

My Vision of Utopia

When confronted with the question of what my utopia is, I would first consider the world we live in today. I suppose that we have achieved a lot of progress in the last century. It may even be possible that today's society would have been regarded by people of the past as *their* vision of utopia. For example, women have been enfranchised due to the success of the Women's Suffrage Movement. African Americans are no longer barred from using the same restrooms as whites. Each of our fifty states are gradually acknowledging same-sex marriage. Recently, high profile celebrities like Caitlyn Jenner have even raised awareness about individuals who feel jailed in their very own bodies and fear rejection in society.

However, I think my utopia would lack Syrian children washing ashore on European beaches, who were seeking asylum from their war-torn nations. It wouldn't have explicit photos of beheaded journalists appearing everyday in news headlines. Additionally, it would be absent of the racial profiling that has been responsible for many hate crimes, like massacres in Sikh temples, shootings of gas station owners, and pushes off of subway platforms. I want a world in which women who have the world at their fingertips aren't gang-raped on buses at night. People who are mentally ill wouldn't be in possession of guns, so snipers aren't shot by the tools of their own trade and parents don't have to bury their elementary schoolers. I think it would be reasonable to have a world in which veterans aren't shortchanged by the nation they risked their lives for. Technology would instead be used for *stopping* cyberbullying and harassment in its tracks, so people don't feel the need to murder themselves or even others. Because this generation is the face of the future, I want a world in which kids aren't spending their time hunched over smartphones or fighting over the Wii controller.

In sum, my vision of utopia consists of equality and tolerance, with everyone being in the picture. Everyone should have the liberty to make the most of the finite time in this life because we have no choice but to live it in this world.