Peace Weaver 2020

"It is an honor to be awarded by Peace Advocate Zamboanga as a Young Peace Weaver 2020, and I am very grateful to be part of it. Especially because even amid this pandemic, they still give these prestigious awards, risking their lives to give it to us door-to-door without hesitation. I appreciate this more than you'll ever know. Also, to those people behind my accomplishment—my family, supportive teachers, friends, and classmates. I don't even have the words to thank you. You are there since the beginning and you never leave me behind beyond any circumstances and obstacles that we have encountered.

Now, as a Young Peace Weaver 2020, I would like to encourage everyone to be obedient and follow regulations given by the government and authorities because this is one simple way of helping our community and country because they are the one who knows what is best for us during this pandemic. Among those rules are take precautions, including washing your hands regularly, keeping a social distance from others, and staying home when you're sick. Basic actions like this can help limit the virus' spread and its impact on public health, society, and the economy.

Another way also for us young people to help respond during this outbreak is to be stay informed. As fear spreads faster than facts, inform yourself about the virus. Deepen your knowledge and point others to trusted information. This will go a long way to debunk myths and build resilience within yourself and to the people who are close and important to you. Rather than resorting to fear or panic, we must have peace in mind for ourselves because this will us overcome negativity and make wise decisions in life."

ARVIN P. DANGASE
 Culianan National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020



"How many months have passed, But until now there is still no cure. What we are experiencing is so hard. Many people have died and evacuated. Pain we don't see. But too much damage carried. Damage that killed many lives. Corpses, almost not buried in the pit. Ashes are the ones being reached home. Such a big hindrance to our lives. It's like we are being imprisoned as ignorant. I know everyone is bored. I know everyone is tired.

I know some don't have anything to eat. I know everything is so hard. But nobody is to blame. No one likes this problem. We are clever, rather than a malicious disease.

Programs of the government let's understand that we are forcing ourselves. Forget the imaginary that we insist on. Let's avoid hurtful words. Peace wash the heart with anger. The cure and silence we will achieve. In the middle of this pandemic. The world almost melted. I know there is still good in building, In our mind and heart.

Me, You and Them, all of us. We are all affected. So we must cooperate. Unite for change. This malicious disease is gone. Let's be open to all. Pray fervently and faithfully. Each one of us has his own abilities. Ability to help those in need. Ability to respect every citizen. Let's not lose hope because there is still a future that is reserved. Opened full of peace. Let's thank the frontliners who almost risk their lives for our well-being. We can only be taken away and protected from scary present pain. Let's cooperate no matter what our religion comes from. True peace we will achieve. I am ANASTACIO RICO. One of the named Young Peace Weaver this year. Sangali National High School, the school I came from. This is the message I want to inform you. "It's hard to eliminate the opposing we don't see, but we'll have more difficulty when we're not alone "

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!
 ANASTACION RICH JR.
 Sangali National High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020

YOUNG PEACE WEAVER AWARD 2020



NUR-ASEKIN MAJID IBNOHAJI
 Zamboanga City State Polytechnic
 College-Ayala Extension Young
 Peace Weaver 2020



#JourneyForPeace Glenberg Salve
 Young Peace Weaver awardee -
 College division, a graduate of BS
 Business Administration from Pilar
 College School with his proud
 mother receives his medallion, Cer-
 tificate of Recognition and a token
 today 16 June 2020.

This is with the support of ZABIDA
 under the Convenio 3 Project
 funded by AECID and Manos
 Unidas. #PartnershipForHumanSe-
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#JourneyForPeace Nur-In Asekin Ib-
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 anga City State Polytechnic College
 Ayala Campus awarded as Young
 Peace Weavers - College division
 today 16 June 2020 as they re-
 ceived their medallion,

Certificate of Recognition and
 token presented by Hon. Wahab
 Ibba, Barangay Captain and Baran-
 gay Kagawad Nestor, BCPC/VAWC.

This is supported by ZABIDA under
 the Convenio 3 Project funded by
 AECID and Manos Unidas. #Partner-
 shipForHumanSecurity



"Assalamu'alaykum Warahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh!

I'm nowhere near my fellow awardees of Young Peace Weaver Award. I say that with all honesty. I've got nothing to show off, nothing yet to proudly tell. I was too restricted with my movements, not by my own will or others, and I have no idea whoever the unknown is. I was longing for a quest that'd make myself move on its own, I was longing for a quest that'd allow myself to voluntarily attach itself like how others easily get attached to random specific activities that enliven themselves up, I was longing for a quest that would wake up the hungry soul in me— all the things I long for are yet to be found, that's why I can hardly say something that'll captivate the youth based on my own experiences or thoughts as I do not want them to hear out statements solely formulated out of empty, voiceless and unreal sentiments; I sought to tell the youth words that speak meaning, that connect, that show honesty, and that could rarely be made due to the fact we're all individuals unknowingly filled and glued with various personalities of unspecified individuals that we've come into contact with, watched, heard or read. We can even hardly compare if it's really ourselves who say these or is it the thoughts we've come to mold in accordance to what we have for more than a decade took sight of everywhere and perhaps also what we've been told. By reading this, we'd now force ourselves to say that it's us. I couldn't argue with that. Though, this shouldn't be seized; it is just a self-reevaluation.

