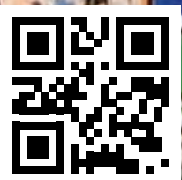




GUERRAND-HERMÈS FOUNDATION
FOR PEACE

Annual Report
2013



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Foreword

Reflecting on the GHFP's activities in 2013, I can see how much the work of the foundation has been inspired by the idea that wisdom can only come through the development of consciousness. This idea links many aspects of life, as well as our work in the GHFP. For instance, in order that education be really holistic, it must reach a person's capacity to be conscious of his or her own thoughts, motivations and feelings. If young people are distracted or frustrated, they need to know why. To discover how to learn better, students need to be able to recognise their talents, interests and passions. An integral part of the process of learning how to learn is the development of one's self-awareness.

In the peace work of the GHFP, there is a similar message. We find that the human capacity to forgive and to embrace others requires a change in our awareness, which begins with the willingness to free oneself from the burdens of past suffering and to see the violence of others from a different perspective and with greater understanding. If forgiveness is the plant that bears peace and reconciliation as its fruit then the seed is self-consciousness and willingness.

When it is guided by appropriate values, the development of consciousness can be called 'wisdom'. The transformations that I am referring to involve an ability to be conscious, free from one's current moods, problems and feelings, it is, in a way, spiritual. It involves something like ascension of the human spirit. It is for this reason that the GHFP draws much inspiration from spiritual practices and wisdom of religion. This is something that we ourselves are trying to understand better.

What I have described, which has been so important to our work in 2013, is also part of the learning that we have gained from our many partners and friends around the world. I find it very heart-warming that people from diverse backgrounds and with distinct interests should express similar understandings, albeit in different words. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our partners, supporters and co-workers from whom we have learned much.



Simon Xavier Guerrand-Hermès
Chairman of the Board



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Fostering solidarity and harmony between people



The GHFP's work in this area focuses on creating spaces for new forms of encounter and dialogue. We recognise that dialogue requires compassionate listening within safe and non-judgmental spaces and the engagement of the whole person. We believe that such interactions can enhance mutual understanding, respect between people and harmony in society.

In 2013 we created dialogic spaces in a number of international events convened, organised and sponsored by the GHFP, in collaboration with our partners. These included the 'Healing the Wounds of History Programme' in Lebanon and Rwanda, an international 'Colloquium on Forgiveness' and an 'International Seminar on Healing, Forgiveness and Reconciliation'. We also collaborated with partners in preparing for the second Spirit of Humanity Forum which will take place in Reykjavik, Iceland in April 2014.



Healing the Wounds of History Programme

Fragile states, post-conflict nations and divided societies continue to be threatened by further violence due to the fact that harmonious relations between peoples, groups and communities prove to be a major challenge despite conventional peace-building efforts.

Thus the GHFP's Healing the Wounds of History (HWH) Programme has been developed to respond to the need to build solidarity amongst people and communities by addressing the deeper roots of violence. We recognise that cycles of violence may originate in grievances held long before our time and handed down from generation to generation. Unless there are active healing processes to help remove the 'stings' in our memories through forgiveness and compassion, these historical wounds, compounded by perceived injustice, will continue to serve as impulses for violence. Thus, our HWH work aims to first build an awareness of these trans-generational transmissions of trauma, and then support individuals and groups in their journeys of healing and transformation.

www.healingwoundsofhistory.org

HWH Training in Lebanon

In 2013, in collaboration with the Fetzer Institute and the Centre for Lebanese Studies, the GHFP helped introduce two HWH training sessions in Lebanon. The first training session was based on the ESPERE (Hope) model, originally designed and developed by Leonel Naváez, director of Fundación Para la Reconciliación in Colombia. It is a step-by-step group-based programme for healing and developing solidarity amongst people.

The ESPERE workshop took place in June at the American University in Beirut, and was led by Dr Eileen Borris, supported by Alexandra Asseily, one of the GHFP's Trustees. There were 25 participants, including NGO professionals, facilitators, teachers and educational administrators. The GHFP led the initial evaluation and the feedback collected from the participants highlighted the following features of the workshop that are conducive to the participants' experience of transformation:

- (a) the safety in a small group which was the basis for opening up for sharing and for bonding with one another;
- (b) the sharing and attending to each other's stories which enabled the participants to also see things from the perspectives of the Other;
- (c) collective wisdom through deep listening, reciprocal learning, and
- (d) the opportunity to experience and express one's deep emotions.



