

Words of Inspiration

LETTERS FROM LEADERS

The road to success: What inspiration would you offer to young people aspiring to become our future leaders? The following words are some of those we have collected for publication in a book to be distributed to aspiring leaders at schools throughout the world. The proceeds will be donated to charity to fund scholarships for tomorrow's leaders in need of financial support as they prepare to begin their journey.

We are certain that you will enjoy the following thoughts and look forward to hearing yours.

This generation is not the first – or the last – to face problems and difficulties, including those of an international character. Everyone knows how much the peoples of the world suffered during the last century, which saw the massive tragedy of World War II. Today, we are facing a new threat: the threat of terrorism. Unfortunately, no country – not even the strongest power – is able to insulate itself from this threat. We should all concentrate on the fight against international terror, and the youth can't stand aloof, putting all their hopes in their governments. I am convinced that youth organizations should consider their potential input into the fight against extremism, violence, racism, and religious intolerance.

Today, young people represent one of the most active and mobile groups in societies around the world. It is no coincidence that younger citizens are actively involved in international humanitarian, intellectual, and cultural projects. This is largely facilitated by modern information technology, the common values of freedom and democracy, and the open policies of states. Young people can now communicate easily, develop business relationships, and make new friends. Obviously, all of this helps them find their place in life, receive a good education, and apply their abilities to pursue their ambitions. And, at the same time, they can make their own contributions to the development of our world, its economy, and culture.

As for any specific advice, I know a very old, time-tested recipe for success. Our ancestors came up with it hundreds of years ago: Diligence is the mother of success. I am sure that remains relevant today.

His Excellency Vladimir V. Putin
President, Russian Federation