

Dear President and Honorable Members,

My name is Niko and I am an 18-year-old student from Trieste. Today, I'd like to talk to you about a problem which involves a lot of young people that, like me, are studying, to reach their dreams and ambitions and are trying to create a future for themselves.

I'd like to bring my personal experience to your attention. I have been studying for the past four years Industrial Design in Ljubljana, Slovenia and my dream is to continue my studies in the field of specialization in Transportation Design.

Four years ago, at the age of 14, I had to leave my family and home, and go to another country for an education, just so I could reach the goals I had set for myself. The distance between my home and the school I attend makes it impossible for me to come home every day, therefore I am forced to live and of course study away from my mom, dad and my 2 younger brothers. To follow and one day possibly reach my dreams, I will be once again forced to go even further away from my home and family, somewhere in Europe or further still in the United States of America. This will ultimately cause a financial burden on my parents who will have to help me with paying my rents and school fees just so I can complete my studies.

In the small country where I live with my family, close to Trieste, lives approximately 800 people, 20 of them, in the past five years, after completing their studies, have had to leave home so they could find work by moving to foreign countries and they have never come back! I am afraid, that what they have been forced to do because of the lack of opportunity in our territory, is what I am facing in my future.

What makes me feel sad is that I know that the Territory of Trieste is under the protection of the United Nations Security Council, which has mandated the Italian government to administer it, the latter is not respecting the mandate for which it has received the fiduciary administration, they are neither applying, nor complying with the laws of the peace treaty of 1947, denying the development necessary to give a future to us young people! If these laws were respected, my territory would be able to give me and many other young people a chance to have and build a better future with expectations far superior to the ones we have at present. From small actions, there can be great results. My hope is that you, who have not only the ability but also the power, to help young people from all over the world, will give us the chance to be heard ... we are the future .... I thank you for giving me the chance to speak my thoughts and fears, with a hope for a better future for all of us.

Niko Gustin

UNITED COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT,  
SOCIAL AND CULTURE - TRIESTE