



Annual Report 2024



Inner Wisdom in Governance and Leadership

Courage and Compassion in Action

Introduction

2024 was an exciting and transformative year for the Forum, marked by new discoveries, deepened relationships, and invaluable conversations.

We began by revisiting the rich insights harvested from our close circle of friends at the end of 2023 in Oxfordshire. This meeting gave us clear direction and reaffirmed the importance of our foundational principles: silence, listening, and dialogue. It became evident that maintaining regular contact with this group is essential, and we were thrilled that they all accepted our invitation to become a special support group for the Forum, which we named the Circle of Wisdom.

Our core materials underwent refinement. We revisited our mission and purpose and updated these texts on our website to better reflect our evolving vision.

Faisal Khan, who participated in the 2023 Forum, joined our Executive Circle in the spring. He invited us to his beautiful farm by the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, where we gathered to strategize for the 7th International Spirit of Humanity Forum in Iceland and beyond. The tranquil environment—surrounded by nature, simplicity, and silence—was deeply inspiring and helped shape our plans for the future.

Initially, we envisioned a separate Spirit of Humanity Forum for young leaders, led by young leaders. However, as our thinking evolved, we shifted this concept into a vision of intergenerational dialogue, bringing young and experienced leaders on equal footing with everyone else to bridge the generational divide through listening and mutual respect.

We identified a need for a practical "laboratory" where leaders could experience and embody the practices of silent reflection, listening, and activating inner powers such as tolerance, discernment and maintaining calm in challenging situations. By partnering with professional researchers, they could help us measure the impact of these practices. We felt Iceland would be the perfect "nursery school" to try this out, so our working title was "The Icelandic Project". Stefanía Ólafsdóttir, representing both Brahma Kumaris in Iceland and the Spirit of Humanity Forum, developed a four-month program and brought together 36 leaders from diverse fields in Iceland to participate. The response and the result were overwhelmingly positive, and we found that this model—both needed and practical—can easily be replicated worldwide.

In September, we began sending out invitations for the 7th Spirit of Humanity Forum and set the wheels in motion for our next event.

The year culminated with another meaningful gathering of our Circle of Wisdom, which includes our Strategy Circle, Board and, this time, the first members of our new Circle of Young Leaders.

We revisited our mission and purpose, and updated the descriptions on our website to better reflect our evolving vision:

Aim and Purpose

A global movement of leaders and change-makers exploring inner wisdom in leadership and governance

The Spirit of Humanity Forum (SoH) serves as a global movement for leaders across various fields who are ready to explore how inner wisdom and core human values such as love and compassion can lead to systemic change. The Forum explores new forms of governance underpinned by care, respect, trust and dialogue.

The SoH Forum seeks to contribute towards a change of consciousness; a collective journey towards a new paradigm guided by caring and peacefulness. This is only possible when individuals, who make up our communities, organisations and ultimately nations around the globe begin to integrate their inner spiritual life with their outer actions.

To enable and foster this necessary integration between our inner and outer life, the Forum creates safe spaces for dialogue, deeper connectedness and the exploration of transformative ideas and experiences. This is underpinned by the three pillars of the Forum – silence, listening and dialogue.

Purpose

When a culture of care nourishes leadership, it becomes possible to find ways of building bridges of trust and friendship and of cultivating collaboration between those with different or even opposing worldviews.

The Forum encourages caring leaders with a broad perspective, to step forward in all fields of society. It supports leaders who are prepared to serve and inspire others with courage, conviction and compassion, holding the vision that they can be instrumental in humanizing our systems and returning a 'spirit of humanity' to our world.

In particular, the Forum nurtures emerging leaders and encourages intergenerational listening, dialogue and learning.

Who is the SoH Forum is for

Leaders, emerging leaders and change-makers from various fields who are ready to explore how inner wisdom and core human values such as love and compassion can lead to systemic change. Those who are prepared to serve and inspire others with courage, conviction and compassion, holding the vision that they can be instrumental in humanizing our systems and returning a 'spirit of humanity' to our world.

