

**'Learning to Live in a Multicultural World: Diaspora and Peacemaking in Europe'**  
**26-31 July 2011, Caux, Switzerland**

### **Introduction**

The concept of multiculturalism is widely seen as doomed to fail by many politicians and experts in Europe. We do not share this opinion: while there is no alternative to multicultural coexistence we have to review some current approaches. We must agree on common rules and values based on mutual trust and respect for living together in our pluralistic and multicultural societies. These are global processes, and diaspora communities have become crucial stakeholders at local, national and international levels. They have an important role to play in the development of their communities, their countries of origin and in their host countries. In any of these domains, diaspora communities can either sharpen or cause conflicts, or they can contribute to social stability by acting as peacemakers.

### **Overview**

The 2011 conference is the third session of the successful conference cycle 'Learning to live in a multicultural world' launched in 2009. It builds on the rich experience of *Initiatives of Change* (IofC) in the fields of relationship transformation, dialogue facilitation and trust-building, with particular emphasis on diaspora communities' contribution to peacemaking. It will pursue a holistic approach based on the following three elements:

- Space for reflection to unlock potential for personal change.
- Dialogue in diversity to build trust for relationship change.
- Empowerment for action to enable partnerships for global change.

The programme is inspired by the efforts of many diaspora communities to become active citizens of their host countries and to act as peacemakers within their own community. At the same time, the conference will explore the role and the responsibility of host societies in welcoming newcomers and supporting such processes.

### **Aim**

Instead of accepting the perception that the growing cultural diversity in Europe is a threat to social stability and cohesion, the conference seeks to create a common vision of an inclusive cultural environment and explore ways of realizing it. In providing a safe space for the discussion of needs, hopes and expectations but also mutual fears and prejudices, the conference aims at building bridges – within diaspora communities, between diaspora communities all over Europe, and between them and their host societies. It will provide a platform for exchanges of best-practice, and connect present and future leaders of diaspora communities and the host societies. It seeks to stimulate reflection on the individual's contribution to peacemaking in their own personal, professional and communal environments.

The conference will explore crucial issues in the current debate on diaspora communities in Europe such as identity and identity politics, participation and power relations, the specific roles and needs of different stakeholders and visions of inclusive intercultural environments. Through training modules on Facilitation, Peace Education, Intercultural Mediation, Conflict Transformation, Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination, Intergenerational Dialogue, Media Ethics, and Honest Conversation and Trustbuilding, participants will have the opportunity to acquire practical tools and valuable skills to become changemakers both in their own communities and in the larger society.

### Target audience

- Members of diaspora communities who wish to make an impact on peace and reconciliation work in their host society, their home country, and their community.
- Experts, practitioners and activists in the field of peacebuilding, reconciliation and fundamental rights.
- Organizations at national, regional and local level such as government agencies, cultural institutions, community workers, as well as NGOs and associations which focus on intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding and conflict transformation.
- Students and young adults who wish to take responsibility for better intercultural understanding.
- Teachers and adult educators who are working in an intercultural environment.
- People who want to start their own peace initiatives and are aware of the challenges and opportunities of a multicultural society.

### Intended outcomes

- Defining fields of action in which joint commitment is needed.
- Encouraging participants to identify the need for change in their own lives, situations and environments and personal steps they can take.
- Empowering participants to start their own projects and initiatives.
- Sharing experiences between *Initiatives of Change* and other organizations.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME (subject to modifications)

Tuesday, 26 July 2011

### Opening and Framing the Conversation

Time	Programme	Speaker	Room
17h00	<p><b>Opening/Welcome</b></p> <p><i>Presentation of the house and the programme of the week</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of the programme 'Learning to be a Peacemaker'</i></p>	<p><b>Andrew Stallybrass</b>, <i>CAUX-Initiatives of Change</i></p> <p><b>Marianne Spreng</b>, <i>CAUX-Initiatives of Change</i></p> <p>Participant of 'Learning to be a Peacemaker'</p>	Main Hall

