



TOWARDS A LOVING WORLD

Leadership and Governance for Global Well-Being

3rd - 5th June 2021

A loving world - interconnection and interdependence

2020 has provided a unique opportunity for humanity to re-envision a better world for all. As the Covid-19 pandemic spreads, it has unveiled deep-seated structural inequalities, making us aware of how divided our societies have become. At the same time, never before in human history have, we been more aware of our interconnection and interdependence – one planet, one ecosystem, one global community, one humanity. Most importantly, it also reminds us that human flourishing, social cohesiveness, and ecological integrity are all part of a greater collective well-being that is within our reach.

It is our shared longing for connectedness, solidarity, and harmonious living that gives us the courage and determination to express a deeper humanity and move into a new way of being and acting in the world. A loving world is one in which each human being is valued for who they are rather than for what they can produce, and the greater good of every creature on the planet motivates decisions at the highest level of leadership.

Such love is the greatest energising force that connects all. Only through loving can we heal ourselves and our planet, only through leading and governing with love can we transcend the self-interests of the individual, group, and even nation, and only by acting in love can we work together in building a better post-Covid world. We must foster love that encompasses all.

Well-being at the heart of leadership and governance

This is a true collective spiritual awakening – to experience the transcendent nature of being while being conscious of the sanctity of all life. In this sense our collective well-being is also our spiritual well-being, at the core of which lies the profound bond of love between all that is.

One such trans-national collaboration is already under way, aimed at re-thinking and re-designing our global economic system so that it can serve human well-being in harmony with the wellness of the planet. Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo) is an initiative of the Governments of Iceland, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and Finland who are committed to a well-being economy, embedding well-being as the core focus of governance, structural justice, and human and ecological integrity.

However, structural shifts directed at human well-being and the wellness of our planet can only be meaningful when carried out at a global scale. This requires leadership and governance to prioritise the common good as our global collective agenda. Identifying that which we collectively value, such as relational bonds, community, enriching activities, meaningful work, ecological health, and hope creates a co-flourishing agenda which can lead us to a promising future.

Such global transformation must be guided by an honest intention for belonging and unity. A “politics of love” demands leaders to embrace the spiritual dimension of being, and governance processes that encompass interconnection and interdependence.

Share, inspire, and be inspired

To move forward together towards a loving world, the fifth Spirit of Humanity (SoH) Forum, to be held on Thursday 3rd June - Saturday 5th June 2021 in Reykjavík, Iceland, invites leaders and change-makers at all levels to explore how leadership might integrate a higher consciousness, and how love and compassion might serve as an organising principle for global governance. The Forum aims to do so by providing spaces for dialogue, listening, silent contemplation, and co-creation. Participants are encouraged to share, inspire, and be inspired. This will continue to be explored at subsequent regional forums.

The questions to be discussed during the SoH Forum 2021 include:

- How do we understand collective human well-being?
- What is the interconnectedness between our collective well-being and the wellness of the planet?
- What is the significance of love in our shared lives?
- How might leaders actively nurture global well-being by embracing the ethics of love?
- What might characterise our social and political institutions when leaders integrate spirituality in their approaches, processes and practices?
- How might spirituality contribute to shifting global systems towards becoming more sensitive to holistic well-being and healing?

Programme

The Forum's programme will feature a wide range of activities, including inspirational sharing, panel dialogues, experiential workshops, collective narrative and storytelling, case studies and exemplars, contemplative reflection, informal conversations, and rich Icelandic natural, cultural, and artistic experiences.

We particularly welcome leaders, professionals, thinkers, practitioners, and other influencers from the following fields:

- Arts, Music, and the Humanities
- Business and Economics
- Education
- Social Work and Health
- Politics
- Science and Environment

For further information about the Spirit of Humanity Forum and how to participate in 2021, please contact:

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