In December another 3-day HWH workshop took place in Bsous, Beirut. This time, it was led by Matthew Pruen and Alexandra Asseily, and attended by 25 NGO professionals, teachers, students and peace workers. The workshop was particularly concerned with unearthing deeply rooted prejudices in our identities so that we can begin to reframe/rethink the "self", humanise the Other and develop solidarity with people. Feedback from the participants suggested that they appreciated the experiential nature of the workshop activities and the opportunity to experience and try out some of the 'tools' in both of their personal and professional life.



HWH Training in Rwanda

In June 2013 the GHFP initiated a pilot ESPERE Workshop in collaboration with the Rwandan National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC). The NURC is dedicated to developing a programme for healing the wounds of history in Rwanda and creating a culture of unity and solidarity in the country.

This workshop was led by Matthew Magak who is an experienced ESPERE trainer from Kenya and has been a long term associate of Fundación Para La Reconciliación in Colombia. After the pilot workshop, feedback was received from the Rwandan participants and an advisory group was formed in order to adapt the ESPERE programme to meet Rwandan needs.



Other HWH Work

In 2013 the GHFP launched a research project aimed at investigating how the individuals' political views and personal identity are shaped by their experiences and memories of the past. Our first exploratory investigation was conducted in Hungary through a series of open conversations with individuals and focus groups.



Forgiveness, Healing and Reconciliation

As part of our peace-related work, the GHFP supports and sponsors ongoing events and projects that aim to explore the relationship between forgiveness, healing and reconciliation within the broad theme of Peace.

This year, in collaboration with the Fetzer Institute and the Museum of World Religions, the GHFP co-sponsored and participated in the 'Forgiveness Colloquium', which took place in October in Birmingham, UK. The Colloquium highlighted the moral complexities of forgiveness and created an opportunity to discuss more deeply the difficult issues involved in forgiveness.

At the GHFP's Research Centre in Brighton, an international 'Seminar on Forgiveness, Healing and Reconciliation' took place, led by Dr Jean Baptiste



Habyalimana, the Executive Secretary of Rwanda National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC). Ten invited international experts in the field participated in the seminar and engaged in dialogue and conversations on critical questions around the topic. The proceedings of this seminar are available on www.ghfp.info.

To deepen our understanding of the healing and reconciliation process through forgiveness, this year the GHFP continued to support the work of Casa de Paz and Fundación Para Reconciliación in Colombia. Both organisations focus on cultivating a culture of peace in the re-construction of a post-conflict Colombia at local and national level.

Similarly, the GHFP sponsored the Mizero Foundation's ongoing endeavour to promote forgiveness as an important path for healing and reconciliation in Rwanda. With our support, the Founder and Director of the Mizero Foundation, Jean Paul Samputu, was able to travel to different international conferences and TEDX events so that he could share his personal stories of forgiveness and healing more widely. Part of the Mizero's ambition is to educate youth about the need for forgiveness. To this end, Jean Paul has written a theme song for the 20th commemoration of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide in 2014.

Spirit of Humanity Forum

Following the success of the inaugural 'Spirit of Humanity Forum' in September 2012, this year the GHFP worked with partners to plan and develop a second Forum to be held in April 2014. The vision and mission of the 'Spirit of Humanity Forum' (SOH) is twofold: on the broader level, it is a global partnership of organisations, communities and individuals, committed to improving the condition of the world and those who live in it; and the Forum itself aims to create a safe space for self-exploration and dialogue amongst leaders.

The title of the 2nd Forum is 'The Power of Love and Compassion in Governance - Sharing Actions for Effective Change'. It aims to bring together 250 leaders from fields such as education, social work, health, business, peace-building and the arts, to share insights into how to integrate core human values in decision-making processes and governance. The idea is to identify an institutional structure that is more humanising.

www.sohforum.org



Inter-religious understanding for peace

In 2013 the GHFP continued to sponsor the publication of literature on spirituality. We also support inter-religious dialogue events, such as the entirely youth-led annual Jewish-Muslim Conference.

Supporting spiritual growth through publications

In 2013 the GHFP has continued to support the translation and publishing of the words of Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo, a Javanese spiritual leader and the founder of Subud, whose talks explore the ways in which inter-religious spiritual experiences can have application in our everyday lives. The translation and publication of the series of "Bapak's Talks" include English, Russian, Portuguese and French editions, which are shared by a worldwide readership.

