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The Spark, July 7, 2025, Edition 50

Statement from the Charter for Compassion on the Closure of USAID

July 1, 2025

Today, with deep concern and sorrow, the Charter for Compassion acknowledges the closure of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)—an institution that, for over six decades, stood as a symbol of humanitarian responsibility, international solidarity, and compassionate action.

At a time when over 700 million people around the world face hunger, when access to clean water, basic healthcare, and education remain out of reach for millions, the dismantling of USAID represents not only a bureaucratic decision—it is a moral failure. It is an abdication of our shared human responsibility to care for one another, especially those most vulnerable.

USAID was never just an agency—it was a bridge. A bridge between despair and dignity, between suffering and support, between isolation and international care. Its efforts in eradicating disease, uplifting women and girls, responding to disasters, and fostering democratic resilience have been expressions of compassion made manifest on a global scale.

To remove this lifeline is to turn away from the values of empathy, justice, and interdependence. It sends a devastating message to the world: that compassion is expendable, that aid is negotiable, and that human lives are a matter of political convenience. This is not only short-sighted—it is

ethically indefensible.

The Charter for Compassion was founded on a principle found in every major religious and spiritual tradition: to treat others as we would wish to be treated. The loss of USAID violates this moral imperative. It disproportionately affects the poor, the sick, the displaced, and the voiceless. It deepens the global inequities that compassion seeks to heal.

We call upon the conscience of the American people and the global community to see this decision for what it is: a rupture in our collective moral fabric. We urge leaders, citizens, and organizations to speak out, to organize, and to continue the work of compassionate action even in the absence of institutional support.

Let this moment awaken, not extinguish, our resolve. Let it be a call to rise—not retreat. We must not allow compassion to be shuttered by policy. We must become the compassion that is needed now more than ever.

We are the memory keepers. We are the future builders. Let us carry forward the torch that USAID once held, lighting paths of hope where darkness now threatens to fall.

— The Charter for Compassion



The Global Tapestry: Migration,

Unity, and the Charter's 7 Pillars

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[In our last newsletter](#), we introduced an important evolution in the Charter for Compassion's work: the transition from 12 sectors to 7 foundational pillars. This shift is not about abandoning our past—it's about strengthening it. By adopting the pillar format, we are grounding our future in the ethical and moral wisdom drawn from Indigenous traditions and the lived realities of our global family. These pillars reflect the holistic, interconnected way that compassion must live in our world today.

The 7 Pillars of the Charter are:

- **Education and Wisdom**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Social Justice and Social Equity**
- **Arts and Culture**
- **Environment and Climate**
- **Science and Research**
- **Spirituality and Interfaith Understanding**

Together, they offer a more integrated, values-based framework that honors both ancient knowledge and modern challenges.

As we embrace this structure, we are reminded of a central truth—one echoed across time and space:

We are all migrants. And we are all one.

[Continue Reading Here](#)

News, Programs, and Webinars



Harmony of Humanity: Exploring Common Ground Through Music with Marilyn Turkovich

Every Wednesday, through July
8am PDT / 9am MDT / 10am CDT / 11am
EDT / 4pm UTC / 5pm SAST / 8:30pm IST

Music has been an integral part of every culture throughout history, reflecting the unique characteristics and traditions of different societies. From the rhythmic beats of African drums to the intricate melodies of Indian ragas, music provides insight into the lives, histories, and identities of people around the world. By studying various musical traditions, we gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity and richness of global cultures.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



Kitchen Table Chat with the Health Sector

Friday, July 11
8:30am PDT / 9:30am MDT / 10:30am CDT
/ 11:30am EDT / 4:30pm UTC / 5:30pm
SAST / 9pm IST

Every First Friday of Every Month the Health sector invites everyone to join and share what's happening with friends in our work to elevate compassion in Health. 11th July due to USA's Independence Day.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



EdNet Forum: Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center With Usama Nicola

Thursday, July 17

**7:30am PDT / 8:30am MDT / 9:30am CDT /
10:30am EDT / 3:30pm UTC / 4:30pm SAST
/ 8pm IST**

In Arabic, "wi'am" means "cordial relationships," and developing relationships is the essence of their mission.

