

A Realistic Vision for World Peace

By: Jody Williams ([TED Talks](#); 2011)

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SUMMARY

[Jody Williams](#) won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for spearheading the [International Campaign to Ban Landmines](#). In this short videoclip Jodi challenges us to “reclaim what peace really means.” She first gives us her own definition of peace, and then through anecdotes of other human rights activists, builds a framework for peace that includes creativity, international cooperation, and action.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you find Williams’ speech to be inspiring? Why? Why not?
2. Williams makes a clear distinction between “personal serenity” and “human security” – the latter she says is peace. What is her distinction between these two terms? Do you think this distinction is appropriate?
3. Williams says that we must strive for peace, but that does not mean we have to be pacifist. She says that a country’s military should only be structured for defence, not for offense. What do you think of these statements? Can we use military means to achieve peace? Can we create solely defensive military forces?
4. Williams includes a number of concepts in her definition of “peace”, such as global justice, equality, ability to live a dignified life, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Do you agree with this definition of peace? How would you define “what peace really means?”
5. Do you think that Williams’ definition of peace is a preventative one? That is, if people have access to the resources to live a dignified life, would this work to prevent resentment, armed conflict and the absence of war or fewer wars?
6. Think about individuals living in a conflict zone today—Syria, the Congo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, etc.. How do you think they might define peace?
7. What do you think of defining peace as the absence of war? Is there a difference between global peace and global utopia (a perfect social-political world)?



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[List of Nobel Peace Prize winners](#)

Mikhail Gorbachev. (1990) [Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.](#)

Jimmy Carter. (2002) [Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.](#)

Wangari Maathai. (2004) [Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.](#)

Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank. (2006) [Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.](#)

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