



11 Years Building a Compassionate Movement 2020 Annual Report

Compassion is a luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world and is the essential and catalytic ingredient to the creation of a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

In 2020, the Charter for Compassion's Board of Trustees reflected on the guiding document of the organization that was unveiled at the United Nations in 2009. The Board and staff collectively worked on designing a new mission and vision statement and a resolution for the next decade.

Our mission is to promote and cultivate the principle of compassion and the Compassionate Way of Life (as articulated by the **Charter for Compassion**) so that it characterizes all human society and all relationships.

We envision a world in which the darkness of suffering is healed by the light of compassionate action; in which children and adults are literate and skilled in the transformative nature and power of compassion; and in which we treat ourselves, each other, and the natural world with dignity and respect, manifesting the Golden Rule in all relationships.

Whereas, the principle of compassion is at the heart of all the world's wisdom, spiritual and ethical traditions, calling everyone to deep listening, to treat others both as we wish to be treated and as they wish to be treated. Neuroscience, evolutionary biology, and the social sciences confirm that compassion is both innate and can be cultivated.

Whereas, compassion motivates us to alleviate the suffering of others, to honor and respect all life, and to treat everyone with justice, fairness, and respect. Born of our common humanity and our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to the future of humanity.

Whereas, the world is facing a crisis of increased polarization, inequity, and hostility. At the same time, many are waking up to the prevalence of prejudice, bias, and bigotry with violence toward people of different ethnicities, cultures, and religions. Our environment is suffering in catastrophic and near irreversible ways. Now, more than ever, Compassionate Action in all sectors and areas of life is required for our future survival and the welfare of all creation.

Whereas, we know that compassion can be taught, trained, and cultivated. There are extensive resources from both ancient traditions and current science and practice that guide us in developing more compassionate souls throughout the life span. We call upon people of conscience and good will from all societies, cultures, and religions to join us in making this commitment.



The year 2020 brought the world to its knees with fear and angst as the corona virus made its way around the globe. Trips and conferences were cancelled and the Charter for Compassion immediately sprung into action. How would we help people who were stressed with the unknown or give comfort to those who were losing loved ones? How could we help parents who were suddenly at home, day after day, week after week with attempting to be caregivers and teachers at the same time? We immediately increased our Zoom capacity and started offering courses, forums and discussions. Here are some of the highlights of our efforts, reaching more than 35,000 people.

Compassionate Training for Caregivers and Children

We came together to share information and tools to help children and their adults cope with some of the big thoughts, feelings and emotions they were experiencing.

Coming Home

By seeking ways to sustain a calm and focused mind and to reach into our capacity for generosity and compassion, we fostered ways to find how to face difficult weeks ahead. We practiced processes of being mindful, compassionate and resilient.

Resiliency and Practice

The Charter for Compassion and Life University's Center for Compassion, Integrity and Secular Ethics teamed up to offer online gatherings 4 times each week to share resiliency skills and contemplative practices from Compassionate Integrity Training (CIT). These webinars offered practical self-care skills and provided a forum to connect with others from around the globe.

Compassion in a Time of a Pandemic

Organized and presented by the Australian Compassion Council, several well-known Australians were featured in a series of webinars that explored compassion across social cohesion, landscape design, ethical leadership, music, and creativity.



The time for social, emotional and ethical learning has come. –His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Education could even begin in the womb and continues as a part of us until the end of our lives. It is integral to our growth intellectually, culturally, socially, psychologically and even physically—for each of these areas of our development are intrinsically linked one to the other.

The Charter for Compassion believes that one of our primary responsibilities is to promote education for all that is based in secular ethics, social emotional learning, kindness and compassion. To that end, we continued to develop our Charter for Compassion Education Institute which offers a core group of signature courses on compassion and promotes coursework that supports curiosity, growth and compassionate action in the Charter's twelve sectors. In addition in 2020, we collaborated with our strategic partners, Compassionate Integrity Training, SEE Learning and Think Equal.

Our primary goal with Compassionate Integrity Training (CIT) was not only to offer regular classes in 2020, but to have a core group of individuals go through advanced training so we could be assured of a professional cadre of facilitators available geographically in the world. To this end we now have 20 trainers in Australia, Canada, India, Mexico and the USA.

The pandemic forced us to re-think how we could launch the SEE Learning program to our compassionate cities when the majority of schools around the globe were shuttered and teachers found themselves creating courses for on-line teaching. However, Compassionate San Antonio was able, through the support of local government, to offer CIT to educators and for participants to select SEE Learning or Think Equal following completion of CIT. The program will be repeated in 2021, and we will work to see it replicated in additional cities. Early in 2020, SEE Learning training was offered to several cadres of teachers in New Delhi, India.

