

# Kofi Annan Quotes

*People, Country, Rights, Thinking, War, World, Men, Children, Needs,  
Government, Issues, Iraq, Moving, Development, Long, Community, Education,  
Family, Years, Law*

We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race.

~Kofi Annan

Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

~Kofi Annan

To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there.

~Kofi Annan

Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.

~Kofi Annan

We shall not defeat any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation, and basic health care.

~Kofi Annan

...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

~Kofi Annan

Education is, quite simply, peace-building by another name. It is the most effective form of defense spending there is.

~Kofi Annan

When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life.

~Kofi Annan

Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.

~Kofi Annan

It has been said that arguing against globalization is like arguing against the laws of gravity.

~Kofi Annan

You are never too young to lead and you should never doubt your capacity to triumph where others have not.

~Kofi Annan

...let us continue to work together to develop and nurture in future generations a culture of human rights, to promote freedom, security and peace in all nations.

~Kofi Annan

Gather the five virtues (Dignity, Confidence, Courage, Compassion, and Faith). Then you are a man.

~Kofi Annan

I am not afraid to dream. You first have to start with a dream. Build your castles in the air and give it foundation. Without a dream, you are not going to get anywhere.

~Kofi Annan

Microfinance is an idea whose time has come.

~Kofi Annan

No one is born a good citizen or a good democrat or a good leader; it takes time and education.

~Kofi Annan

The Millennium Development Goals can be met by 2015, but only if all involved break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate and scale up action now.

~Kofi Annan

Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.

~Kofi Annan

We need to think of the future and the planet we are going to leave to our children and their children.

~Kofi Annan

We must ensure that the global market is embedded in broadly shared values and practices that reflect global social needs, and that all the world's people share the benefits of globalization.

~Kofi Annan

Open markets offer the only realistic hope of pulling billions of people in developing countries out of abject poverty, while sustaining prosperity in the industrialized world.

~Kofi Annan

Poverty devastates families, communities and nations. It causes instability and political unrest and fuels conflict.

~Kofi Annan

Business, labor and civil society organizations have skills and resources that are vital in helping to build a more robust global community.

~Kofi Annan

Above all else, we need a reaffirmation of political commitment at the highest levels to reducing the dangers that arise both from existing nuclear weapons and from further proliferation.

~Kofi Annan

Once you are really challenged, you find something in yourself. Man doesn't know what he is capable of until he is asked.

~Kofi Annan

Microfinance recognizes that poor people are remarkable reservoirs of energy and knowledge

~Kofi Annan

I urge you to celebrate the extraordinary courage and contributions of refugees past and present.

~Kofi Annan

If you are neutral in a situation where one side is patently being mistreated, the conclusion is that you're siding with this wrong.

~Kofi Annan

Reform is a process, and not an event.

~Kofi Annan

I am often asked what can people do to become a good global citizen? I reply that it begins in your own community.

~Kofi Annan

You have to wake up every day ready to start again.

~Kofi Annan

The United Nations, whose membership comprises almost all the States in the world, is founded on the principle of the equal worth of every human being.

~Kofi Annan

Globalization is a fact of life. But I believe we have underestimated its

fragility.

~Kofi Annan

We must restore the sacredness of the family as a bedrock of humane values everywhere, in peace as well as in war.

~Kofi Annan

The war on drugs has failed in West Africa and around the world

~Kofi Annan

Children are our future and if we use them in battle, we are destroying the future. We must reclaim them, every one of them, one at a time.

~Kofi Annan

If we are to make poverty history, we must have the active participation of States, civil society and the private sector, as well as individual volunteers.

~Kofi Annan

Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract - sustainable development - and turn it into a reality for all the world's people

~Kofi Annan

We have to choose between a global market driven only by calculations of short-term profit, and one which has a human face.

~Kofi Annan

You are never too young to lead.

~Kofi Annan

I think that these flows of refugee are the inevitable counterparts to the flow of capital and goods. In other words, they too are by-products of globalisation.

~Kofi Annan

Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death.

~Kofi Annan

A developed country is one that allows all its citizens to enjoy a free and healthy life in a safe environment

~Kofi Annan

We have the means and the capacity to deal with our problems, if only we can find the political will.

~Kofi Annan

Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.

~Kofi Annan

We need to create a world that is equitable, that is stable and a world where we bear in mind the needs of others, and not only what we need immediately. We are all in the same boat.

~Kofi Annan

Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health, and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship.

~Kofi Annan

It is not in the United Nations that the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved. They have to be achieved in each of its Member States, by the joint efforts of their governments and people.

~Kofi Annan

We can love what we are, without hating what, and who, we are not.

~Kofi Annan

As I travel around the world, people think the only place where there is potential conflict [over] water is the Middle East, but they are completely wrong. We have the problem all over the world.

~Kofi Annan

Unless the Security Council is restored to its pre-eminent position as the sole source of legitimacy on the use of force, we are on a dangerous path to anarchy.

~Kofi Annan

In the 21st Century I believe the mission of the United Nations will be defined by a new, more profound, awareness of the sanctity and dignity of every human life, regardless of race or religion.