	<i>for young European Muslims and the CAUX Interns Program</i>	Rob Lancaster, Interns coordinator, <i>Initiatives of Change</i>	
18h30	Dinner		
20h15	<b>Panel</b>  <i>Framing the conversation – Why are we here?</i>	<b>Jean-Pierre Méan</b> , president, <i>CAUX-Initiatives of Change</i>  <b>Conference coordinator</b> 'Learning to live in a multicultural world', <i>CAUX-Initiatives of Change</i>  <b>Anne Cathrine Ménétrety-Savary</b> , former member of the Swiss National Council, Green party, Switzerland  <b>Rupan Sinagavesan</b> , member of the Cantonal Council Zug, Switzerland/Sri Lanka	Main Hall
21h30	Announcements and short meeting of the discussion groups		Main Hall

Wednesday, 27 July 2011

### Identity and Identity Politics

Time	Programme	Speaker	Room
7h00-8h00	Yoga/Space for reflection		
8h00	Breakfast		
9h15-10h45	<b>Panel</b>  <i>Diaspora, identity and the role of identity politics</i>	<b>Diana de Vallescar</b> , associate researcher PCIFEC, Institute of Education, University of Minho, dedicated to exploring the theme of intercultural experience and its implications, Spain/Portugal/Mexico/Germany  <b>Rifaat Lenzin</b> , scholar in Islamic Studies lic. phil., co-president of the Muslim fraction of GCM (Swiss Alliance of Christians and Muslims), founding member of the Interreligious Think-Tank Switzerland, Switzerland/Pakistan (t.b.c.)	Main Hall
11h00-12h15	<b>Discussion groups</b>		



Initiatives of Change

12h30	Lunch		
13h30-15h00	Free time		
15h00-18h15	<b>Learning tracks A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H</b> (see descriptions below)		
18h30	Dinner		
20h00	<b>Evening programme: Concert</b>		Theatre

Thursday, 28 July 2011

### Participation and Power Relations

Time	Programme	Speaker	Room
7h00-8h00	Yoga/Space for reflection		
8h00	Breakfast		
9h15-10h45	<b>Panel</b>  <i>Participation and Power Relations</i>  <i>Case study 1</i>  <i>Case study 2</i>	<b>Lenneke Aalbers</b> , Reos Partners (international organisation dedicated to supporting and building capacity for innovative collective action in complex social systems), UK/Netherlands  <b>Joël Hakizimana</b> , secretary general, Swiss African Diaspora Council, Switzerland/Burundi  <b>Tatjana Peric</b> , human rights professional and freelance researcher focusing on the situation of Roma and other ethnic minorities in Europe, Serbia	Main Hall
11h00-12h15	<b>Discussion groups</b>		
12h30	Lunch		
13h30-15h00	Free time		
15h00-18h15	<b>Learning tracks A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H</b> (see descriptions below)		
18h30	Dinner		
20h15	<b>Evening programme</b>		

Friday, 29th July 2011

**Stakeholders**

Time	Programme	Speaker	Room
7h00-8h00	Yoga/Space for reflection		
8h00	Breakfast		
9h15-10h45	<p><b>Roundtable</b></p> <p><i>Roles, Needs and Challenges of the Different Stakeholders Involved</i></p>	<p><b>Laurent Ott</b>, educator, researcher; president, Intermèdes Robinson, France</p> <p><b>Asma Soltani</b>, coordinator 'Learning to be a Peacemaker', France/Tunisia</p> <p><b>Pascale Steiner</b>, research associate migration policy, EKM (Federal Commission for Migration), Switzerland</p> <p><b>Shabibi Shah</b>, community work activist, UK/Afghanistan (to be confirmed)</p>	Main Hall
11h00-12h15	<b>Discussion groups</b>		
12h30	Lunch		
13h30-15h00	Free time		
15h00-18h15	<p><b>Learning tracks A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H</b></p> <p>(see descriptions below)</p>		
18h30	Dinner		
20h15	<b>Evening programme: <i>Peace Fair</i></b>		Main Hall