In 2020, Think Equal through the efforts of Compassionate City leaders reached more than 350 schools in Mexico and Australia and almost 9,000 students. Think Equal aims to promote best practice quality education, inclusion and equality in early childhood development and works to collaborate with governments and global actors to bring this early childhood development program successfully to scale.

The Charter for Compassion's Education Institute throughout 2020 featured 15 courses attracting close to 2000 students, offered 13 Global Reads with attendees close to 75,000. We also sponsored at least one to two thematic webinars each week with a total audience of close to 100,000. Our April 5, Golden Rule Day attracted more than 31,000 and our August Webithon reached close to 115,000 people globally.



A compassionate city is an uncomfortable city! A city that is uncomfortable when anyone is homeless or hungry. Uncomfortable if every child is not loved and given rich opportunities to grow and thrive. Uncomfortable when as a community we don't treat our neighbors as we would wish to be treated.

~Karen Armstrong, Founder of the global movement, The Charter for Compassion

No single community in the world is a Compassionate Community in any abstract or formal sense, just as no community is devoid of compassion. Each community will find its own path to establishing compassion as a driving and motivating force, and each will conduct its own evaluation of what is "uncomfortable" in that community's unique culture—that is, those issues that cause pain and suffering to members of the community. For one community that discomfort may be youth violence or an epidemic of teen suicide. Another community may discover that a portion of their community—perhaps immigrants, the homeless, or an LGBTQ group—has been marginalized, harassed, or even physically threatened. Yet in another community, Botswana for example, the major discomforts may have to do with the needs of large numbers of street children orphaned by the tragedy of the AIDS epidemic, or the myriad of problems that have arisen due to the spread of the Covid virus.

Even though 2020 centered on conversations primarily through the internet, seventeen cities across the globe managed to develop the beginnings of compassionate initiatives.

Chicago, IL, USA
Downey, CA, USA
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Elk Grove, CA, USA
Funchal, Portugal
Gympie, Australia
Hervey Bay, Australia
Lafayette, LA, USA
Marina, CA, USA
Millcreek, UT, USA

Monterey County, CA, USA
Oxford, UK
Richmond, VA, USA
Santa Clarita Valley, CA,
Solvang, CA, USA
Wagga Wagga, Australia
West Sacramento, CA, USA



About Us

US



Charter for Compassion provides an umbrella for people to engage in collaborative partnerships worldwide. Our mission is to bring to life the principles articulated in the Charter for Compassion through concrete, practical action in a myriad of sectors.

Charter

Board of Trustees
Charter Staff
Grassroots Wisdom Book
Historic Moments for the Charter
Karen Armstrong
New Stories
Map of Compassion
Partners
Testimonies
Translations

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What's Next for the Charter 2021 and Beyond?



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Compassion Education Summits
Compassion Games
Contemplative Life
Elevate Compassion
Excellence Reporter
Heal the Waters
ICH (Healthcare)
United Religions Initiative (URI)

Programs

22 Day Charter for Compassion
Peace Extended
We have all learned a great deal in 2020. The Charter Education Institute will offer courses on self-compassion and care, cultural understanding and exploring new ways for taking responsibility for the future. We will also be vetting courses offered by Charter partners that will expand the Institute's core program. These potential courses are Gender Equity and Reconciliation (GERI), ProSocial, and Sound Discipline.

Charter Blog

Archived Newsletters
Charter Blog
English
We are coming to a crisis of our own making... Leaders have to take the long perspective, the seven generation perspective. Because if you take care of the future by your actions from now, you yourself will have peace. That's because if you are protecting the future, you are protecting yourself now. You benefit immediately from that. It is not about cooperation...and the time to fight for the common good. ~Chief Oren Lyons
We cannot rest comfortably if we know people are living on our streets or that children are hungry. So how does the Charter for Compassion respond to the "crisis of our own making?" This report started with our commitment to education and our plans for 2021, and hopefully decades to come, is to educate on compassion. Compassion was once thought of as a soft skill, but neuroscience is telling us differently. We are hard-wired for compassion and compassion, with discernment, is a powerful tool that can transform society. Of course, we need to start with human values, build circles of trust and cooperation, learn the true meaning and power of love and respond with compassionate action.

English

ProSocial is a comprehensive approach to help groups align interests, support cooperation and achieve shared goals. While we hope to offer the course to all of our membership, we are most concerned that we can design the offering for those individuals who are engaged in the work of our compassionate cities.

Community

Finally, in early 2020, we started an on-line dialogue with youth for the purpose of learning their concerns and discovering ways to expand the dialogue and move to compassionate action. Look for a gathering of this group in 2021.
Other Charter for Compassion offerings, the Global Read, invitations to conversations through webinars, observance of Golden Rule Day on April 5, and a fall celebration of the Charter itself through a webcast will occur.
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Handbook

What Makes a Compassionate City?
Webithon
YouTube





Make
sure
you're
following
us on
social
media
and
seeing
our
posts!