

[Any comments, views or opinions presented in this chapter DOES NOT represent or indicate support for (or reference to) ANY political party, representative, designation or affiliation].

## Abstract

Historical and iconic role models of women empowerment have been defined not just as a result of how they responded to defining moments, their impact on a global level, but also by choosing to be resilient – as well as turning negative moments to positive memorable and inspiring lessons which have endured over the years. This chapter considers, and principally focuses on two iconic role models and lessons which have been drawn from their accomplishments and defining legacies. The paper also highlights how women can serve as sources of empowerment in addressing other threats to global peace, threats such as terrorism, suppression of women's rights to have their views or opinions heard, or threats of civil war. It does so by accentuating the importance of partnerships through symbiotic, trans atlantic and unifying projects and collaborations which support their governments – as well as promote worthy causes, goals and objectives of other governments. The importance and roles of sustainable development fund raising projects – as well as projects for fund raising causes for purposes of promoting education, poverty alleviation, as well as facilitating dreams and aspirations of aspiring and capable successors, is hereby considered.

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Key words: Key words: minority government, coalition, DUP, House of Representatives, accountability, communication gaps, religious wars and conflicts, sustainable development, entrepreneurs, partnership projects, global peace, women empowerment

# **Women Empowerment as a Tool in Sustainable Development : Role of Entrepreneurs and Women in Partnership and Collaborative Projects**

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## **A Introduction**

Role models: Current and Present

Empowerment through Defining Moments

Historical and iconic role models of women empowerment have been defined not just as a result of:

- How they responded to defining moments
- Their impact on a global level
- Choosing to be resilient – as well as turning negative moments to positive memorable and inspiring lessons which have endured over the years
- Lessons which are not commonly drawn by virtue of the unique responsibilities, situations and positions in which such women have been entrusted and endowed

Privileged to Make a Difference by Not Being Indifferent

It is easy to become complacent when in a privileged or powerful position. However role models such as Jacklyn Kennedy and Hilary Clinton have inspired millions to learn from the manner in which they have chosen to be sources and tools of channels of global peace, facilitating and diplomatic trade relations. Jackie Kennedy was renowned not just for her public image as a fashion icon, but also used her public image to support – as well as promote her husband’s role and diplomatic relations with allies – and notably at moments during which global tensions could have spiraled outside control – triggering nuclear wars. The golden sixties of the Kennedys will forever be remembered as the era during which America accomplished one of its greatest achievements to date, namely “the landing of the first man on the moon”, Neil Armstrong, in 1969 – a feat accomplished and initiated by John F Kennedy.

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## Past Role Models, their Influences and Contributions to Present State of Global Affairs

The allure and enduring impact of Jackie and John F Kennedy has continued to fascinate future generations – not just because of the way and manner they responded and portrayed themselves as ordinary people who were also confronted with general challenges, but also the era during which they were positioned to play such defining and important roles. In the public spotlight and amidst several allegations which could have hindered their collaboration as an effective “power team”, Jackie chose to ignore her personal challenges and focus on promoting the positive image of the government. Without her, it is quite easy to say that John F Kennedy would never have accomplished as much as he did.

## Current Developments and Applicability

**Global Trade Relations from Brexit perspective** – as well as roles of women leaders impacting the outcome of negotiations which should not only serve as the best deal for all parties involved, but should also foster global peace – between current, previous and future trade partners. Current Brexit negotiations – as well as the outcome of such negotiations, will constitute a large component in defining Theresa May’s legacy since Brexit was the phenomenon that not only placed a partial signature on her predecessor David Cameron’s legacy, namely through the 2016 EU Referendum, but eventually paved the way for her election as the next and successive Prime Minister. Without the 2016 Referendum, and its eventual results, it is quite possible that she could still have become the next prime Minister given that she was eventually elected through a minority coalition – however, the fact that she was primarily elected as a fall-out from the Brexit results, has made such a contributory event, also a defining moment for the government which succeeded the previous one.

Whether or not the general public fully comprehends the repercussions of the 2016 Referendum in the United Kingdom – whose unexpected outcome has paved the way for the UK’s exit from the European Union, it is certainly impacting its current global trade relationships – even if its eventual impact is not as great as many expect and anticipate it will be.

