



Gandhian Vision for the Future

Gandhian way guarantees the uplift of everyone, the welfare of all - for the human dignity and the human rights as well as the ecology and the future of mankind.



By **CHRISTIAN BARTOLF**
(President, Gandhi-Information-Zentrum, Berlin)

“Run come and look out; look out and see. Run come see the sun ! If you love to sing harmony, rehearse this song for your next solar energy demonstration. This is the message the famous songwriter Pete Seeger has left for us, an authentic pioneer of ecology whose efforts to clean the Hudson River succeeded. Pete Seeger included Mahatma Gandhi’s favorite bhajan (devotional song) Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram (sometimes called Ram Dhun) on his album “Strangers and Cousins” (1964) and performed it in Episode 10 of his television series “Rainbow Quest” and during his world tours:

All names of God refer to the same Supreme Being, including Ishvara and Allah.

O Lord, please give peace and brotherhood to everyone,
as we are all your children.

We all request that this eternal wisdom of humankind prevail.

In these critical times of man-made climate change and the rise of renewable energy technologies such as solar energy, wind energy, biofuels, geothermal energy, wave power, tidal power and others, we gradually come to terms with our responsibility to care for energy efficiency and 17 Sustainable Development Goals according to the United Nations General Assembly's "universal, integrated and transformative" 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The broad based and interdependent Sustainable Development Goals are:

Zero Hunger

Good Health and Well-being

Quality Education

Gender Equality

Clean Water and Sanitation

Affordable and Clean Energy

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Reducing Inequality

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Responsible Consumption and Production

Climate Action

Life Below Water

Life On Land

Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Partnerships for the Goals

150 years after the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (on 2nd October, 1869), we should face the truth of his core principles: *sarvodaya - satyagraha - svaraj - swadeshi*. These elements of nonviolent emancipation from colonialism, imperialism, militarism and racism are essential to guarantee the uplift of everyone, the welfare of all - for the human dignity and the human rights as well as the ecology and the future of mankind. That is why we should apply the ethical religion of the golden rule ("Do not treat others

“ 150 years after the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (on 2nd October, 1869), we should face the truth of his core principles: *sarvodaya - satyagraha - svaraj - swadeshi*. These elements of nonviolent emancipation from colonialism, imperialism, militarism and racism are essential to guarantee the uplift of everyone, the welfare of all - for the human dignity and the human rights as well as the ecology and the future of mankind.

in ways that you would not like to be treated.”) with respect to all species. Animal Rights, the respect for life in general, as the moral basis of Vegetarianism become the universal program for a decent way of life, in the spheres of production and consumption. While Gandhi learned from his friend Henry Stephens Salt (acclaimed as “an English writer and campaigner for social reform in the fields of prisons, schools, economic institutions, and the treatment of animals”, “a noted ethical vegetarian, anti- vivisectionist, socialist, and pacifist, well known as a literary critic, biographer, classical scholar and naturalist”), we should learn from the history of Gandhi as a renowned member of the London Vegetarian Society (since 1847). The International Vegetarian Union (IVU) was founded in 1908 in Dresden, Germany and is an international non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote vegetarianism.

Let us listen to Mahatma Gandhi in his own words (India's Case for Swaraj, Edition 1932, pp. 402, in: M. K. Gandhi: The Moral Basis of Vegetarianism):

I do feel that spiritual progress demand at some stage that we should cease to kill our fellow creatures for the satisfaction of our bodily wants.

The beautiful lines of Goldsmith occurs to me as I tell you of my vegetarian fad:

*No flocks that range the valley free
To slaughter I condemn;
Taught by the Power that pities me
I learn to pity them.”*

We should now join efforts to transform our societies according to the three principles of the “deep ecology”, i.e. wilderness and biodiversity preservation, population planning (by abstinence and contraceptives and family planning), simple living. 