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**The Spark, July 28, 2025, Edition 51**

## **The Charter for Compassion Calls Out to End the Genocide in Gaza**

There is still hope. On July 24, in central train stations in multiple cities in the Netherlands, citizens staged sit-ins to protest the deliberate starvation and ongoing genocide in Gaza. These acts of courage, participated in by our Charter partners and in particular, Let Love Rule Peace Tree organizers, are beacons of moral clarity in a world that too often remains silent in the face of atrocity.

Each of us has watched in anguish as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and across Palestine deepens by the day. Many of us are doing what we can within our own circles and organizations—but when we ask ourselves: Is it enough? Clearly, it is not.

As members of the Charter for Compassion community, we are committed to a world rooted in justice, equity, and shared humanity. We cannot stand by and be silent. We cannot be neutral in the face of genocide. It is time to act—together, publicly, and powerfully.

Credible reports from Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, Amnesty International, and the UN Human Rights Council confirm that between 150 and 250 Palestinians are being killed each day. Thousands more face displacement, starvation, and trauma. These are not statistics—they are children, parents, elders. They are people, and they are us.

**We believe, as the late U.S. Congressman and civil rights hero John Lewis taught us, that we must get into good trouble, necessary**

**trouble to uphold justice. Now is such a time.**

### **What Can We Do?**

We call on all members of our global network to rise in coordinated, compassionate resistance:

- Organize local sit-ins and peaceful demonstrations in high-traffic areas to bear witness and demand action.
- Host teach-ins and public conversations—online or in-person—to inform your communities of the historical context and current crisis.
- Flood the offices of elected officials—with emails, calls, and in-person visits—to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire and full humanitarian access to Gaza.
- Create or join letter-writing campaigns to media outlets and political leaders urging them to name the genocide and speak out. Insist that our local, regional, national news outlets broadcast the news accurately and fully.
- Engage faith communities, civic organizations, and schools to stand in moral solidarity and take visible, public positions.  
Support relief organizations providing medical care, food, and shelter on the ground.
- Amplify Palestinian voices through art, music, storytelling, and social media. Do not let the world look away.
- Silence is complicity. We must not allow compassion to be passive. It must be active, it must be loud, and it must be global.

From The Netherlands to Nairobi, from Santiago to San Francisco—let us rise. Let us push beyond comfort and convenience. Let us remember that compassion, in its truest form, is courageous.

**Let us get into necessary trouble—for the sake of peace, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of our shared humanity.**

**- The Charter for Compassion**



## Facing Fear with Compassion

Fear is not a stranger. It walks with us daily, sometimes as a helpful guide — the kind that warns us not to step too close to the edge or reminds us to lock our doors at night. However, there is another kind of fear that looms larger, more oppressive. It creeps in unannounced, catching in our throats, constricting our breath, whispering that nothing is safe, that everything might unravel.

Right now, many of us are carrying this second kind of fear — not just for ourselves, but for the world. In the United States, we wake up wondering what fresh dilemma might unfold.

Will another child be separated from their family by an immigration policy too blunt to recognize humanity?

Will someone we've known for decades — a neighbor, a friend, a teacher — be detained or deported?

We tune into the news and are devastated by images and stories from Gaza, of children who have done nothing to deserve the suffering inflicted on them. We read about Sudan, where families flee through gunfire, leaving behind everything they've known.

According to UNHCR, over 130 million people are now forcibly displaced — a number too vast to comprehend, yet each person part of the same human story.

**What do we do with this fear — not just the personal kind, but the planetary kind?**

**How do we respond when we feel helpless, overwhelmed, or paralyzed by grief and uncertainty?**

One answer lies in...