Saturday, 30 July 2011

**The new 'We'**

Time	Programme	Speaker	Room
7h00-8h00	Yoga/Space for reflection		
8h00	Breakfast		
9h15-10h45	<b>Panel</b>	<b>Tariq Ramadan</b> , professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at	

	<i>The New 'We': Visions of an Inclusive Intercultural Environment</i>	Oxford University, president of the European Muslim Network (EMN) in Brussels, Switzerland/Egypt (to be confirmed)  <b>John Battle</b> , British Labour Party politician, former Member of Parliament (MP) for Leeds, UK	
11h00-12h15	<b>Discussion groups</b>		
12h30	Lunch		
13h30-15h00	Free time		
15h00-18h15	<b>Learning tracks A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H</b> (see descriptions below)		
18h30	Dinner		
20h15	<b>Evening programme</b>		

Sunday, 31 July 2011

### Conclusion and action planning

Time	Programme	Speaker	Room
7h00-8h00	Space for reflection		
8h00	Breakfast		
10h15-12h15	<b>Panel</b> <i>Results and conclusions</i> <i>Follow-up and action planning</i> <i>Closing/farewell</i>	Conference team  Conference team  <b>Erwin Böhi</b> , Secretary General, <i>CAUX-Initiatives of Change</i>	Main Hall
12h30	Lunch		
13h30	Departures		

### Conference 'behind the scenes'

In addition to the official programme, there will be time-slots for diaspora communities and other groups to organize their own internal meetings or roundtables. It is each group's own responsibility to seize this opportunity. The conference team will provide rooms and – if needed – experienced facilitators for the discussions.

For further information please contact: [nina.frei@caux.ch](mailto:nina.frei@caux.ch)

### **Peace Fair**

One evening, organizations, initiatives or communities working in fields related to diasporas, peace work, fundamental rights and/or intercultural dialogue will have the opportunity to present their work and projects to an international audience.

For further information and application please contact: [nina.frei@caux.ch](mailto:nina.frei@caux.ch)

### **Learning tracks**

The learning tracks are designed as practical trainings in which the daily sessions build up on each other. Therefore, conference participants will be asked to choose one of the offered workshops for the whole week.

### **A) Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination**

Nina Frei, head of projects and programmes, CAUX-Initiatives of Change, Switzerland

Angela Mattli, head of campaigns and projects, Society for Threatened Peoples, Switzerland

English

Besides providing a rich opportunity for intercultural understanding, religious diversity is also an undeniable element in many modern-day conflicts.

This highly interactive training programme aims to facilitate dialogue and sharing of experiences in the area/field of religion and culture in order to recognize contemporary manifestations of prejudice and religious discrimination and to develop individual skills for the creation of inclusive intercultural environments.

### **B) Diaspora and Conflict Transformation**

Tanja Mirabile, Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation (ICP), Switzerland

Pascal Gemperli, Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation (ICP), Switzerland

English

The main objective is to provide the representatives of diasporas and other participants with tools and skills for conflict transformation specific to their needs and contexts. This shall allow them to play a constructive role in the peace processes in their community, their homeland or their host country.

The training provides space for reflection and debate regarding participants' particular situations. Based on this, specific skills and approaches will be developed in order to respond to conflicts. This includes, among other things, reflections on how diaspora communities and individuals can become a force for constructive conflict transformation, mapping and assessment of causes of conflict, concepts and approaches to conflict transformation.

### **C) Introduction to Facilitation Skills and Methods for Conflict Resolution**

Catalina Quiroz Nino, training/facilitation research programme coordinator, ICA/IACE (Institute of Cultural Affairs), Spain

Jonathan Dudding, director of international programmes, ICA (Institute of Cultural Affairs), UK

English/Spanish

This learning track will enable facilitators and group leaders to explore their role and develop skills in helping groups explore conflict-sensitive issues, identify and understand common problems and reach an agreement on enduring ways forward through genuine and constructive dialogue. ICA's methods and its approach, which engender respect and deeper relationships between people, will be demonstrated, taught, practiced and applied, and follow-up possibilities explored.

