

**QUESTION of the MONTH: 'How do you, in your everyday life, stand alone for justice?'**

Standing alone for justice is a most worthy cause that is frayed with whirlpools of emotions that could very well suck you down to the very level you were standing up to change. One such whirlpool is assigning blame instead of focusing on the solution. Another even more dangerous emotion, or should I say attitude, is "Since I am right, you obviously must be wrong." I feel very fortunate to practice a religion that taps the courage and wisdom needed to sidestep these often inconspicuous whirlpools and teaches the very practical truth that in order to change my environment I must reflect and change that very thing within my own life.

— DIANE DURBIN, Kansas City, Mo.

I work in an environment that has a large number of women and a diversity of races and cultures. When I first began here, there were concerns among the employees about how they were being treated. This resulted in many barriers being erected and an overall disharmony in the company. Through my practice I feel I have made a positive contribution toward breaking down the injustice of sexism and racism. I strive to show by example how important it is to treat everyone equal. Over time I have noticed fewer derogatory remarks and real progress in building trust among the employees.

— JACK MINNAERT, Sterling, Ill.

SPEAK OUT! Especially at work. I believe you need to be true to yourself. In the workplace I strive to have open, unbiased dialogue with internal and external customers. When I'm being myself — and honest — I set an example that others will follow.

— KAREN E. McDOUGALD, Chandler, Ariz.

I stand for justice in my daily life by encouraging others to persevere, to view obstacles as experiences that are destined to make us who we are — enlightened Buddhas that are one with the universe. Justice is being willing to fight and stand for what we know is right regardless of the consequences.

— MAGALY BROWN, Atlanta

Whenever I see someone behaving cruelly or treating others unjustly, I try to think about how Nichiren Daishonin, or presidents Makiguchi, Toda or Ikeda would handle it. This is because I want to handle the situation as a person of character. My first reaction might be one of anger, yet I have to be sure to talk to that person and correct them with words that come from my Buddha nature. I try to look at the person and understand his or her life so I can reach him or her.

— EILENE CRAFTET, Miami Beach, Fla.

How I stand alone for justice in my daily life is not being afraid to say and do what is necessary for my growth or anyone in my environment. It means to have courage to fight my daily struggles. Although everything is our karma, it is necessary to understand that if you or anyone else is mistreated, it is our duty and responsibility to say or do what is necessary to correct, point out and acknowledge the wrong action.

— JOYCE FEASTER, Atlanta

Title: Question of the Month: How do you in everyday life stand alone for justice?  
Subject: World Tribune 05/02/97 n.3137 p.2 WT970502p02  
Author:  
Keywords: alone everyday Experiences justice life Month Opinion Practice Question stand Tribune  
World

Buddhism has helped me to stand alone for children. Recently I was in a movie theater waiting for a very violent adult-oriented film to begin when I noticed some teenagers sitting with toddler-age children. I approached them and explained (positively) why this film was not appropriate for small children. Instead of being defensive, they thanked me, said they'd had no idea what it was about and took the children out. I felt proud for taking action!

— LYNN SACHNOFF, Culver City, Calif.

Recently I was replaced at work with no prior warning. While training the new person, my behavior toward my boss stayed exactly the same. At lunchtime, I would go home and fully express myself to the Gohonzon. Then I would go back to work, all the time maintaining my integrity and inner latitude. Three days later, my boss told me that the new person wasn't working out and that someone like me is hard to find.

— LAURA AVED, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Although I am a U.S. citizen, the Retirement Section of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management applied two countries' laws (United States and Panama) to my U.S. Civil Service Retirement. By doing so, they deducted five years of service I worked and took away \$250 each month from my retiree pay. My case is under appeal. I am the only U.S. citizen that has had two countries' laws applied. If the government is not stopped, they will later apply this to immigrants and eventually to the U.S. Social Security.

— DIANA NG, Santa Maria, Calif.

Title: Question of the Month: How do you in everyday life stand alone for justice?  
Subject: World Tribune 05/02/97 n.3137 p.2 WT970502p02  
Author:  
Keywords: alone everyday Experiences justice life Month Opinion Practice Question stand Tribune  
World