[Continue Reading Here](#)

## News, Programs, and Webinars



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

**Last Session, Wednesday, July 30!**

**We'll be back in September**

**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, August 1**

**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.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



## Nuclear Prayer Day

### UNFORGETTABLE FIRE ONLINE EVENT

**Wednesday, August 6th**

#### **PROGRAM RUNS TWICE**

**8am PDT / 11am EDT / 4pm UTC / 5pm SAST / 8:30pm IST**

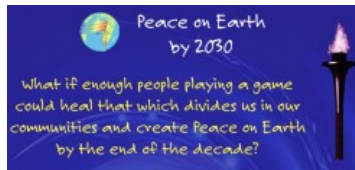
**1:45pm PDT / 4:45pm EDT / 9:45pm UTC (Aug 7) 6:45am AEST / 8:45am NZST**

Join us for a powerful virtual gathering honoring the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima. This special event will include a Synchronized Global Silent Minute, and the presentation of Unforgettable Fire—a moving multimedia program inspired by U2's iconic album and the artwork of atomic bomb survivors. Blending music, survivor testimonies, visual art, and historical reflection, this hour-long experience invites us to remember, reflect, and recommit to a peaceful future.

The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing will also present the Voices 2025 Youth Award, recognizing the next generation of peacebuilders.

Let us gather across time zones and borders to honor memory, awaken empathy, and kindle the flame of peace.

[Register Here](#)



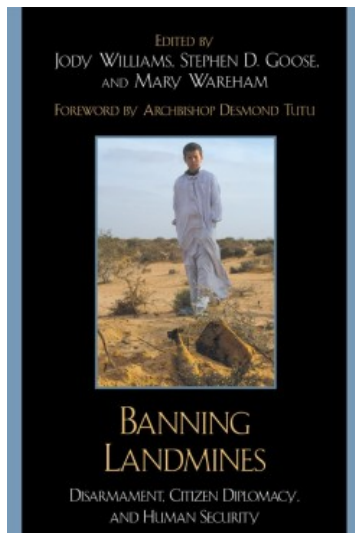
## Peace Game Info Meeting

**Wednesday, August 13**

**5pm PDT / 6pm MDT / 7pm CDT / 8pm EDT  
/ 5:30am IST / 10am AEST / 12pm NZST**

Join David Gershon, architect of the Peace Game and Peace on Earth by 2030 movement, who will share the vision and practices for achieving Peace on Earth by 2030, and how you can participate through playing the Peace Game.

[To Learn More, Register Here](#)



## Global Read: Banning Landmines with Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams

**Wednesday, August 13**

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

Banning Landmines: Disarmament, Citizen Diplomacy, and Human Security looks at accomplishments and setbacks in the crucial first decade of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

Edited by Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and two other long-time leaders of the mine ban movement, Stephen Goose and Mary Wareham, Banning Landmines features contributions by grassroots activists, diplomatic negotiators, mine survivors, arms experts, and human rights defenders.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)





## Allies in Action: New Zealand & Australia Chat

**Wednesday, August 20**  
**7am AEDT/9am NZDT**  
**(Tuesday, August 19, 2pm PDT)**

**Calling all our Allies in Australia and New Zealand!**

At this gathering, we aim to foster meaningful conversations, exchange innovative ideas, and address any concerns that you may have. Together, we can harness the power of collaboration to create tangible change at the local, national, and global levels **in Australia and New Zealand!**

Join us as we unite our efforts, share our experiences, and ignite inspiration to drive positive impact in our communities and beyond.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



## Allies in Action: USA Chat

**Wednesday, August 20**  
**3pm PDT / 4pm MDT / 5pm CDT / 6pm EDT**

**Calling all our Allies in the USA!**

At this gathering, we aim to foster meaningful conversations, exchange innovative ideas, and address any concerns that you may have. Together, we can harness the power of collaboration to create tangible change at the local, national, and global levels **in the USA!**

Join us as we unite our efforts, share our experiences, and ignite inspiration to drive positive impact in our communities and beyond.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)





## Allies in Action: UK Chat

**Tuesday, August 26**  
**5pm BST / 9am PDT**

**Calling all our Allies in the United Kingdom!**

At this gathering, we aim to foster meaningful conversations, exchange innovative ideas, and address any concerns that you may have. Together, we can harness the power of collaboration to create tangible change at the local, national, and global levels **in the UK!**

Join us as we unite our efforts, share our experiences, and ignite inspiration to drive positive impact in our communities and beyond.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



## Compassion Circle: The Charter Sangha

**Saturday, August 30**  
**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](#)



**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, featuring special programming by [KidsRights](#) through their [State of Youth Program](#) on October 30, bringing powerful energy to our closing day.**

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 are 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 2025.

