

95 Theses

written by students from protestant schools worldwide

1 Protest for a better Future

Protest for a better World

1. If people could imagine damage that war would produce, they would prevent themselves from starting it. I rebel against those who provoke war causing poverty, orphanage and widowhood. (DR Congo)
2. We protest against the fact that in today's world is so much in the war Iraq and Afghanistan. We want to combat against the fact that the world today, for example in Iraq, children do not have to fear to step on a land mine, if they want to play outside. We protest against people who force children to go to war. (Germany)
3. We protest against human trafficking. People are not a property. We protest against slavery. We need to disseminate the message of love, peace and freedom. (Rwanda)
4. We are protesting not only against the great current issues such as war, corruption and environmental problems but also against the small problems, because we need to improve concerning the little things in everyday life. (Brazil)
5. We protest against corruption in school, in church and in our country. (DR Congo)
6. We protest that there is still racism against non-white people. (USA)
7. We protest against indignation and disrespect facing female gender: sexual abuse (against women and girls), early marriage. (DR Congo)
8. We are protesting against the fact that in today's world people do more take care of the satisfaction of their own interests and therefore the Christian values such as compassion and charity are neglected. (Germany)

9. We protest against a fact that is really bad in our world. Our green areas are disappearing and we need to stop this deforestation. We have to remember that we will live in a dirty and polluted world if all the trees and plants come to an end. (Brazil)
10. We protest against the fact that in today's world, health concerns, accessibility to drinkable water, conveyance, everything that can make everyday life being better is not taken into account. (DR Congo)
11. We protest against famine. We want to combat that children in Africa do not have to starve and not to cry if no water comes out of the water tap. We think that the government should do something that not many people have to die of hunger. (Germany)
12. We protest against the destruction of lives and properties in the name of religion formulated by the Arab uprising groups such as Isis, Boko Haram, al-Qaeda, among others, whose veracious attacks are directed at Christians at large. (Ghana)
13. We are protesting against the fact that in today's world unqualified workers have increasingly difficulties to integrate into the world of work and thus they are threatened by poverty. (Germany)
14. I protest against illiteracy as the Bible is the light in the path (Ps 119:105). (Rwanda)
15. We are protesting against the fact that in today's world higher priority is given to interests of States that to human rights and democracy. (Germany)
16. Presidents of some countries stay in power for more than three decades and this constitutes a hindrance to democracy. (Cameroon)
17. We protest against abuse of children. We protest against the fact that in today's world children are maltreated. (Germany)
18. We protest against the fact that in today's world, leaders snapped power by force (guns), whereas for a better future, the power is supposed to be in the hands of the people. (DR Congo)

19. We protest that people are destroying the world that God made by being careless. (USA)
20. We protest against the embezzlement of public funds. The high ups in the country embezzle government money and go free. In some cases they are imprisoned and the money not retrieved meanwhile for me I think that what is more important is retrieving the money. (Cameroon)
21. We protest against the fact that in today's world refugees are being deported and treated as a burden rather than as people with dignity. The Bible calls for the legal protection of foreigners: in a good world, all should be open and ready to welcome refugees; also the churches should grant asylum. (Germany)
22. We protest against the general breakdown of the family system, which used to bind all members together with the bond of love and unity. (Ghana)
23. We protest against the fact that many children, especially girls, cannot go to school. More schools should be built around the world. (Germany)

Protest for a better Church

24. We protest against the lack of a united Protestant church practicing the values of the Reformation. (DR Congo)
25. The Church needs to renew itself, because the society is also changing, but the Church must not give up basic values such as the 10 commandments, charity, love of the enemy and non-violence. (Germany)
26. We protest against social inequalities in a church yet based on the model of the Church of Jesus of Nazareth. (DR Congo)
27. We as Christians preach peace. The hostile sentiments of religions against each other should be stopped and be replaced by a non-violent coexistence. (Germany)
28. Some pastors turn to pay more attention to their rich Christians than the poor ones, hence defeating the goal of the great commission. (Cameroon)

29. We protest against the misuse of offerings by some Pastors. The offerings should be used to preach the word of God. (DR Congo)
30. We are protesting against the fact that Protestant congregations do take into account the changing age structures and interests within the congregations caused by the societal modernization, that they do not keep up with the times and adhere to the old worship agenda and forms of faith interpretation. (Germany)
31. The churches need to renew because some older people do not respect the rights of children as the Bible says. The kingdom of heaven is for small children. (DR Congo)
32. The Church needs to renew itself, because the liturgy in the services is too rigid, too boring and too emotionless. We protest against very long preaches that make participants being tired. (Germany)
33. The church desire today is to serve man and not God. This has turned the church into vanity seekers and not righteousness seekers. (Cameroon)