What impact do the current re adjustments in trade relationships have on global peace? Where sanctions are imposed on trade activities, those remaining parties involved in trade relations with such a jurisdiction are also indirectly affected and it is for this vital reason that major trade

partners who are likely to be significantly affected, should, in particular, be informed, consulted and communicated with, to ensure that negative repercussions do not ensue. The impact of trade relationships is not only significant from the viewpoint of global financial stability, but also from the perspective of the relationships and state of affairs between the global power players, whose trade relationships eventually impact that of the remaining trade partners.

In many cases, political stability and tensions is also linked to financial and economic stability – thus, regional tensions are likely to be impacted, not only as a result of financial and economic instability, but also the inability to communicate with other regional parties who are indirectly affected by such political tensions and possible regional displacements.

This paper is structured as follows: The ensuing section follows with a review of the background to the topic which incorporates the conceptual framework and definitions that can be attributed to the concept of “women empowerment.” In so doing, it consolidates and makes reference to recent societal developments which have the potential to profoundly affect the course of historical developments, trade partnerships and relationships – as well as global peace and security relations. Brexit, as well as the fall outs relating thereto, as revealed particularly during the second and third weeks of November have highlighted and drawn attention to serious divisions from a national perspective – as well as potential implications at global level.

Powerful empowering partnerships, as demonstrated by ongoing Brexit negotiations do not have the potential to influence the direction of future trade relations, but also have implications constitutionally. Support from within the Government, as well as the coalition on which it relies upon to gain its required majority, support from the opposition, as well as legislature (Parliament) and eventually the twenty seven member states which constitute the trading bloc, all constitute partnerships and relationships which can serve to empower, weaken or influence the direction of vital policies, relationships and the course of historical developments.

The role of women empowerment as an instrument of global peace relations is also demonstrated through the partnerships which currently define the governing Conservative Party and its DUP coalition, both governed by women, as well as other women in the Scottish National Party (Nicola Sturgeon) and leaders in the European Union. Such women, through education, have been able to attain such positions and the role of parent teacher communication in women education is hereby also highlighted.

Having highlighted the importance of education and its contributory role to women empowerment, the need to address barriers and challenges to women education, namely in the form of investments in women education, funding and societal barriers, is then considered under Section C.

Section D, further highlights the importance of considering other vital matters such as threats to Global Peace, namely religious, civil, transatlantic and nuclear wars.

Section E then elaborates on recommendations which encompass the need to address communication problems, as well as the need for facilities, avenues and platforms whereby ideas can be shared. It also seeks to highlight how these objectives can be achieved.

The conclusive section then consolidates by highlighting how the greatest and most rewarding sources of empowerment can be derived – as well as why “Empowerment Sharing” with others, gives greater empowerment and inspiration through the rewards and returns of self fulfilment and other attributes which can only derived through shared initiatives.

## **B Background to Literature**

### **D) Definition**

The definition attributed to “Women Empowerment” can be considered from different contexts and perspectives, namely:

- i) Being empowered, and/
- ii) or Being empowered

AS a source of empowerment,

In order to empower others.

From the first perspective, this would ideally embrace the conferment of roles and responsibilities to facilitate worthy and vital objectives,

Whilst encouraging and facilitating the empowerment of those objectives either directly,

And from, the second perspective, indirectly.

Current Brexit negotiations provide an excellent example of situations embracing both perspectives since vital legislations and proposals need to be approved through different relationships which encompass the coalition between the governing Conservative Government and the DUP, as well as Parliament. Worthy and vital objectives still require approval in the form of “accountability mechanisms”, which is why legislature, which provides checks and balances, should not be considered a threat to any Government, and rather focus should also be given to the significance, importance and consequences of approving and passing vital legislation which

has put forward by the Government and cabinet which was elected by “the People” and for “the People.”

With ongoing current Brexit negotiations, dangers of calling for, or organizing a second referendum, not only embrace the uncertainty, time, costs and resources which would have been expended for both, but also having similar results or outcome – hence achieving little or no change in position or stance.