Planning Meeting in Morocco



Faisal Khan participated in our 6th Forum in 2023; an engineer who, after 20 years, left corporate life to earn an MA in Positive Psychology and started to work as a Self-Leadership coach and founded '212 Degrees', a human development company dedicated to helping people find life-purpose and freedom of choice, by taking charge of their inner AND outer life. Faisal accepted our invitation in the spring of 2024 to work with us in the Executive Circle. He soon welcomed us to a planning meeting at his beautiful farm by the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, where we discovered that he is also very passionate about regenerative farming and loves architecture, design, and outdoor adventure. We had a very productive and enjoyable time together. The relaxing and grounding atmosphere of simple living at this beautiful place, being so close to nature and far away from our everyday "modern life", was very beneficial and inspiring. The 7th SoH Forum and beyond plans were nourished and cultivated in a favourable environment.



The Icelandic Project

A new Initiative for Inner Peace in Leadership

Leadership groups during autumn 2024

One of the Spirit of Humanity Forum's aims is to encourage the integration of inner wisdom and a values-based approach across all sectors of society. To serve this mission, a new initiative was launched in autumn 2024 — a collaboration between the Spirit of Humanity Forum and Brahma Kumaris Iceland.

Thirty-seven leaders from various fields of Icelandic society — including education, healthcare, business, the arts, environmental work, and corporate management — began meeting monthly to engage in meaningful conversations about values, meditate together, and explore ways to apply spiritual practices and inner wisdom in their daily lives. Participants were also invited to a weekend retreat at the Global Retreat Centre in Oxford in January 2025, offering a more profound experience and strengthening this emerging community.

Survey for Peace in connection with the Leadership Groups

According to the Global Peace Index for 2023, Iceland was ranked the most peaceful country in the world for the 17th consecutive year — a source of pride and gratitude for many Icelanders, especially in a world where we cannot take peace for granted.

This pilot project takes the idea of Iceland as a symbol of peace a step further, envisioning it as a beacon of inner peace within the international community, with the leadership groups playing a vital role in this effort. Thanks to Iceland's small and close-knit society, ideal conditions exist for meaningful research. To support this, three accomplished social scientists joined the project to study and measure its impact. A simple, anonymous questionnaire was given to participants at the start and end of the program, with the results intended to guide the initiative's future development — and, hopefully, inspire others.

The initiative launched successfully, and the survey results showed clear signs of improved mental well-being and inner balance among participants. This work will continue into 2025, as we believe that nurturing a community of leaders who practice applying their inner wisdom in everyday life holds great potential — not only for their personal growth but also for the positive transformation of society as a whole.

The Youth Leadership Circle

the 'Youth Leadership Circle'.

Within this circle, we identified several extraordinary young leaders worldwide who drive impactful social and humanitarian initiatives to join our upcoming Forum in 2025. However, many of them face financial barriers, so we decided to encourage support.

Below are examples of young leaders we identified who exemplify the kind of participants we hoped to bring to the 7th Spirit of Humanity Forum in 2025.

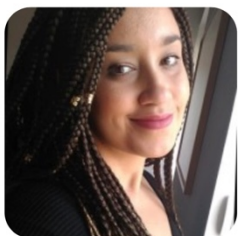
Together, let's ensure that the voices of youth resonate alongside wisdom and experience, fostering a world where leadership transcends generations.

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Linda Leogah Forkwa, Cameroon

Linda is a passionate peace builder from Mutegene, Cameroon. Linda has devoted her life to supporting and reintegrating young drug addicts back into society and providing them with an education and a future. Watch Linda's story [HERE](#)



Priscila Fischer, Brazil

Priscila is a Brazilian journalist and activist living in France, her work focuses on highlighting the ancestral knowledge of Brazil's Indigenous peoples to build bridges of communication for peace with new generations.