Protest for a better school

34. Many teachers do not respect the rights of children. They punish children without a valid reason. Some teachers when angry hit children because of problems they faced at home; thus, children are those who are victims. (DR Congo)
35. We protest that there would be less shooting in America, especially school shootings. (USA)
36. In Boarding schools today, students are maltreated and undergo in human brutality from the senior students a situation that violates the child`s right. (Cameroon)
37. At school I criticize that many students are marginalized. Children are excluded and annoyed by others. (Germany)
38. At our school, we protest against smells into the toilets. (Cameroon)

39. At school we criticize the low scientific qualification whereas for a better future, there is a need of in-service training. (DR Congo)
40. Some students don't attain full education because of the negligence of teachers who don't teach or don't cover up all syllables but at the month collect their salaries. (Cameroon)
41. Concerning the school we are criticizing that social skills do not count enough. The school should not only promote intellectual skills but also other talents. (Germany)
42. We criticize that the rich should not be the only ones to study. (Rwanda)
43. Schools where marks are minted or assigned under influence do not contribute to human construction, but contrariwise to its destruction. (DR Congo)
44. Schools are poor, whereas for a better future, there is a need of educational partners to provide schools with teaching materials, textbooks, laboratory, library ... (DR Congo)
45. We protest against short break time. (Cameroon)

2 Theses for a better Future

Theses for a better World

46. No matter how different we may look, we are all made by one God. According to Galatians 3:28, no matter how rich or poor we are, how beautiful we are, we are all the same in the eyes of the Lord and we must love and respect one another equally. We are not to judge based on the cover. Only the Lord has the power to judge us. If we love others like how God loved us, we will be able to achieve a better tomorrow and a peaceful coexistence with others. (Philippines)
47. Someone is said to be right and wrongly assign the other. The other does the same. The third who is the judge said: "Nobody is neither right nor wrong, because you are the same but different, you're different but the same: you need tolerance". I adopt the idea of the judge. (DR Congo)
48. We stand for a world where the norm "to be born, to learn, to work, to retire and to die" does not exist. We need openness and new ideas for our lifestyles and occupations, new thoughts. We can experience the unbelievable. (Brazil)
49. Dare! Dare to give a chance to girls and women; they will prove that they are able to changing the world, to succeed where men displayed a weakness. I am shocked by those who do not dare to give a chance to women to flourish. Nothing has been able to prove the inability of women. (DR Congo)
50. Take initiative, don't wait to be asked. (Slovakia)
51. Youth is the hope of tomorrow. A good government should train youth at all levels; the lack of promoting youth in political, economic, ecclesiastical, artistic and cultural, is spoiling the future. I oppose all those who do not promote youth in training and in professionalism. (DR Congo)
52. We hope perfection won't be the illness of the humanity; we pray to unconditional love to be the basis of our lives. (Brazil)

53. For me, living in the ways of the past may affect the future. It's better to reach the future having the same traditions than reaching the future without the history of its own. (Philippines)
54. A good world is the one fighting for the unity of the human race, advocating peace and social justice, promoting respect for inherent human dignity and otherness and the spirit of Jesus, "give life and let be". (DR Congo)
55. Tomorrow can be better than today if the people in our society can have discipline and if people would stop criticizing others because if it's possible, our country could have justice and peace. (Philippines)
56. We need to address the contrast between the rich and the poor. I'm not sure that if we act now in fighting injustice, we can have a better future. (Hong Kong)
57. Five hundred years ago, Luther revolutionized the world with his ninety-five theses. Today, the revolutionaries are we. Our generation needs to make an effort to become good professionals, and therefore bring to an end dishonest political culture and corruption. Then we can make a difference in the future regarding economic and social crises. We have to fight for our rights without disregarding the rights of the others. (Brazil)
58. In a good world, good wages are paid for good work in poor countries. In a good world, families earn enough money and can sometimes afford to go on holidays. (Germany)
59. We always hear the saying, "Honesty is the best Policy," which is true. In everything we do, we must always remember to be honest not just to other people but also to ourselves. (Philippines)
60. The world would be a better place if people learned how to appreciate those simple things that can turn an awful day into a wonderful one. (Brazil)
61. We demand from all people a stronger commitment to the preservation of the environment. (Germany)