To what extent should the outcome of elections, a vital foundation for democracy, be relied upon – and should everyone be accorded a strong case for disproportionate expenditure of time, resources – where such should be channeled towards other goals which embrace the support for education, infrastructure, medical facilities etc

Can the Government, particularly afford to expend such resources, as well as the impact of incorporating further uncertainty into an already uncertain economic climate – depending on the existing resources or whether excess budget deficits exist at the time ?

Whatever the opinions or responses to the above may be, legislature should be relied upon, as well as trusted as a fundamental form of accountability to execute checks necessary in determining eventual outcomes.

With recent mid term election outcomes in the United States, there should be greater confidence in the legislature, and that greater accountability has been conferred through consolidated power of the Democrats in respect of the House of Representatives – whilst rather, focusing on working together with “The Government” elected “by the People” and “for the People” to execute more policy based important matters like focus on infrastructure health care etc,

As well the approval and passing of vital and important legislation. Where it is deemed by legislature that goals and objectives of proposed legislation is not worthy of approval, or considered not to be in the interests of peace, security and the economy primarily, then such decisions, as well as those of the judiciary, should all be taken into consideration.

Will, or should there be a second Referendum in respect of Brexit? Perhaps the collaboration between the Government and the DUP will demonstrate the significance of “working together” in getting vital legislation approved, as a tool to promote eventual Brexit outcomes.

## **II) How certain role models have impacted/ and are impacting future generations)**

One of life’s greatest tragedies is the waste of unexploited and undeveloped potential – not because such talents were not discovered, but because there was indifference, lack of support, opportunities or access to resources to develop such potential. One cannot imagine how frustrating it may be for many to know that their opportunities to make a positive contribution

remains futile as a result of societal and institutional challenges embedded within the walls of political institutions which serve as great hindrance for many talented individuals – institutional challenges such as bribery, corruption and opportunities being favored and granted to the less talented – but more privileged.

To discover one's talent at an early stage – as well as be endowed with the facilities to enhance and develop such talents can have a positive, powerful, profound and lasting impact on one's life and approach to life's goals, aspirations, and latter developments. Where dreams are shattered by disappointments at an early stage in life, these could also have profound consequences – which although not impossible to shape – through latter encounters or experiences, still play a role in shaping life's perspectives. Where an environment does not provide hope, then unless determination, personal and strong personalities are involved, then many are resigned to desperation amidst futile efforts.

For such reasons, encouragement from other sources – at an early or even latter stages of life, constitute vital and powerful sources of empowerment. For a parent not only to discover the strengths and talents of a child, but also work tirelessly in promoting and facilitating the development of such talents, is the most powerful of all sources of empowerment – even where societal challenges are involved.

For eventually, certain truths cannot be hidden – even where there are greater opportunities for the privileged – since the desire and passion to exercise one's potential remain key and fundamental in the development of any unexploited potential.

### III) Powerful Empowering Partnerships

Whilst the parent child partnership remains the most powerful, partnerships in the latter stages of life – namely spousal, collegiate and institutional collaborations are also very important. Great accomplishments by women such as Mother Theresa, Florence Nightingale, Condoleeza Rice and Princess Diana could never be under estimated – and one wonders what more they could have accomplished with partnerships involved in great collaborative achievements and power partnerships which are associated with the Kennedys, Clintons, Mandelas, Curies and the Gandhi dynasty.

One of the most inspiring, productive and most successful partnerships being that of Pierre and Marie Curie – whose groundbreaking discoveries and immense contribution to the Sciences could probably never have occurred if one had not been supportive of the other. When Nobel laureates are honored individually, as distinguished from collegiate institutional collaborations, it is almost certainly and likely the case, that a spouse, though unacknowledged or unrecognized,

was there to support such an individual. Examples include such accomplishments by Stephen Hawkins, as well as John Nash, the discoverer of the Nash theory of equilibrium.