To tell you, I've joined a lot of extracurricular activities, been constantly at the top of our class, and still I remain unheard and unseen— I remain as just some lady fighting for her academics, doing some activities with little passion inside and I couldn't call those over and done with pursuits as accomplishments, and that's why I tell you all I can't show them off as my fellow recipients of Young Peace Weaver Award went through a lot more than I did AND I believe those were in all likelihood may be the reason as to why I've been inferiorly looked upon by the people in my institution; I'm still in my nutshell, slowly poking my walls to come out.

However, when I've been told that I was one of the selected few to join this event, I wondered a lot if I was fit for this. Though in doubt, at the end, I gave it a shot. I tried to pave a way to slightly show a chunk of my capabilities and luckily, I made it. This became the beginning of my journey— PAZ's call out to a person like me. I may have become too fixated to go on an adventure of seeking what I want and seeking validation that I forgot to seek what should be done, I may have probably feared going out of my box and that's the common stage everyone goes through but right now, I gradually got over it. And I'll tell you, fear not to go out of your box and exclusively focus on yourself. Wander and grow! By being in this organization, I was physically and mentally shaped. Little by little, I saw the essence of it. I was modified. Now, I truly became the woman who sought to bring ascending changes with my own hands amalgamated with others. This is where I can now tell the public genuine words that can encourage every one in my own way as I've grasped something as of the moment that I hold dear and that fills passion within the void in me— it's the start.

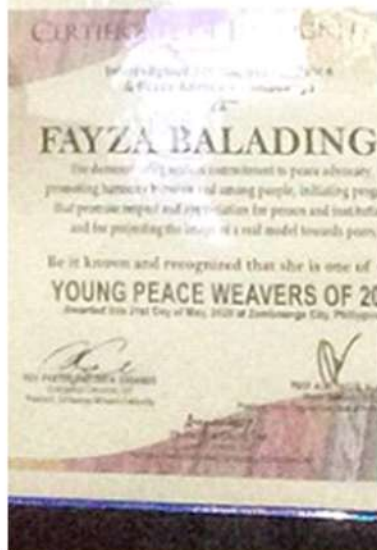
So, amidst this pandemic you'd wonder, "They told me I can save the world but how can I even? It's too impossible." Hun, you have the answers. It's in you all along. Think about it. Know the small things bring great differences. You just have to start and believing in it, just like how I started all this off.

Then later you'd feel a sense of relief, achievement and peace within you as your subconsciousness tells you, "Good job for doing that!"

Just always make sure you'll live another day without carrying a baggage of regrets. And always remember this: a sincere act of benevolence builds inner peace within us."

With so much love,

FAYZA J. BALADING
 Ferndale International School— Senior High School
 Young Peace Weaver 2020





PEACE IS IN OUR HANDS

Zamboanga city

PEACEWorks

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THE IMPERATIVE OF PEACE IN THE NEW NORMAL

We are well into six months of the COVID-19 pandemic. All countries have had their share of victims and casualties, with the numbers of cases that continue to mount. In a world that is full of diversity – religiously, ethnically, socio-economically – these have led to more tensions, more turmoil in our inner selves and outer. All of us have had to deal with a sense of restriction, heightened uncertainty and anxiety for our health and our shaky economies, a feeling of isolation and a need for togetherness, of being overwhelmed over the massive impacts of the crisis on all. Indeed, its consequences have been far-reaching and deep.

Our old habits have been disrupted. We all want it to be over. We just want to go back to normal. However, all of us – Muslims, Christians alike – will have to accept that this pandemic will be here for a while. And it will no longer be as before. Changing patterns have ushered in a new way of life. The new normal has set in.

The challenge of the times calls for peaceful ways of dealing with this new normal. As we consider our alternatives, there are choices suggested by Zen practitioners through a number of questions:

- Do we resist the new normal? Or can we use it as a growth opportunity?
- Do we complain about it? Stew in frustration over things we are not able to do? Or do we consider it a time for the possibilities of learning new things like new skills, new hobbies, new interests?
- If we're feeling isolated, can we use this to connect to ourselves more and give more meaning and compassion for ourselves (and for others)?
- If we're irritated at others, can we rise above our narrative about the other person, and see that we're both feeling fear and pain, anger and irritation?
- If we're impatient and wanting it all to be over, can we practice patience instead? Being with the pain and frustration we're feeling? And being willing to face it and sit in the middle of it?

Faced with a "perceived" lack of alternatives, we can choose to handle this new normal in ways that can sometimes lead to destructive consequences - paranoia, depression, and even suicide. On the other hand, we can be willing to transcend those perceived limits, consider new vistas, and unleash the power of the new normal as a gift for exploring ways of being resilient.

Together let us be open to bridging our differences while living the common experience of restriction, isolation, and vulnerability. Let the new normal be a place for us to close ranks toward more solidarity and strength in discovery and innovation. Through it, let us recognize our common humanity, confident that we share common ground despite the diversities in our beliefs.



-A STATEMENT OF THE INTERRELIGIOUS SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE AND THE ZAMBOANGA-BASILAN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, INC.



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