[LinkedIn profile](#)



Maruee Pahuja, India

Maruee is from Pune, India, and works closely with the Creative Leadership youth programme of Initiatives of Change. Where she has been working on their new 'Caux Arts and Peace Encounters Programme'. [LinkedIn profile](#)



Luke Addison, UK

Luke is based in Winchester, UK. A Drama and Peace-Education teacher, Luke has been volunteering with Rotary International for over 10 years and works for the peace education organisation, PeaceJam, which works with young people and Nobel Peace Laureates. [Luke at PeaceJam](#)

Bridges over Troubled Waters



On 28 August 2024, an event was organised in Berlin to inspire people to discover and practice sustainable ways of living that promote personal well-being and strengthen a culture of respectful coexistence.

Three renowned guests from science, leadership and spirituality participated in a fascinating conversation about a paradigm shift: from external growth to inner growth and changing mindsets. Speakers were Prof Dr Mark Lawrence, Director of the Research Institute for Sustainability in Potsdam (RIFS), Sister Jayanti, the administrative head of the world's largest women-led spiritual organisation, The Brahma Kumaris and Christian Greiser, a recognised expert in leadership development. [Read MORE](#)

Supporting The One Home Journey



On the International Day of Peace on September 21st, 2024, our friends and collaborators at Home for Humanity embarked on a remarkable "One Home Journey" around the world with a profound spiritual and cultural mission to awaken the understanding that we all share one home—our planet. Never in human history have we been more aware of our interconnectedness and interdependence: one planet, one ecosystem, one global community, one humanity.

Dr Rama Mani and Prof Alexander Schieffer, founders of Home of Humanity, are personally taking the journey from country to country, community to community, home to home. Both passionately rooted in the language of poetry and theatre, they aspire to help connect human hearts across the planet. We are excited to follow and support the One Home Journey as it weaves a tapestry of hope, compassion, and shared responsibility across continents.

[Read MORE](#)



Emerging collaboration

The Spirit of Humanity Forum and the Wellbeing Economy Forum started to embark on a promising collaboration based on shared values and a deep commitment to promote the cultivation of a better world. By blending our strengths—nurturing inner wisdom in governance and leadership and promoting an economy rooted in well-being—the aim is to create a powerful forum for dialogue, spiritual nourishment and action. This partnership reflects our shared belief that collaboration is essential for building a more compassionate world and bringing about systemic change where the economic systems truly serve the well-being of people and the planet.

The Spirit of Humanity Forum and the Well-Being Economy Forum will take place simultaneously in Iceland in May 2025 and will co-host several sessions, fostering a shared exploration of values-driven leadership and well-being in governance. At Harpa Conference Centre, Her Excellency Halla Tómasdóttir, President of Iceland, will deliver inspirational words and engage in a dialogue with participants on the role of purpose, principles, and values in governance and leadership. This aligns with the SoH Forum's theme: Inner Wisdom in Governance and Leadership – Acting with Courage and Compassion. Halla, who has written extensively on courage in leadership, will bring her insights to this significant discussion.

Meeting with Halla Tómasdóttir, President of Iceland

The Spirit of Humanity Forum was honoured to meet with the President of Iceland, Halla Tómasdóttir. Stefanía Ólafsdóttir, Chair of the Board, and Jóhanna Vilhjálmisdóttir, Director, represented the Forum during this uplifting encounter. We had the opportunity to introduce the President to the Forum's work and vision and share our future plans.



The conversation was deeply inspiring and mutually enriching. President Halla strongly resonated with the Forum's mission of fostering inner transformation and human connection in leadership. She encouraged even closer collaboration between the Spirit of Humanity Forum and the Wellbeing Economy Forum in Iceland, suggesting joint events to reach broader audiences and create a deeper impact.

Her vision for leadership rooted in inner awareness and compassion strongly aligns with the Forum's values. We were especially moved by her initiative of the **Love Circles** in Iceland, which reflects her commitment to nurturing a culture of care, connection, and collective well-being.

We left the meeting inspired and energised, deeply grateful for her support and her own leadership example. This experience marks a beautiful step toward strengthening the shared movement towards a more compassionate and conscious world.

Annual meeting with our Circle of Wisdom



The Circle of Wisdom and the first members of Circle of Young Leaders.

In November, we held our second meeting with the Circle of Wisdom at The Global Retreat Centre in Oxfordshire, UK. This meeting built upon the strategic directions that emerged from the previous year's first gathering.