Learn more about this grassroots organization established in Bethlehem in 1994, Wi'am aims to improve the quality of relationships and to promote peace, justice, a culture of acceptance, and reconciliation in the community.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



Compassion Circle: The Charter Sangha

Saturday, July 26

**9am PDT / 10am MDT / 11am CDT / 12pm
EDT / 5pm UTC / 6pm SAST / 9.30pm IST**

On the last Saturday of every month, the Charter for Compassion offers a 90-minute practice of people coming together to be in a Circle, a Sangha.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



ICYMI: In Case You Missed It!

July 2

[Global Read: Gay Poems for Red States by Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.](#)

June 12

[Global Read: Why Didn't You Come Sooner? by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi](#)



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GLOBAL YOUTH Conference

COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP
FOR ACTION & IMPACT



OCTOBER 28, 29, 30, 2025

Join us for the second edition of the virtual [Charter for Compassion Global Youth Conference: Compassionate Leadership for Action & Impact](#) on October 28–30, 2025.

This year's conference will bring together a powerful collective of youth leaders, and changemakers from across the world to explore how young people are rising to meet today's challenges with empathy, courage, compassion, and a deep commitment to justice and transformation.

Through visionary ideas, purpose-driven dialogue, and collaborative leadership, this conference will equip participants to turn compassion into tangible action, locally and globally.

● **Apply to Lead a Session:** [Global Youth Conference Proposal Form](#)

We are now accepting proposals for youth-led sessions and workshops. Share your voice, your vision, and your leadership.

● **Compassionate Youth Awards**

We're honored to launch the Compassionate Youth Awards, a celebration of outstanding young changemakers who are leading with compassion and creating meaningful impact in their communities and the world. Awardees will be recognized at the Global Youth Conference.

Nominate a young leader: [Compassionate Youth Awards Nomination Form](#)

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



We are inviting you to help co-create Charter for Compassion 2.0

We want a renewed, inclusive, and forward-looking expression of compassion that honors the original vision while reflecting the urgent needs and rich diversity of our world today.

This is your invitation to take part in a global conversation.

Just as historic documents have been amended or supplemented to reflect changing realities, so too must the Charter grow—rooted in its original moral clarity, yet expansive enough to carry us forward.

Let's build the future with the same moral imagination that created the Charter in the first place.

Head to Survey



Compassionate Action Conference 2025: Replay Access Now Available!

Did you miss the live event?


Now you can watch all the powerful talks, inspiring panels, and meaningful conversations from the Compassionate Action Conference — on your own time.

For just \$10* USD, get on-demand access to the full set of replays on **RingCentral** for an entire year!

✦ Why Purchase the Replays?

- Revisit keynote speakers and thought leaders from around the globe
- Explore powerful sessions on compassion, justice, education, youth leadership, community healing, and more
- Watch anytime, from anywhere
- Support the Charter for Compassion's global work

 One-Time Fee: \$10 USD

 Platform: RingCentral (access link provided after purchase)

*If you'd like to give a bit more, you can choose any amount — every gift helps compassion grow.

(If you were a presenter, you do not have to purchase access to rewatch recordings!)

Register to Access Recordings Here

From our Partners

Statement from [September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows](#) on the U.S. Bombing of Iran

June 22, 2025

President Trump justified the June 21st bombing of Iran as "bold, decisive action against Iran — the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism." As relatives of those killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the members of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows have learned a great deal about trying to end terrorism with war. IT DOES NOT WORK. Today Afghanistan remains under the control of the Taliban, despite U.S. boots on the ground for two decades. Years of deadly military action in Iraq brought a branch of Al Qaeda to that nation where it had not previously existed. In the years following the invasion of Iraq, outrage over U.S. warfare led to the multiplication of branches of Al Qaeda throughout the Middle East and beyond.