### Women Empowerment as an Instrument of Global Peace

How have women empowered each other over the decades? Whilst sources of empowerment, have been inspired by the Kennedys, the Clintons, who constitute the focal point of this chapter, as well as other power couples - and other women role models which have been referred to in the chapter, collaborative projects involving women appear to have a long way in achieving as successful, record breaking discoveries as those of their male counterparts in the world of Sciences – particularly. This is not to say that women are less talented, but that opportunities for collaboration may not be as readily available and accessible to such – and with an emphasis on “may”. The author of this chapter has met brilliant women scientists – chemists, physicists – as well as bankers and economists from less developed countries who frequently attend conferences, serve as Visiting Professors in many Scandinavian countries (notably Sweden) – and have even worked at international organisations in high profile positions affiliated with the Bretton Woods institutions. However, it appears that unexploited and unharnessed potential to facilitate strong power teams persists – where compared with the success generated by male counterparts.

It is frequently commented that women are not as supportive of each other – as is the case with men. Is this really a credible justification and hindrance to the potential of “Women Empowerment”? Is there so much competition that this outweighs (and effectively mitigates) the benefits of effective co operative and collaborative possibilities?

### Education as a Source of Women Empowerment

One incredibly powerful source of women empowerment – and arguably equally or more powerful than the parent child partnership is the teacher child partnership.

In a society where women capabilities and potential are particularly undermined and subordinated to that of their male counterparts, teachers have tremendous part to play as sources of empowerment. Having attentive parents who are able to detect and facilitate the potential of talents and capabilities is of paramount importance – however, where parents are too pre occupied with other concerns – or where insufficient attention is accorded at a crucial stage of a child’s learning and educational development, teachers can fill this important gap and positively (and profoundly), impact a child’s future prospects and potential.



One can only imagine how powerful a combination of parent-child partnership – in addition to a robust teacher-child partnership can impact the “empowerment of girls” – and subsequently, women at latter stages.

Role models at early stages are vital – however having a teacher discover that you are the quickest reader in class – and that you love reading, or that you completed a book – way beyond your peers at a quicker pace, as well as communicating this to the parents, is very important.

### Parent- Teacher Communication

In such cases, a good relationship between parents and teachers can play a fundamental role and impact. Such relationships could incorporate seemingly “insignificant” displays such as sending clothing to the teacher’s children after a return from summer holidays, remembering the birthdays of the children of your children’s teachers – and sending gifts. Even making sure that cakes, as well as other birthday delights are catered for during children’s birthday – a celebration for the class and teacher, is always customary.

Classmates of the author and the author always looked forward to – as well as remembered each other’s birthdays because it was not only a time of treats for everyone, but also because teachers were nicer on those days – since they got to keep a large portion of the cake (and other snacks, presents) – after distribution to the class.

In certain societies, such is the prestige of having the entire school being catered for on a child’s birthday. The author can remember the entire school being “feted” on certain days where a “Very Important Person’s” child was celebrating a birthday – even though we didn’t know the person whose birthday was being celebrated. In such societies, the impact of parents’ influences and power relations could detrimentally favor less affluent children – with as much potential – or even greater potential where regular “bribes”, favors and gifts are constantly and unduly sent to teachers. In certain cases, some teachers also expect huge presents and gifts and sometimes remind very affluent kids in front of their classmates, during Christmas that their parents should not forget their Christmas turkey, hampers or other even more luxurious, lavish and extravagant gifts.

Such sources of “empowerment” can also have a positive effect on less privileged children who are determined as a result of their less privileged background, to make a positive impact. In this respect “peer groups”, who you associate with after school hours, the books and literature studies, primary language/s spoken or permitted, and activities undertaken, whether one is fortunate to live in an academic environment, all have a powerful role to play – particularly where wealth is not the determining factor in a child’s future – and namely, the importance of a child’s environmental upbringing.

Many women role models whilst growing up included women teachers, lecturers and professors who not only dressed professionally, and carried themselves in dignified manners, but also read “sophisticated” literature – as well as had the time to take care of their families – in a balanced healthy manner.

Literature was a huge role model whilst growing up – and whilst the author’s peers were deeply engaged in literature such as Jeffrey Archer, Jackie Collins, Barbara Cartland and Sidney Sheldon, the author was more inclined and inspired by classics – which also included fictional detective and other recommendations by the author’s mum who knew from an early stage that the author would rather invest lunch money on books – and fortunately, a very good university bookshop.

