



# Answer to Question No. 1: Can Zara Selam Media Contribute to Peace?

## Defining Peace

Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It is a *state of calm*, a *culture of respect*, and a *commitment to understanding one another even when we disagree*. Peace means living with differences without turning those differences into hostility.

## Peace in the Context of Zara Selam Media

For Zara Selam Media, peace is a **daily practice** rooted in our cultural values of respect, humility, patience, and humanity. Peace is creating a space where Eritreans — regardless of political views — can speak, listen, and reflect without fear, insult, or judgment.

Peace is not a political position. Peace is a **behavior**, a **discipline**, and a **national responsibility**.

## The Polarized Eritrean Political Environment

The Eritrean political environment — both inside the country and in the diaspora — is deeply polarized. People are divided into groups, camps, and labels. Suspicion is high, trust is low, and conversations often turn into confrontations.

This polarization weakens our ability to communicate, cooperate, and build a shared national vision.

## Root Causes of Polarization (as Zara Selam Media sees it)

-  **Lack of trust** among political groups
-  **Historical wounds** that were never healed
-  **Fear of being misunderstood or attacked**
-  **Turning political differences into personal hostility**

- 🌱 **Belief that only one side can be right**

Polarization is not caused by diversity of views — it is caused by the *way* we treat each other when views differ.

## 🚫 **What Peace is NOT (in the Zara Selam Media context)**

Peace does **NOT** mean:

- ❌ Mediating between political organizations
- ❌ Mediating among opposition groups
- ❌ Mediating between government supporters and opposition members
- ❌ Supporting any party or organization regardless of their political stand, view, or policy

Zara Selam Media is **not** a political broker. We are not here to negotiate between groups or take sides.

## 🌟 **What Peace IS (in the Zara Selam Media objectives)**

Peace **IS** the commitment to:

- 🌱 **Acknowledge** that the political environment is tense, hostile, and divided
- 🌱 **Accept** that political differences will always exist
- 🌱 **Understand** that differing political views do *not* require animosity
- 🌱 **Develop patience and tolerance** to listen to views we disagree with
- 🌱 **Avoid hostility** in discussions and arguments
- 🌱 **Recognize** that all Eritreans believe in the sovereignty and independence of our country
- 🌱 **Honor** our martyrs and disabled heroes as sacred national pillars
- 🌱 **Agree** that no political stand should diminish our sovereignty or disrespect our martyrs
- 🌱 **Reject the “winner–loser” mentality** in discussions
- 🌱 **Focus on understanding**, not defeating each other

Peace is the discipline of speaking with respect, listening with patience, and remembering that we are one people — even when we disagree.



## Closing Reflection

Zara Selam Media believes peace begins with how we speak to one another. If we change our conversations, we can change our future.

*In conclusion, we humbly invite everyone to seek God's guidance and pray for peace according to their own faith and religious practice.*