### **D) Children's rights to respect in a multicultural society: tools for parents, teachers and child professionals**

Jonathan Levy, pedagogical and education specialist for Education for Peace, *Initiatives of Change*, France

Marion Bonte, programme manager for Education for Peace, Initiatives of Change, France

English/French

We will look at changing principles, attitudes and moral questions in a multicultural society. How values and beliefs shift, shape and condition our understanding of the child and our relationships with them. We will explore the important role of children not just as actors, but also authors of their future. How to provide space and time for children to participate more fully in the decision-making process and helping them to appreciate the opportunities of the richness of a multicultural society.

This workshop is designed for child professionals, NGOs working with children, and also for parents/grandparents who are concerned with these issues for the future generation. We will be dealing with practical tools, techniques and teaching kits will be used during the workshop.

Examples ranging from educational approaches to children's rights, to lofC approaches to peace and mutual respect in the child/adult relationship.

### **E) Trustbuilding and Honest Conversation: Character, Commitment and Competence**

Cricket White, National Director of Education, *Initiatives of Change USA*, USA

English

This learning track explores the concept of trustbuilding as an essential community building tool without which other initiatives and projects are less likely to succeed. At the heart of trustbuilding

is character, commitment and competence. Honest conversation is one of the tools that demonstrate all three.

The participants will learn how to identify core issues that thwart not only honest conversation, but prevent the building of trust in divided communities, develop skills and self confidence in talking about the hard subjects that calcify divisions within a community and identify next steps in building an honest conversation.

### **F) Intergenerational Dialogue – Peace Begins at Home**

Zahra Hassan, director and founder of Women of the Horn Association, director of Concerned Mothers Project, member of management committee of Agenda for Reconciliation AfR – IofC, interim coordinator for the Somali Initiative for Dialogue and Democracy (SIDD), UK/Somalia

Mohamed Sheikh Mohamud, anti-social behaviour practitioner, London Borough of Newham, independent advisor to the Metropolitan Police on race and cultural issues, Director of MIDAYNTA Project, UK/Kenya

English

'Peace Begins At Home' is the challenging theme of this learning track tackling issues of identity faced particularly by the young and the older generation.

Living as a diaspora in Europa, many people within these two generations face problems of identity: to be British or Somali, Swiss or Kosovan, French or Tunisian. There is a clash between traditional values of the homeland/country of origin and Western values. Young people are sometimes dismissed by the older generation as having little respect for traditional values and behaviour. The internet-savvy young generation, who was brought up in Europe, on the other hand regards the older generation as being out of touch with reality. This intergenerational divide causes/can cause conflict, a break-up and division within families, with profound consequences for the young and the old.

This learning track addresses such issues in providing dynamic, inter-active and participatory sessions, sharing best practice solutions to intergenerational conflict, and solutions to conflict based on personal change.

### **G) Project Development and Project Management**

Tahera Aanchawan, management development consultant, board member of Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, UK

Daniel May, management consultant, Sweden/Australia

Are you really interested in setting up and managing a project about an issue that you are very passionate about? Have you ever wondered why some projects succeed and others fail? If so, then this is the programme you should enrol on for the duration of the conference. The programme will enable you to work on the development of a project and offers an opportunity to

discuss and find solutions for the challenges in developing a project. All we require is your commitment to attend the whole programme.

#### **H) Media Ethics for Democracy and Mutual Understanding**

Bernard Margueritte, president, International Communications Forum; former 'Le Monde' correspondent for Eastern Europe, France

English

Media has a powerful capacity to encourage global awareness and thereby promote cross-cultural understanding, tolerance and acceptance of ethnic, cultural and religious differences in communities across Europe. Unfortunately, the media's potential to be a force for good can easily backfire. By disseminating messages that create and reinforce negative stereotypes and perpetuate misconceptions, some media impedes dialogue and works against mutual understanding. To identify suitable measures for encouraging constructive action, this workshop focuses on tools to confront prejudices and discrimination associated with populism and/or xenophobia and tries to establish personal, professional and/or community action planning on enhancing ethical principles in media regarding cultural diversity.

*CAUX-Initiatives of Change  
23 February 2011*