Quite frankly, the university environment (both whilst growing up and studying aspects), invested a huge and significantly profound impact in the author’s life – more than any latter influence or even politics, could have. It is quite liberating to know at an early stage that women are not limited in their boundaries or capabilities where role models are a matter of everyday life experiences. In a society where women education is encouraged, respected and valued, it is not difficult to imagine limitless possibilities.

### **C Addressing Current Challenges to Investments in Women Education: Funding and Societal Barriers**

International politics constitutes one of the biggest threats to global peace – for therein lies other obstacles and challenges which include access to funding opportunities – as well as societal obstacles.

Living and growing up in an international academic community shielded from many realities – however societal developments and changes – involving political instabilities and developments also contribute as sources of threats to funding opportunities. Innovation is fostered by competition – however a healthy balance is required.

One of the most valuable resources derived from an educational and university environment was the love for international collaborations – and particularly in respect of the musical world. In 1991, when the tri centenary anniversary of Mozart was celebrated, all university Deans and Heads of departments received a special invitation to attend a prestigious event where string quartets were to be performed – as well as a limitless intake of luxurious buffet. The author’s school did receive an invitation – because of its musical affiliations then – however we had a group (choral) invitation. For those of us who lived in the university, we were able to exploit the invitation cards sent to our parents and dined as their representatives – for all those activities which they were not able to attend. In this capacity, we were able to establish valuable connections and sources of empowerment – which have greatly and positively impacted our lives to this day.

This highlights the power of collaborations – and particularly academic collaborations – even in an increasingly growing uncertain global political environment. It also accentuates the power of music to unite communities at a global level - with international foundations being established within such university environments as a means of consolidating on, and promoting global and peaceful relations. Music was (and is still) an incredible source of empowerment – and this particularly where accomplished women pianists are involved. A school mate who was incredibly brilliant in Maths and the Sciences – and probably the best student at such disciplines, went on to become an accomplished organist – even though she could have undertaken a more prestigious career path in Medicine, as was the case with her sister. However, being empowered also embodies happiness and well being and it appears that she has fulfilled such aspects to a larger extent than what she would have accomplished – had she bowed to societal pressures.

For such influences, their mother could also be accredited – being a brilliant scientist. For some, practising Maths and chemical equations everyday was like having a snack – whilst the remaining dreaded even attempting homework, once a week. This was the impact which many role models – mothers and women in education had on their children – facilitated and empowered by the environment which they lived. It was nothing extraordinary – just the ordinary. However the ordinary becomes extraordinary when you venture into a completely different world.

## Education as a Tool for Promoting Women Empowerment

### *The Power of Partnerships and Shared Platforms*

The importance of education as a facilitator and tool through which women can attain important roles – both in terms of shaping future legislation, ensuring accountability, amongst numerous other roles and most importantly, facilitating global peace, cannot be over emphasized.

Where women are empowered, assisted and encouraged to become the best that they can be, the potential for such qualities, as well as their pacifying and unifying characteristics can serve to achieve tremendous heights and accomplishments – also complementing and enhancing the potential of their male counterparts.

As highlighted and as constitutes the recurring theme of this paper, women empowerment SHOULD not imply constantly serving as conflicts and sources of obstruction to the fulfilment of goals and objectives of their counterparts, but also denote a complementary and enhancing role. Further, greater rewarding accomplishments can be achieved where symbiotic partnerships are forged and worthy beneficial and contributory objectives constitute the focal point of a collaboration.

What could be more worthy than the achievement of global peace and leaving a mark as role models who not only shaped and positively impacted the course of history, but also a demonstration of empowerment resulting from the collaboration of gender strengths, qualities and the ability to effectively enhance and consolidate on weaknesses to achieve meaningful results.

The coming months will be vital and crucial in terms of the results and capabilities of both legislative arms of the United States government to work as a team in achieving outcomes that could significantly impact global peace relations – and more specifically, the role of the most influential woman in the House, namely the Speaker of the House, given that the majority House Speaker will not play such a fundamental role, to work collaboratively with the executive and Government.