~Kofi Annan

We don't need any more promises. We need to start keeping the promises we already made.

~Kofi Annan

If tolerance, respect and equity permeate family life, they will translate into values that shape societies, nations and the world.

~Kofi Annan

Women themselves have the right to live in dignity, in freedom from want and freedom from fear. On this International Women's Day, let us rededicate ourselves to making that a reality.

~Kofi Annan

From this vision of the role of the United Nations in the next century flow three key priorities for the future: eradicating poverty, preventing conflict and promoting democracy.

~Kofi Annan



Have confidence in the young people, give them a chance, and they will surprise you.

~Kofi Annan

Let us, above all, be clear that, without a convincing program of debt relief to start the new millennium, our objective of halving world poverty by 2015 will be only a pipe dream.

~Kofi Annan

If the United Nations does not attempt to chart a course for the world's people in the first decades of the new millennium, who will?

~Kofi Annan

More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.

~Kofi Annan

It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for.

~Kofi Annan

There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children.

~Kofi Annan

... the long-lasting humanitarian impact of these inhuman weapons continues to deny communities the opportunity to rebuild long after the end of the conflicts.

~Kofi Annan

The future belongs to you, but it can only belong to you if you participate and take charge

~Kofi Annan

International law now grants rights to all human beings, not only to citizens.

~Kofi Annan

In an era of globalisation, AIESEC's programmes have helped young people around the world to develop a broader understanding of cultural socio-economic and business management issues.

~Kofi Annan

I often quote an African proverb that says: "The world is not ours, the earth is not ours, It's a treasure we hold in trust for future generations." And I often hope we will be worthy of that trust.

~Kofi Annan

The global work of the United Nations is not without reason compared to that of a family - striving for a common goal in concert with all members for a better future.

~Kofi Annan

literacy is at the heart of sustainable development

~Kofi Annan

The Refugee Convention of 1951 was a major breakthrough, outlining the rights of those displaced across borders as well as the legal obligations of states to protect them.

~Kofi Annan

You saw the traumas that people lived through, and wondered what it will take to move us as a human community, as humanity, to help in these dangerous situations.

~Kofi Annan

For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right.

~Kofi Annan

Knowledge is power. Information is liberating.

~Kofi Annan

The happiness of any society begins with the well being of the families that live in it.

~Kofi Annan

Without a dream you'll not get anywhere.

~Kofi Annan

Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope... Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition.

~Kofi Annan

We often hear a lot about subsidies, because it's often the powerful talking about the poor; the poor don't have enough voice to question the privileges.

~Kofi Annan

Let us work in partnerships between rich and poor to improve the opportunities of all human beings to build better lives.

~Kofi Annan

I did not always achieve what I set out to do. Nevertheless, my personal example certainly suggests that hands-on experience can be helpful to future leaders.

~Kofi Annan

On this International Day of Peace, let us dare to imagine a world free of conflict and violence

~Kofi Annan

There is no development strategy more beneficial to society as a whole - women and men alike - than the one which involves women as central players.

~Kofi Annan

More countries have understood that women's equality is a prerequisite for development.

~Kofi Annan

Let us all reaffirm our commitment to improving the well-being of families throughout the world.

~Kofi Annan

We cannot wait for governments to do it all. Globalization operates on Internet time. Governments tend to be slow moving by nature, because they have to build political support for every step.

~Kofi Annan

To build a more healthy, peaceful and equitable world the classrooms of the world have to be full of girls as well as boys.

~Kofi Annan

Any society that does not succeed in tapping into the energy and creativity of its youth will be left behind.

~Kofi Annan

Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace.

~Kofi Annan

To live is to choose.

~Kofi Annan

The future of peace and prosperity that we seek for all the world's peoples needs a foundation of tolerance, security, equality and justice.

~Kofi Annan

We will not enjoy security without development, we will not enjoy development without security, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.

~Kofi Annan

If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.

~Kofi Annan

As one of my predecessors said, our objective is not to take people to heaven, but to prevent humanity from going to hell.

~Kofi Annan

Fierce national competition over water resources has prompted fears that water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict.

~Kofi Annan

National markets are held together by shared values and confidence in certain minimum standards. But in the new global market, people do not yet have that confidence.

~Kofi Annan

HIV/AIDS has become much more than a health issue. HIV/AIDS is a development issue, it's a security issue.

~Kofi Annan

Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere.

~Kofi Annan

Children are our future, and their mothers are its guardians.

~Kofi Annan

To educate girls is to reduce poverty.

~Kofi Annan

Neutrality is a tough call for the weaker ones.

~Kofi Annan

The gap between the rich and the poor cannot keep growing without nothing being done about it.

~Kofi Annan

**Related Links:**

- People Quotes
- Country Quotes
- Rights Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- War Quotes
- World Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Government Quotes
- Issues Quotes
- Iraq Quotes
- Moving Quotes
- Development Quotes
- Long Quotes
- Community Quotes
- Education Quotes
- Family Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Law Quotes