We unequivocally condemn the U.S. decision to enter the war that Israel initiated with Iran, a war that was already dependent on a supply of U.S. weapons and fuel. The June 21st U.S. bombings violate international law and the laws of war and will further weaken the post-WWII United Nations charter order, threatening greater international chaos and conflict. At home, they further erode our Constitution, which empowers Congress, and not the President, to declare war.

Our thoughts and concerns lie with the innocent civilians of Iran, caught in an international conflict not of their making. They are and will continue to be the victims of the fighting, dying in great numbers and losing their homes and livelihoods. U.S. military aggression will profoundly hinder their striving for democracy, women's rights, and human rights.

Celebrate International Self-Compassion Day on July 19, 2025

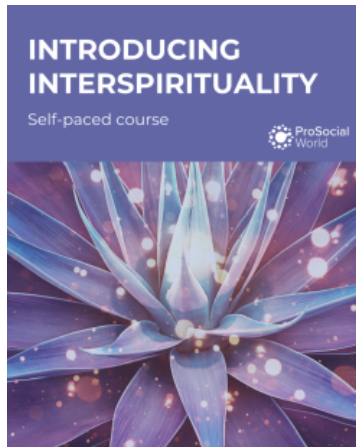
*On this day, remember
that you - too - are worthy
of care. Can you meet your
struggles with kindness in
honor of the deep humanity
that connects us all?*

Celebrate International Self-Compassion Day on July 19

Mark your calendar for [International Self-Compassion Day \(ISCD\)](https://charterforcompassion.civiplus.net/civicrm/ mailing/view?re...d=304&cid=173&cs=c0992cae950a6d2fbcce21c1bf9776c6_1751869405_168) on
Saturday, July 19, 2025!

Created by the Center for [Mindful Self-Compassion](#) in 2024, ISCD celebrates the proven power of self-compassion and honors the strengths, challenges, and common humanity that connect us across cultures and continents.

[Find Resources and Learn More Here](#)



New Virtual, Self-Paced Course: Introducing Interspirituality with ProSocial Spirituality

Are you seeking a deeper spiritual connection?

ProSocial Spirituality blends scientific wisdom with spiritual traditions to create meaningful transformation. Start your journey on your own time with our introductory self-paced course. This course explores Wayne Teasdale's Nine Elements of Universal Spirituality, providing a self-paced journey for personal growth and inner transformation.

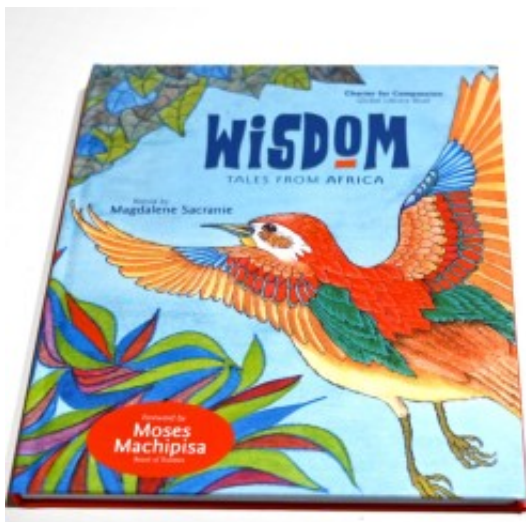
[Learn More and Register Here](#)

If you are a Partner organization, or belong to a registered Compassionate City/Community with us, and want to promote your events in The Spark, the Charter for Compassion's newsletter, email contact@charterforcompassion.org



*If you'd like to be featured in the LIVE show,
email felipe@charterforcompassion.org*

Featured items on the Store



Wisdom Tales: Tales from Africa (Hard Cover)

US\$25

Wisdom Tales from Africa is an anthology of stories drawn from several African traditions. Wisdom stories were traditionally told by the elders of the group, and besides being a wonderful source of entertainment, they served to emphasize the consequences of certain behavior.

[Buy Book Here](#)



Compassion It Wristbands - Family package

US\$30

5 sets of wristbands. (10 total)

Take advantage of this package deal and save on your order!

[Shop Wristbands Here](#)





Charter for Compassion, 2025

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