Given that the House of Representatives is controlled by the Democrats, in contrast to the Senate – which is controlled by the Republicans, Congress will not be expected to achieve as many unifying or amicable outcomes as would have been the case where the legislative arm were not so divided.

However such potential for gridlock, and the unfortunate scenario which would result if both parties kept obstructing the achievement of important legislation, could be averted or rather mitigated, where the pacifying nature and unifying qualities of the Speaker for the House, as embodied by a capable mediator and woman, is combined with the current good relationship which exists between the Speaker and the President. Negotiation skills which both fundamental roles can consolidate upon should mitigate differences between both parties – hence resulting in vital and important legislation being passed – legislation which could be crucial and pivotal towards the achievement of better trade relations, global peace and diplomatic relations.

The difficulties of achieving desired legislative results, not only where two different parties control certain respective arms of legislature – namely the Senate and the House of Representatives, is also very evident where minority governments and coalitions are involved.

As a result of snap elections which were called, following the UK's 2016 Referendum and consequently Brexit, a minority coalition was formed between the UK Government and the DUP – which effectively made it more difficult for the governing Conservative government, to easily achieve legislative proposals put forward. The role of women mediators, as exemplified through the Prime Minister and her DUP counterpart, will be demonstrated in the coming weeks and months – as regards the outcome of Brexit negotiations and the achievement of a suitable deal which would facilitate peaceful outcomes for all parties involved. The importance of such an outcome, being not only crucial from an economic stand point, but also from a global view point since the European Union is a major trading bloc whose trade relations are also likely to be impacted through current global events – and whose leaders, most notably its women leaders, are also likely to fundamentally impact the outcome of the negotiations. It will be very interesting to

experience how women empowerment and mediation as a tool can achieve the all important goal of global peace.

This highlights the role of education in promoting responsibilities and accomplishments which would not have proved possible without education. Even though many achievements, notably those associated with Nobel laureates and honors have been awarded to recipients who may not have received any or as much education, it could only be imagined what greater accomplishments could have been achieved if they had greater access to resources or opportunities – which hopefully, would be facilitated through their recognition and the awards they received.

### **Other Main themes and Issues to be Addressed.....**

Threats to Sustainable Development and Global Peace: Religious, Civil, Transatlantic and Nuclear Wars

History has constantly served as a reminder that wars never constitute solutions to disputes or disagreements – at least on a long term basis. In commencing this paper, one of the greatest tragedies was referred to – and there is none even more grievous than senseless loss of human lives – along with a depletion of vast resources, both in form of human talents, capabilities and knowledge.

Even though it is contentious to argue for or against those who have sacrificed their lives as a sense of duty and honor, where such outcomes can be averted or avoided, every effort should be made to embrace such initiatives.

In the current global sphere of events, ethnic and civil wars do not only present the greatest sources of threat to global peace. The current situation in Myanmar, which is resulting to massive regional displacements, serves as an example of states in transition where the need for sustainable development initiatives are urgently required.

To compound matters, ethnic and civil war problems now also have strong affiliations and root causes to religious conflicts – such that fascism is increasingly being confused and merging with religious discrimination. It is extremely sad where potential role models and religious leaders who should serve as examples, contribute to the problem. If religious leaders cannot be relied

upon to make positive contributions in mitigating global conflicts – as well as civil and regional wars, what signals are being sent? To promote self interests above the need for global peace surely is not the message that is expected from certain organisations who many rely upon for guidance, leadership and direction. Where are vital resources of religious organisations being channeled to? Rather than escalate civil and regional tensions, focus should be accorded primarily towards assisting those in need of spiritual, financial – as well as educational needs.

