



## Ahimsa; Tagore and Gandhi

### International essay writing competition for high school students

Tagore (1861-1941) and Gandhi (1869-1948) are inseparable figures of India's contemporary identity. With awareness of colonial/imperial violence during the days of the British regime, for both, the Poet and the Mahatma, the civilizational/cultural concept and practice of *ahimsa* and the struggle for the independence of the country became so intertwined as to be identical. For both, over time, with a vision of the future of India and the world, *ahimsa* acquired a new significance of social and political justice and cultural dignity beyond the limits of national boundaries into the international arena, suggesting a paradigm shift in the meaning of 'unlearning violence' as a crucial component of global unity. How far that would be possible theoretically and in practice in a world driven by militancy and terrorism?

Tagore Center Serbia would like to propose an event that will include international community of high school students and their teachers on the occasion of the celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi birth. This competition promotes values given by Mahatma, but also the culture of peace and non-violence in the world that we live today. Students firstly write essays, and selected 10 best essay will defend the writings orally. The dead line for submitting essays is **29<sup>th</sup> of February 2020** [filozofesa@hotmail.com](mailto:filozofesa@hotmail.com). International jury will decide on ten best candidates. The second part of the competition will be organized in Zrenjanin Grammar School, Serbia. Students will be competing answering the questions, debating and orally presenting the thoughts from the written creation. The publication will be organized by the cooperation between Embassy of India, Belgrade, Serbian Writers Association and Tagore Center Serbia.

Topics are Gandhi's quotes:

1. "My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God. Non-violence is the means of realizing Him"
2. "Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man."
3. "I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and Non-violence are as old as the hills. All I have done is to try experiments in both on as vast a scale as I could."
4. "Non-violence, which is the quality of the heart, cannot come by an appeal to the brain."

Tagore Center Serbia  
Directors  
Dipannita Datta, India  
Aleksandra Maksic, Serbia

