In the flicker of 16 short years, the world has changed before my eyes. My generation has innocently observed the conquers, recesses and plateaus of the generation our senior. However, the world is in need of change, and we shall be the ones to ensure it occurs.

I remember the September 11 bombings in 2001. I remember the Bali bombings of 2002. I remember planes plummeting out of the sky. I remember flames, screams, tears - terror. I remember. One of the earliest memories I obtain is the Twin Towers crumbling before my eyes. Nobody deserves that, and that will not be the world my children call home. In my short life I have seen the 1996 Port Arthur Massacre, the establishment of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Centre in 2002 (which was not established on American soil due to ethical reasons), the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the ending of the Second Congo War in 2003 with more than 5 million dead, the Madrid train bombings of 2004, the 2005 London Bombings, the Taliban and the 2011 Norway attacks in which a summer camp filled with youth was brutally massacred. It is not the fault of the lamb that the lions disagree; however, it is them that must live with the consequences.

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed" - UNESCO Constitution

In my time I have seen the execution of world leaders such as Gaddafi, Bin Laden and Hussein. In the past 16 years there have been developments such as the first, one drug intravenous lethal injection in 2009 and the last execution by firing squad in 2010. It has become, to my generation, common knowledge that people that do horrible wrongs, deserve to have wrong done to them. At which point does such an attitude cease? A punch for a punch, an eye for an eye, a death for a death... Is this a truly admirable trait? I vividly recall the video of Gaddafi’s final moments plastered all over YouTube, an old man, covered in his own blood pleading for his life. His lifeless body being rolled along the pavement and having people celebrate his death. I have no doubt such ‘people’ as this dictator deserved dire punishments. However, there are better punishments than death itself, sometimes; a far worse fate would be to live in the world you caused for others, one of darkness, suffering and pain. An imprisoned life.

"An eye for an eye only makes the whole world blind" - Gandhi.
As I sit at home, I watch my family, friends and neighbours make everyday use of technologies such as Facebook, msn and webcam. There was a time in my life when a mobile phone was merely that, a phone. And while I watch those I'm close to pay hundreds to update their computers and hundreds of thousands to buy flashy cars, I rarely see them drop $2 in a charity box when more than a billion people suffer from hunger each day; 19 million of these are children under the age of five at immediate risk of dying.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal" - Albert Pike

However, this same generation that has provoked all the disastrous world events my generation has witnessed in our limited years, they are also the generation that has bestowed the hope, education and limitless opportunities myself and my peers are susceptible to. The generation our senior has presented major breakthroughs in areas such as technology, medicine and education, areas of which, have changed the world for the better.

It is after the enormous and well intentioned efforts of these people that technologies such as the computer, hand held devices, transportation and entertainment have became readily available. These breakthroughs allow for things such as globalisation and leisure time and are a massive part of everyday life for people today. Due to this technology, by the age of 8 a child has access to more information in an hour than their grandparents did in a life time.

"Getting information off the internet is like getting a drink from a fire hydrant" - Mitchell Kapor

With newly available technologies once impossible cures and medical treatments are now becoming available to those in most need. Nowadays we are able to treat cancer using nuclear medicine, we are able to operate on people through 'keyhole' surgery, we can lessen or cure blindness and loss of hearing and are even capable of growing organs for transplants and cloning living organisms for our own uses. We can genetically enhance or modify living things in order to ensure they are more effective for humans. And are even glancing into a future in which people can choose the traits of their children, commonly known as 'Designer Babies'.

"With $25 dollars you could cure blindness" - Professor Fred Hollows

Due to this generation the education of today's children is outstanding. It is compulsory for all children to attain a primary education and an education up to year 10 level. It is now becoming enforceable that all children must continue through school until the
completion of year 12 (conditions apply) and universities are widely available to those who seek the additional education. With this incredibly high education level the promise of tomorrow is limitless.

“A liberal education is at the heart of a civil society, and at the heart of a liberal education is the act of teaching” - A. Bartlett Giamatti

However, it is imprudent to deem my generation as apathetic and indolent. There is hope. In my life I shall work to see an end to world poverty by giving generously, choosing wisely and acting appropriately. I shall strive to have social justice, equality and human rights prevail. I will learn from the mistakes of other generations and follow the lead of the positive qualities they have attributed to the world. The world I will create for my children will be a free one, free of fear, destruction and greed. For as long as there is greed, there will be poverty. I will ensure that my children learn the greatest and most important lesson the world has to teach;

“Nothing that I can do will change the structure of the universe. But maybe, by raising my voice I can help the greatest of all causes good-will among men and peace on earth” - Albert Einstein