

Bridging the Divide: Why Peace Dialogue Still Matters

If government supporters are seen as betraying the vision of the struggle, how can meaningful peace dialogue with them be possible? If some view opposition groups as anti-country or disconnected from Eritrean identity, how can peace dialogue be pursued with them?

Zara Selam Media addresses these two questions together because they are deeply intertwined — they reflect the polarized mindset that has made Eritrean dialogue nearly impossible.

The Roots of the Division

Opposition groups often view government (PFDJ) supporters as having abandoned the principles of democracy, justice, and accountability that were promised after independence. Government supporters, in turn, see opposition groups as unpatriotic, disloyal, or even aligned with Eritrea's enemies — undermining the sacrifices of the martyrs.

These narratives, repeated for years through social media, You Tube channels, and unverified commentary, have created a **24/7 cycle of mistrust**. Anyone can broadcast anything, without accountability, accuracy, or responsibility. The result is a diaspora that is:

- **Polarized**
- **Suspicious**
- **Emotionally exhausted**
- **Unable to listen to one another**

In this climate, no opposition member wants to sit with a government supporter, and no government supporter wants to sit with an opposition member. As a result, dialogue collapses before it even begins.

The Breakdown of Communication

Even within opposition groups themselves, discussions often devolve into:

- Talking over one another
- Emotional reactions instead of thoughtful responses
- Argumentative exchanges
- No listening, no clarification, no calm reflection

The essential steps of healthy dialogue — **listening, asking for clarity, confirming understanding, and responding thoughtfully** — are almost absent.

When listening disappears, understanding disappears. When understanding disappears, common ground disappears. Without common ground, **no national issue can be solved**.



Why Zara Selam Media Begins With Listening

This is precisely why Zara Selam Media’s strategy starts at the most basic, foundational level: **listening**.

Listening is not weakness. Listening is not surrender. Listening is not agreement.

Listening is the **seed** from which all meaningful dialogue grows.



*Just as a stream nourishes the roots of a plant, listening nourishes the roots of peace. 🌱
Roots feed the entire plant; listening feeds the entire process of dialogue.*

Zara Selam Media urges Eritreans — regardless of political identity — to begin with:

- Respectful tone
- Curiosity instead of accusation
- Patience instead of reaction
- Humanity instead of labels

Listening is the first step toward rebuilding trust, rediscovering shared values, and opening the door to peaceful dialogue.



A Path Forward

To move toward peace, Eritreans must reclaim three essential practices:

1 Listen Before Judging

2 Acknowledge Shared Foundations

Despite political differences, Eritreans share sacred truths:

- Independence
- Honor for martyrs
- National identity
- Concern for youth and refugees
- Love for the homeland

These are not political positions — they are **human truths**.

3 Create Space for All Voices

Dialogue cannot begin with exclusion. It begins with presence, patience, and willingness to hear one another.



Zara Selam Media's Commitment

Zara Selam Media chooses the path of peace because it is the only path that leads to national healing. We commit to:

- Encouraging respectful dialogue
- Rejecting insults and dehumanization
- Highlighting shared values
- Promoting truth, humility, and cultural wisdom
- Building bridges across political divides
- Creating a culture of listening

 *The road is long, but Eritrea deserves a future where its children speak to one another again — with dignity, respect, and hope.* 