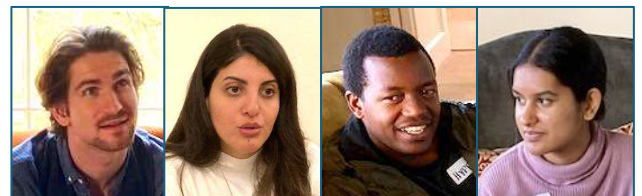
We began by sharing key developments, particularly the success of the Icelandic Project and our progress in engaging younger leaders within the Forum. Excitingly, we also shared the news of the new President of Iceland, H.E. Halla-Tómasdóttir's, keen interest in the Forum. As an advocate for spirituality and transformative work, she strongly supported our mission. The approval of the President inspired us to reflect on the future of the Forum with a deep sense of urgency. We asked ourselves: "How can we expand? What is being asked of us now?"

Collaboration with the Well-Being Economy Forum

Encouraged by President Halla-Tómasdóttir's vision, we discussed collaborating with Iceland's Wellbeing Economy Forum, which she patronizes. We explored the idea of co-creating an annual international Forum with the Wellbeing

Economy Forum in Iceland. Since both forums coincide in 2025, we also began planning how we could integrate the two forums through shared spaces and joint sessions.

Bringing in Young Leaders and Fostering Intergenerational Dialogue



The idea of involving young leaders, which had been introduced in the previous year's discussions, evolved into a clear commitment to integrate them into the Forum. Rather than hosting a separate event for young leaders, we decided to create an intergenerational space where wisdom could be shared across generations. Four young leaders from various parts of the world, each with diverse experiences, were invited to this meeting. Their input added significant value to our discussions. They particularly appreciated being treated as equals, which inspired us to foster a deeper integration of young leaders, focusing on meaningful engagement and co-creation.



Building Bridges

We also discussed making the Forum more accessible and relevant to a broader audience. We aim to meet people where they are and demonstrate the importance of this work for all of society. We agreed on the need for a universally appealing language that emphasizes shared human experiences and values. To make participation more accessible, we will create entry points such as shorter workshops, online content, or community events that don't require complete immersion right away. We believe the Spirit of Humanity Forum can significantly expand its impact through creativity and outreach.

Connecting Head and Heart

A major part of our discussions revolved around how to bridge the "head" (intellectual) and "heart" (spiritual) aspects of our work. We explored how to integrate the practical and the spiritual, emphasizing the tangible benefits of this work. By highlighting how it can improve individual and community well-being, decision-making, and societal outcomes, we aim to make the value proposition clear. We agreed that Iceland's unique energy holds the potential to become a hub for spiritual and societal experimentation.

Preparing for the 7th Spirit of Humanity Forum

We reflected on the timeliness of the upcoming 7th Spirit of Humanity Forum's theme: "Inner Wisdom in Governance and Leadership: Acting with Courage and Compassion." We agreed that spiritual wisdom is essential for effective leadership, which was underscored by an insightful interview with Iceland's former Prime Minister. She shared her perspective on integrating spirituality with politics, which will serve as a foundation for framing our discussions around inner wisdom.

The purpose of the Forum has always been to create a safe space for deep dialogue, allowing participants to explore the motivations behind their leadership and how to cultivate wisdom in their practice. We invited attendees to reflect on what they would like to see in the 2025 Forum and how they could personally contribute. We received many excellent ideas and decided to replace the planned morning panels with high-level leaders. Instead, we'll host shorter intergenerational dialogues, where leaders who have navigated adversity will share real-life experiences to spark reflection.

Additionally, we set a goal to include at least 20% of young leaders in the 2025 Forum, and we'll use the ideas shared to shape the programme.

Attracting Resources

We also listened to expert advice on attracting resources. The focus was overcoming reluctance to ask for support and finding next-generation philanthropists. We discussed crafting clear value propositions to secure funding for our mission.