62. If you make a mistake or do something bad today, you cannot go back and change it, but you can reflect and make sure you do not make the same mistake tomorrow. (Hong Kong)
63. For our country, we also want involvement of the president of the republic into the country's life. (Cameroon)
64. A good world is if rich countries do not deliver weapons to poor countries. Instead, those countries need help for their development (food, technology, good roads, good medical care). (Germany)
65. A good world is characterized by sharing, cooperation to fight against selfishness and promote development for a better future. (DR Congo)
66. We demand the abolition of intensive livestock farming. In a good world, there is no cruelty to animals. (Germany)
67. The world would be so much better if there was equality of races, ethnicities, religion and sexuality, because in that way there wouldn't exist prejudice against others and, consequently, there wouldn't be violence. (Brazil)
68. We wish that our country would care more extensively about its natural beauty and cultural heritage. (Slovakia)
69. We demand freedom of opinion for all people. (Germany)
70. As children, we are very unvoiced; we need our freedom and our rights have to be respected. (DR Congo)
71. The education is the basis for any society. A better world would be a place where education has the power to put an end to all kinds of ignorance. (Brazil)
72. A good world consists of tolerance, acceptance of colour, religion, appearance, disease and origin. We must try to help actively and to create respect. If you give them your heart, they will give you their heart. (Germany)
73. When I walk through the streets or even in the corridor of the school, I can see that people have different personalities, different tastes, different

feelings, even if they are twins. These differences can sometimes lead to the fact that people join or against each other. As society we have to fight against this. No matter what differences there are, whether social, ethnic, racial or cultural - if it is our desire to live for others with respect and if harmony and peace are greater than these differences, then it is possible to get a better world. (Brazil)

74. Being corrupted, someone completely loses one's dignity, and becomes a person with weak personality. Regardless of my age and my tribe: as Martin Luther, I will fight against corruption until the end. (DR Congo)

Theses for a better Church

75. We encourage prayers for children. (Cameroun)
76. We demand that in the parishes there should be more offerings for children. (Germany)
77. A good church is one in which Jesus Christ is the only model to follow. (DR Congo)
78. A good church will not allow xenophobia. A good church should be open-minded to other religions and cultures. (Germany)
79. A good church must work and direct the preaching for the salvation of people, to prepare the faithful to overcome sin and live a holy life in a corrupt world. (DR Congo)
80. A good church must know that Christians are not for pastors, priests or Apostles. Christians are for Jesus Christ. He wants us to believe in him only. Priests have to preach the Gospel. (Rwanda)
81. A good church is a refuge and place of recognition. Here the contact between refugees and their fellow human beings should happen and be deepened. The Church can and should primarily establish a connection through faith. (Germany)

82. A good Church must avoid nepotism, injustice and tribalism. It must promote love of neighbor and protection of vulnerable segments of the population as well as refugees or people displaced by war. (DR Congo)
83. The Church must stand up and take action that the gap between poor and rich does not opens more widely. (Germany)
84. A good church must uphold the good virtues found in the Holy Bible and stand to defend it at any time. (Ghana)
85. A good church does not pass judgement on people no matter how great their sins. It leaves the judging to God. (Germany)
86. A good church must come back on its ideas of Reformation that we have been saved grace and faith. (Rwanda)

Theses for a better school

87. In our school system it should be required that every student should be confronted with foreign cultures and religions which are strange to her or him. (Switzerland)
88. About our school, we also want good explanation and good exposition of lessons. (Cameroon)
89. A good school is a school in which students perceive and applaud workers, treating them with the same respect with which they treat their principal. Thereby, we will be adding humility to humankind and we will be striving for a better world. (Brazil)
90. Muslim students in all Christian institutions should not be deprived of their religious beliefs and customs. (Cameroon)
91. That the students are allowed the freedom to freely express their opinions and attitudes; without being judged or discriminated by their teacher. Also that the students will have the freedom to express themselves without limitations and consequences in the way they dress and have their appearance. (Slovakia)
92. A good school is where children have fun to go to school. (Germany)

93. Despite its Christian roots a good school has to be open to other religious world-views. (Switzerland)
94. A good school is a school in which all respect each other and learn that respect is very important for a friendship and that the learning time is our future. (Brazil)
95. A good school is much more than just a school. (Germany)

About the 95 theses

The 95 theses presented in this booklet have their origin in the 2015 initiated activity “Protest for the Future” of the project schools500reformation / GPENreformation. Students from protestant schools all over the world were asked to draft their theses against the grievances of today’s world and to write down their ideas and visions of a better future.

Out of more than 1000 submitted theses, 95 were chosen which either point to problems in a particularly striking manner or whose themes are mentioned several times. By this, the booklet represents all submissions. The compilation contains theses from all cultural backgrounds so that the regional diversity of the identified problems and visions becomes visible. At each thesis, the country from which it was sent is noted in brackets.



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