In times past, religious institutions played key positive roles in educational establishments – and the finest leading academic institutions were established by religious affiliated bodies. Why should such a vital shift in educational investment occur – and rather expounding vital resources, time, which should be committed towards helping those in need, towards other more gratifying self seeking purposes and interests? It is frustrating where basic principles can be applied by those who should advocate such principles – which is why “sources of funding”, followers are being depleted. Where the basic and fundamental principles, message and doctrine of peace, love, is not being expressed, the vital impact and rewards of leadership by example, fails to yield its intended benefits. If the right focus was being executed – as well as a commitment of vital much needed resources, in the right area and direction, there would be no “desperate” need to punish ordinary citizens who choose to live independent lives. More importantly, support should be offered to those considered to have “lost their way” rather than persecuting, condemning and frankly speaking, imposing on the lives and direction of such lost individuals. If so much concern and love serves as justification and the motivating factor for “pursuing” such individuals, then love should be expressed as support – and not condemnation. In many situations, it is frequently the case that those who love to accuse, constitute the source of the problem. “ Be the Solution – Not the Problem.” Rather than exacerbate a situation, facilitate means of mitigating the issues – even as much as you wish to justify that you are in the right and that you are perfect.

From the world wars, to global civil wars, the Vietnam and Iraq wars, what lessons have been learned? How many lives have been lost – and the irreparable resentment still borne by many who, although have tried to forgive, can never forget? It is also ironical that the end of the world wars was followed by a “Cold War” period during which the prominent nations were supposed to unite – even though some progress between these nations was made during President Kennedy’s era.

The current global atmosphere is also impounded by threats of nuclear wars – which is why international politics needs to be addressed to avert matters from escalating. However, it appears that other factors are affecting the equation and equilibrium which is supposed to have been stabilized through lessons learned from the past. Naturally where logic and common sense cease to prevail, then rules change as they wish – and the world has become more of a thermometer than a thermostat. Where does this leave future generations? Naturally in a position where their rather “selfish” predecessors have left them to bear the brunt of their failures to learn from past mistakes.

Whatever mistakes or errors have been made, can only be rectified by finding a common ground and remaining united – rather creating meaningless and senseless divisions. After all, the world is global and circular and whatever repercussions have been set in motion, these will only

counter act where we choose to fail to acknowledge and rather ignore such inevitabilities. In accepting responsibilities and choosing to address them in the best way possible, this does not indicate a sense of weakness – rather, passing on the buck to those who have no bearing on the equation, connotes greater sense of weakness.

It is impossible and rather illogical to change the geographical location of permanent locations – much as we would wish that the world existed otherwise. What has been created was intended for a purpose or reason – as preferably viewed from this perspective and if one chooses the way of the sword rather than peace, one does not need to be reminded of consequences which still haunt the present – as a result of past failures to seek a unifying and common ground.

Entrepreneurship and sustainable development partnerships and projects, should be encouraged globally – rather than on the basis of who is deemed suitable on basis of unjustifiable and selfish based credentials. Where symbiotic relationships are combined – such that weaknesses of each partner are addressed by the other, then more productive results will be generated – rather than allocation of partnerships and projects based on senseless criteria.

As highlighted during the introductory section, great accomplishments and record breaking research and discoveries in science were accomplished through collaborative partnerships between the most unlikely or “not so predictable” partnerships.

Where has the world then missed it? Certainly threats to global peace are greater than so called threats to our existence. It is predicted that the world will eventually end through a nuclear war – why then accelerate the process?

Global peace, embracing each other’s differences and choosing to place selfish interests subordinate to facilitating peace, should become a vital goal and objective. Fortunately, in the magical bubble which existed for some, at least during their childhood, there is always hope – and lessons will eventually be learned.

## **Recommendations**

### **The Need to Address Communication Problems**

Different cultures and societies have different approaches and perspectives in the manner whereby platforms for women empowerment can be promoted, Cultural conflicts and misunderstandings may therefore arise where what is said is not what is heard. Education in respect of the cultures and current affairs – as well as past customs is therefore very important as

a safeguard where engaging in trans atlantic partnerships and projects – and particularly within a different culture.

Certain practices and “normalities”, where presented on public platforms should be reviewed and scrutinized thoroughly to avoid potential misinterpretation – from a political perspective or otherwise.

Certain cultures are more reluctant to engage in collaborative projects because of the potential conflicts which may arise, or conflict with their customs and practices. It is quite easy to understand why collaborations may be accepted by the same individuals based on a jurisdictional viewpoint. Whilst initial perceptions may encourage collaborations, subsequent information received in respect of jurisdictional matters, may render a more reluctant approach to engage in a project. Similar customs and perspectives to life – as well as more common and familiar practices are some factors which may encourage a willingness to engage in collaborative projects – without the fear of being misunderstood, or even endangering one’s reputation.

