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Charter for Compassion

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The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

The best idea humanity has ever had...

56,626 have affirmed the Charter so far.

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Each additional name makes the compassionate voice a more potent force in the world. Let us make the silent majority a challenge to extremism and hate. Become a part and [affirm the Charter](#) »

The charter has been translated into more than 30 languages.

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Focus on Compassion



The World Cup of Compassion

Rev. Peter Storey reflects on compassion in South Africa. [Link »](#)

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Salman Ahmad

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Pakistan
People around the world are adding their name to the Charter. [View all names »](#)



Her Majesty Queen Noor

Repairing and Donating Bikes
Minnesota
Isabel Allende

Everyone is invited to share acts of compassion they've performed or experienced. View all acts and add your own. [View all acts »](#)



Partners
Charter has over 100 partners committed to the ideals of the Charter and who work around the world in the name of compassion. [View all partners »](#)



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Act with compassion

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