



The Global Day of Parents

By: Batya Brownstein

The Israeli Model United Nations Association

Dedicated to the Next Generation of Diplomatic Leadership

The connection between parenthood and wanting to change the world

In our modern reality of 24 hour news cycles and the intricacies of globalization and the serious issues which the global community faces today, it's easy to feel like a bad parent. We are constantly confronted with tragedy and evil, and an overload of information for which we have virtually no filter. In the months following the birth of my now 3- year old, whenever I'd receive bad news, my first reaction, a direct insight into my newfound motherhood, would be to ask myself, "what kind of a world did I bring my child into?"



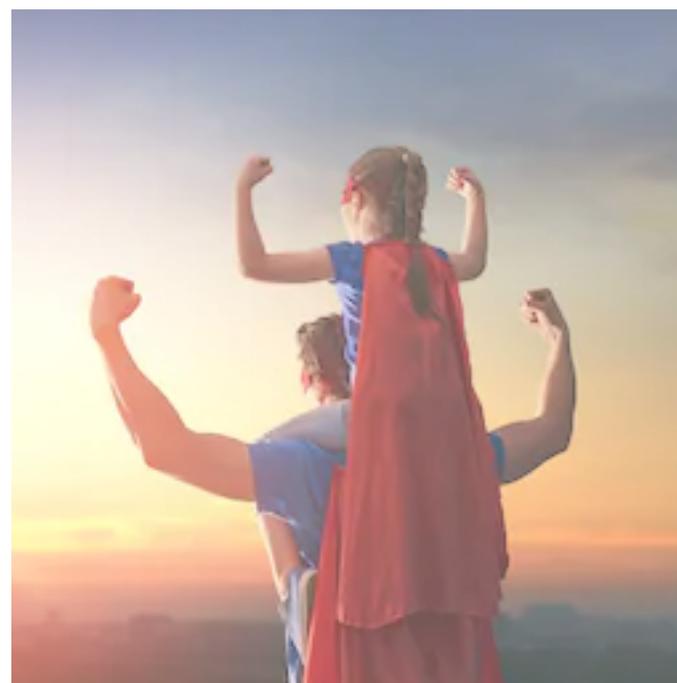
Ensuring one's child's health and happiness is every parent's number one goal. Today, this can seem difficult at times, especially in conflict zones like the one in which my family lives or during global crises such as the one we all face right now. These crises are the source of polarity regarding the morality of bringing more children onto this suffering sphere of humanity. But in an ironic twist to this approach, I find my inspiration lies in my role as a parent, a role which inherently dictates my responsibility for a life which I brought here, for her health, for her education and values, her future, and her children's future.



The way that I see it is that parents everywhere have skin in the game, so to speak. Our children should and oftentimes do motivate us to do better, and to play a part in solving the problems which we face today in order to ensure the best future possible for them....



I can speak only for myself, but having a child awoke an ongoing period of introspection and reflection regarding the possibilities of what I, one person, can do for the ideal of the world that I want to leave for her. A world which is now plagued by so many types of violence- of humans against humans and humans against the earth. It's noble to desire a better world for all regardless of personal circumstance, but humans are egoistic and we look out for our own.



Knowing that these issues will directly impact our descendant empowers me to want to leave my mark on the world, for the world, for my child. Multiply my own experience by the number of young parents in the world- and we are ostensibly enabling a revolution of earth- shaking proportions, led by a generation which feels let down by the legacy which was left for us by our parents and grandparents.

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My decisions to become involved in Model UN and other young leadership organizations directly correlate to my desire to become an impactful individual and change the world- not only because it's the right thing to do, but because maybe this way the life of my daughter and the lives of her entire generation around the world can hold brighter futures.



I feel that questions like "what kind of world to I want to leave behind?" and "why is activism important?" take on new meanings as a parent. That's what International Parents' Day is about for me. The inspiration and empowerment to leave the world a better place than we found it, and the hope that by teaching our children through example that change is brought about by those who care and those who are willing, they will follow in our footsteps and outshine our achievements, continuing the legacy of humanity's responsibility and accountability - perhaps with better results than those of this century so far.



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MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHOR
The Global Day of Parents

**"BE THE CHANGE YOU
WANT TO SEE IN THE
WORLD"**

- Mahatma Gandhi -

MEET THE AUTHOR
Batya Brownstein

Born in the US, Batya came to Israel at a young age. She completed her army service as an IDF Spokesperson and had her daughter soon thereafter. Batya is an International Relations and Political Science (B.A.) major at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She began her MUN journey as a participant of the Hebrew University's program in her first year and then went on to lead it. She remains involved in Israel's university level MUN and lives in Jerusalem with her beautiful daughter.