### Sharing Ideas Can Be Rewarding

Competition is healthy for innovative purposes – however further encouragement and enlightenment about the benefits and rewards of idea sharing techniques, the power of complements, as well as the statement that “a problem shared is a problem halved”, needs to be conveyed effectively. Trust is essential to addressing many potential issues associated with the engagement in collaborative projects. Afterall, one’s reputation may be at stake where one entrusts a project to an unreliable delegate. The failure to deliver on time, reflects not only badly – from the perspective of stakeholders in the project, but also in respect of our sense of judgment and choice of team delegates.

With the current situation in Myanmar, which is resulting to massive regional displacements,

Sustainable development programs, encouragement of start-up programs, the engagement of /between women in partnership and collaborative projects assume and play fundamental roles in this respect.



## Conclusion

### The Greatest Source of Empowerment

The greatest source of empowerment, the ultimate source, however comes from within. It is when we truly find self fulfillment, purpose and meaning that we can truly enrich other's lives.

It was Helen Keller who once said:

“The most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen, or even touched

They must be felt with the heart”

How could a woman who had been blind, deaf, and dumb right from birth still learn to appreciate what she could not see? Why do some have such fulfilment – despite the little (or seemingly and comparably little) that their environment has endowed them with? Is it surprising that some are presented with less opportunities but maximise these more than those with a hundred times more opportunities? What are the greatest sources of empowerment?

This could be relative – depending on the stage when one was empowered to become the best they can be – or to move to a different level, or have the capacity to do what is different, or in a different manner than could have been done previously. Empowerment is instrumental in fulfilling life's purpose and one's potential – which is why role models, men or women, are essential in any one's life.

We were empowered as students, or rather pupils, in attending just a single sex school – and we did everything independently – however, many of our role models were men, namely, famous Hollywood actors. Perhaps it was during that stage in life where there were no posters of any actresses to be expected or seen on any “normal” girl's bedroom wall.

The source of empowerment from within is also largely attributed and derived from the most magical moments and memories - which is why a very happy childhood, provided by wonderful loving parents – whether rich or less affluent should never be under estimated. For those who experienced such magical bubbles, blue was blue, red was red, the sky was blue and what you

saw was and is, what it is supposed to be. Our head piano and music teacher, who also has three sons, used to count to us in triple time during piano lessons – and triple time was for us, triple time – which many of us unknowingly and unconsciously have embraced as a habit. This magical world did not understand implied connotations which were far fetched from the truth. Over the years, such memories have continued to provide inner and inspiring sources of encouragement – even amidst storms of political uncertainties.

There are some things one can never forget – particularly when these are learned during an early stage in life – particularly languages. It is also certainly the case that some jurisdictions are not as influenced politically as others. Many remain in their magical bubble – unlike others who experience new meanings to life but are still fortunate to return to such a bubble where and when the need arises. There are some things which money cannot buy, particularly when such things are transferable and can be shared infectiously and joyously with others – and those in the best position to explain this are those who realize the true source of happiness and inner empowerment.

Even greater and much more powerful, sharing with others, gives greater empowerment and inspiration through the rewards and returns of self fulfilment and purpose derived therefrom.

The current state of global peace relations and prospects of progressive sustainable development in a world characterized by less de stabilizing impacts of regional displacements and conflicts appears to reflect hopeful signals in the knowledge that educational tools should not be regarded as a threat, but rather as a solution towards achieving meaningful effective goals and successful relationships which are built on symbiotic foundations and not solely aimed towards self justifying interests. Where working together and empowering the other or team members, represents progressiveness rather than a threat, then significant and rewarding gains are sure to be derived.

Accountability mechanisms, in the form of legislative and judicial checks of Parliament, along with the need to secure the consensus and approval of key votes which generate the required majority, are featuring prominently, currently and will surely play crucial roles in determining the future and direction of major global trading partnerships, relationships, as well as pave the way for greater prospects for the goals and fulfilment of sustainable development objectives.