**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](#)



### ***Joanna Macy 1929 - 2025***

*Being fully present to fear, to gratitude, to all that is—this is the practice of mutual belonging. As living members of the living body of Earth, we are grounded in that kind of belonging. Even when faced with cataclysmic changes, nothing can ever separate us from Earth. We are already home.*  
- Joanna Macy

With gratitude, we remember Joanna Macy who passed away last Saturday at age 96.

We were fortunate enough to have this Charter friend as our guest author in our [Global Read webinar in July 2020](#).

[Re-Watch her Global Read Here](#)



## **It's still very fresh and needs lots more content to be uploaded, but...**

We have created our own Substack! It's still fresh and needs plenty of more content to be uploaded, but if you are active in this platform, we invite you to become a subscriber.

[Visit the Charter for Compassion's Substack Here](#)

## **From our Partners**



## Let Love Rule Peace Tree Festival in Amsterdam

What does the world need most, right now?  
Peace, Love and Compassion!

Join in the Let Love Rule Peace march.  
Indigenous leaders from all over the world will lead the ceremony as the first Let Love Rule Peace Tree will be planted in the Fruittuin van West, (a park in Amsterdam).

Next to the tree a Peace Pole will be placed, with the text May Peace Prevail on Earth in eight languages; a gift from the International Charter for Compassion and the Uplifting Ubuntu Project. Representatives

[Learn More Here](#)



## The 9th Annual Interfaith Awareness Week: "Celebrate & Connect"

### August 10-16

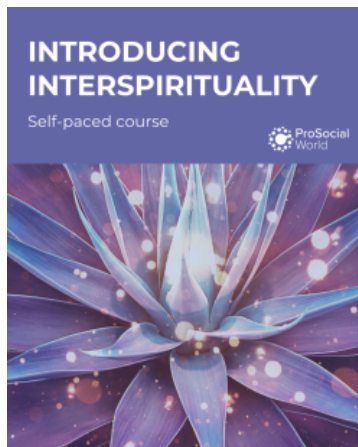
We invite you to join our partner **World Interfaith Network** for this engaging 7- day celebration of interfaith activities in August.

Merida and Steve from the Charter for Compassion are hosting A **Compassion Circle: The Charter Sangha** on **Friday August 15th at 10am PDT**. We'd love to see you there or at any of these offerings.

This program is informative only at present. Please continue to monitor the website <https://world-interfaith.com> for the live links to be added and to be able to register.



Check out this Year's Programming



## 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](mailto:contact@charterforcompassion.org)*



## WATCH CHARTER LIVE WITH FELIPE

EVERY THURSDAY AT

FRIDAY FRIDAY

11 AM PST / 8 PM CET / 12.30 AM IST / 6 AM AEDT

ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

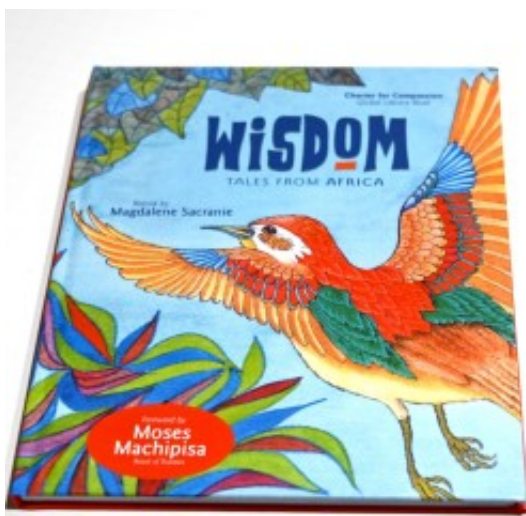







*If you'd like to be featured in the LIVE show,  
email [felipe@charterforcompassion.org](mailto:felipe@charterforcompassion.org)*

## 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.

[Shop Deal](#)



### **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](#)



Charter for Compassion, 2025

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Charter for Compassion  
PO Box 10787  
Bainbridge Island, Washington  
98110