

# Envisaging alternatives

Before we can change the things we don't like in our lives or in the world around us, we first have to imagine an alternative. Many social reformers, activists, and artists have spoken about the importance of imagination and dreaming.

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged not by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.*

Martin Luther King

*Imagine no possessions...*

John Lennon

*Imagine what the Mount could become as an estate... that had proper facilities for all children, including a place where mothers could meet and let their children play in safety. What about a proper community building, a bingo hall for our senior residents, a youth club...? Is this really just a dream?*

Rex Long, community activist

*I was always looking for a way to make things better, push myself forward, and find whatever that mysterious opportunity was that I knew was waiting for me. Every day I wondered, "When is it going to happen? Is it today? Tomorrow? Where am I going to go? What am I going to do?"... I guess at that time I thought everyone had these voices inside them. But as far back as I can remember, I always knew my life was going to be different..*

Waris Dirie, born a Somalian nomad, now UN Special Ambassador

*It would be very interesting to record photographically, not the stages of a painting, but its metamorphoses. One would see perhaps by what course a mind finds its way toward the crystallization of its dream. What is really very serious is to see that the picture does not change basically, the initial vision remains almost intact in spite of appearance.*

Pablo Picasso

*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*

Proverbs, ch.29, v.18

*The moment the slave resolves that he will no longer be a slave, his fetters fall. He frees himself and shows the way to others. Freedom and slavery are mental states.*

Mahatma Gandhi