Holding the Torch through Spiritual Practice



As part of our commitment to hold the spiritual torch high and deepen our connection with core values and each other, we have embraced a simple yet profound spiritual practice—coming together in silence every week, inviting everyone to join.

Fridays for Silence

Every Friday at 11 AM GMT, we host a 15-minute silent gathering on Zoom, complemented by a brief guided commentary. What began with the Global Circle as a practical spiritual endeavour to hold the spiritual torch has now blossomed into a community-wide invitation. We're humbled to witness between 20 and 30 participants attending each Friday, including contributors from past Forums who attend regularly.

Saturdays for Silence and Sharing in Iceland

In collaboration with Lótushús in Iceland, the Icelandic SoH Forum Team has extended the concept, hosting a silent space in Iceland every Saturday on Zoom. During these sessions, a participant takes 5 minutes to share heartfelt thoughts about the human spirit. It's a meaningful gathering, with up to 70 participants joining each Saturday.

Three Pillars - Silence, Listening & Dialogue

Three fundamental guiding principles emerged from our collective experience with past Forums. These three pillars are essential for creating and upholding the Spirit of Humanity Forum experience:

1. Silence In a world flooded with constant messages, our minds often dwell on repetitive thoughts. To break free from this cycle and open ourselves to new perspectives, we need to grant our minds moments of complete rest in between. In silence, we process experiences, let insights settle, and prepare to embrace fresh ideas.

2. Listening True listening transcends mere hearing. It requires us to set aside our interpretations, judgments, and personal agendas. When we listen deeply with a genuine intention to understand what others are expressing, we create an environment where meaningful dialogue and new understanding can flourish.

3. Dialogue is the art of exploring and understanding a subject collectively, free from the pressure to make immediate decisions or prove oneself "right." It thrives when we approach it with open hearts and from a space of silence. In this fertile ground, we can welcome and engage with the perspectives offered by others.

Free of Charge



The Spirit of Humanity Forum operates as a non-profit initiative. Our dedicated team has a shared passion for fostering a global community of practitioners committed to promoting love, compassion, inspirational leadership, and a novel governance paradigm across all societal tiers. We aim to instigate positive global transformations and foster meaningful connections.

Our work is made possible through the tireless dedication of our volunteers, who collectively help us establish an all-encompassing and transformative platform. However, without financial support our work would not be possible.

Support from our partners can take various forms, including financial assistance, voluntary engagement, knowledge sharing, and the contribution of their unique skills and resources. Our partners bring not only financial support but also a diverse array of perspectives and experiences to enrich our collaborative efforts.

The SoH Forum is committed to providing all its events free of charge. We encourage attendees and participants to contribute voluntarily, in alignment with their willingness and capacity. We firmly believe that this approach fosters inclusivity and promotes community participation.

You can support our initiative and help make it sustainable and accessible to a broader audience by:

- Sponsoring specific events.
- Assisting in the development of a global community.
- Contributing to the long-term growth of the Forum.

Any support you can offer in these areas, or any other innovative ideas you may have to further our mission, would substantially contribute to our work and outreach

Collaborative Connections for a Loving World

At the heart of the Forum's mission lies a profound belief in the power of collaboration. We view partnerships as the path forward and nurture connections with like-minded friends and aligned organisations who share our vision for a more compassionate world. By uniting our efforts, we can provide mutual support, pool resources, collaborate on specific programs, and inspire and infuse hope into the world.

To achieve this goal, we have actively cultivated relationships with organisations that share our purpose and values. These collaborations strengthen our collective impact and reinforce our commitment to fostering a more loving and harmonious world.

Partners

Reykjavík City, Guerrand Hermès Foundation for Peace, Education 4 Peace, Brahma Kumaris Iceland (Lótushús), Wellbeing Economy Forum, Höfði Peace Centre, Heartfulness, Synergos and Global Humanity for Peace Institute - University of Wales Trinity St David



City of Reykjavik



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Associated Organisations

Initiative of Change, International Leadership Association, Home for Humanity, Flourish Project, Fetzer Institute, Wellbeing Economy Alliance



Initiatives of Change
International



Home for Humanity



The Ecology of Wellbeing

