



Connecting Resources to
Deliver >>> Powerful Results

"We need to somehow find a way to implement the Golden Rule globally so that we treat other nations, other peoples as we would wish to be treated ourselves." Karen Armstrong

A call to bring the world together... Charter for Compassion

Nurtured into being by the collaborative efforts of over 150,000 people around the world, envisioned by author, historian and speaker Karen Armstrong, made possible by the TED Prize, Global Tolerance, the Fetzer Institute, partners and participants around the world, and launched globally on Thursday, November 12, 2009

The charter, in English below, is ready for use now in seven languages and a variety of media formats and forums. Please join us in this newly focused glocal movement.

<http://charterforcompassion.org/>

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

Charter for Compassion, November 12, 2009

The Resource Network, LLC, 1119 Brentfield Drive McLean, VA 22101 USA

Phone: +1 (703) 506-0203 • Fax: +1 (703) 506-0205 • E-mail: rick.rodgers@resnet.org • Web site: www.resnet.org