



SPirit OF  
HUMANITY  
FORUM

## REYKJAVÍK 2014 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SPIRIT OF HUMANITY FORUM THE POWER OF LOVE AND COMPASSION IN GOVERNANCE – SHARING ACTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CHANGE

### INTRODUCTION

The Spirit of Humanity Forum (SoH) is a new global network of organisations, communities and individuals committed to integrating inner spiritual life with outer actions in the world in order to effect positive systemic change for the future of humanity. The Forum is dedicated to creating safe spaces for deeper encounter, exploration and dialogue among leaders to discover new ways to move forward, based on core human values.

The first SoH Forum Reykjavík 2012 entitled *Re-setting the Compass – Creating a Landscape of Possibilities*, took place in September 2012. The city was chosen as the venue of the Forum as it is aiming to become a global capital for peace. About 100 participants, from 30 countries, attended the inaugural meeting. The main contributors included HE Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson (the President of Iceland); Jón Gnarr (Mayor of Reykjavík); Federico Mayor (Founder of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, former Director-General of UNESCO) and Dadi Janki (Head of the Brahma Kumaris). The Forum shared a multitude of proposals for effectively energising and accessing our inner strengths towards empowering values-driven decision making at all levels, personal, community, national and international.

Now the second SoH Forum, *The Power of Love and Compassion in Governance – Sharing Actions for Effective Change*, is proposed to take place in Reykjavík in April 2014. The focus of the second Forum will be to explore the potential of love and compassion in bringing about effective change through governance and leadership. The aim is to begin to re-conceptualise systemic change, especially in fields such as education, health, culture, science, business, politics and peace-building. The positive energy of love and compassion is one of the deepest and most enduring aspects of human nature. Taking this potential to be key for a sustainable economy, a loving society and a healthy environment, **Reykjavík 2014 makes an explicit call for love and compassion in action.**

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general, the SoH Forum explores the process of change within the individual and social institutions that enables transformation in a community and the world at large, with a focus on the empowerment and sustenance of core human values and their practical implementations in personal, communal and work life.

Reykjavík 2014 is specifically set to

- raise awareness and deepen our understanding of the transformative power of love and compassion in practice and action in fields such as education, health, governance, business and peace-building
- express and share formative ideas about effecting changes in social and institutional structures to nurture, support and integrate core human values
- create space for dialogue and contemplation in order to create a shared vision for effective change
- inspire and be inspired (through listening and dialogue) and to enact a new shared narrative of love and hope for the future
- follow-up by establishing a learning network (Community of Practice) to continue sharing and supporting value-based approaches to governance

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## PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES

Reykjavík 2014 will feature a wide range of transformative and experiential activities:

- reflective round-tables and themed panels with individuals who have inspired profound change in their sphere of influence (keynote speakers drawn from diverse fields)
- interactive small group dialogues exploring ways to energise our core human values (inspirational storytelling of love and compassion in practice)
- sharing of practical case studies and powerful examples of transformation from around the world where decisions led by love and compassion have had a direct impact on a community or society
- informal conversations in a supportive atmosphere that encourages in-depth reflection
- Icelandic cultural and artistic experience

By engaging in these diverse activities, the Forum will open a space to pose some key questions about love and compassion in action in governance and leadership in different fields. These questions include:

- There is a growing emphasis on the need for love and compassion at work. What lies behind this, and why does it remain at the margin of recognition?
- How can we experience love and compassion within organisations, and what would characterise the structure and culture of an organisation when it prioritises core human values?
- How can we imagine and design organisations that nurture and express human values?
- What can decision-makers at all levels do in order to embed core human values in governance and leadership, locally, nationally and internationally?
- In what way can stories of love and compassion in governance inform the overall social policy agenda?

By providing an encounter space for those confronted by the need for systemic change and looking for new and better ways forward, Reykjavík 2014 will serve as a place of inspiration and understanding leading to renewed practical work and a greater realisation of the central place of love and compassion in our global society and in our relationships with nature.

## PARTICIPANTS

Reykjavík 2014 brings together leaders and emerging leaders who are committed to explore the power of love and compassion in all aspects of their life. The Forum also welcomes practitioners, professionals and thinkers from the following fields:

- Education and Social Work
- Health and Health Care
- Arts, Culture and Spirituality
- Science and Environment
- Business and Economy
- Politics, Peace-building and Conflict Transformation

## SOH FORUM PARTNERS

- The SoH Forum continues seeking partnership and collaboration with organisations and individuals. Existing organising partners and sponsors include: the City of Reykjavík, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Education 4 Peace Foundation, Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, Barrett Values Centre, Foundation for a Culture of Peace.

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