Similarly, the GHFP also sponsored the online publication of Subud Voice, an international magazine that focuses on the activities of the worldwide Subud communities, including sharing the progress of projects undertaken by Subud members in diverse fields, such as business, the arts, social welfare and other areas. Subud Voice intends to offer a platform to illustrate how human activities in both personal and public domains can be enriched and deepened by our spiritual life.

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Muslim Jewish Conference

The GHFP has been supporting the 'Muslim Jewish Conference' (MJC) since the inception of the Conference. The MJC conference institutionalises a space for constructive and profound encounters between Muslim and Jewish young people. The GHFP continues to support the MJC because these young people represent a new generation of thinkers, actors and collaborators, who are connected by their faith in the possibility of a new era of global cooperation. The MJC team is entirely made up of young people from both communities who are determined to foster constructive dialogue.

In June 2013 the fourth edition of MJC was held in Sarajevo. The agenda was designed around themes concerning conflict transformation. The diverse range of discussion catered to a wide audience, and allowed for a productive intermingling of both passionate amateurs and dedicated experts.

www.mjconference.de

Interfaith directory

In 2013, the GHFP finalised a searchable online interactive database of the world's interreligious organisations. The Directory presents a great starting point for any wider research or enquiry concerning interfaith and interreligious dialogue and action. In addition to an interactive map showing the locations of the listed organisations, the portal also includes search tools to help users explore the database, and other resources about interfaith activities and associated concepts.

The next step for the project is to actively encourage organisations and institutions to use the database, invite more entries and promote collaborations across borders.

www.interfaithdirectory.org



Humanitas visiting professorship

Humanitas is a series of Visiting Professorships at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge intended to bring leading practitioners and scholars to address major themes that are important for the world today. The GHFP has been sponsoring the Humanitas Visiting Professorship in Interfaith Studies.

The 2013 Humanitas Visiting Professor in Interfaith Studies was Prof Abdou Filali-Ansary, the founding director of the Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (2002-2009). Professor Filali-Ansary offered a lecture series and symposia on 'Beyond Apologetics: Approaching Religious Traditions through Modern Disciplines'.

The Wisdom Project

The Wisdom Project promotes students' spiritual and moral development through engagement with religious and non-religious traditions and worldviews. It aims to provide a rich encounter experience for young people of 16-18 years of age. Through participating in the Wisdom Project, young people will find themselves asking: "Who am I?", "Which path in life is right for me?", "Am I living a good life?".

In 2013, with help from a grant from the GHFP, the Wisdom Project offered an intensive Summer Retreat where young people took part in a demanding, yet enriching, opportunity to stop and contemplate topics of importance.

The Project team facilitated a safe space for young people to get to know each other, reflect on the otherness and learn to appreciate differences in beliefs, worldview and practices. Through dialogue and reflection, young people learn more about what is good, wise and worthy of heeding in the world's great belief systems.

www.thewisdomproject.me

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Education for human flourishing

An important goal of the GHFP's work is to understand how education can enable individuals to live a more meaningful life. We are particularly interested in exploring the educational values, principles and practices necessary for nurturing the growth of the whole person, which help children and young people become more dignified as human beings, able to care for and respect one another and the world around them.

Through research, publications, conferences, workshops, seminars and project support, the GHFP strives to promote an education that prioritises human flourishing which is connected to the thriving of communities.



Human-Centred Education

Following the publication of the GHFP's book on Human-Centred Education (HCE), we have received enquiries on the practical implementation of HCE within mainstream education. This has also led to the translation of the book from English to Spanish, making it accessible for our partner schools in Colombia and Mexico.

Our research team also presented the HCE vision and human-centred approaches to teaching and learning in several international conferences in China, Qatar, Colombia, Mexico and the UK. We also advised the UPAEP (Universidad Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla) in Mexico with regard to the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Ph.D. program in Human Well-Being and Development, which will include a focus on human-centred education.

www.humancentrededucation.com



... the growth of the whole person, which help children and young people become more dignified as human beings, able to care for and respect one another...

Supporting worldwide schools and educational projects

The GHFP is committed to supporting a number of schools in different parts of the world, whose teaching and learning practices embody a vision of human-centred education. Our grants and sponsorships have allowed these schools to continue providing a unique educational experience to children, adults and others in the community.

Colegio Amor (The School of Love) in Colombia

Colegio Amor was founded in 1988 in Soacha, close to Bogotá, now a growing satellite city. The school works with the students and their families to promote peace and well-being in the wider community. Colegio Amor, as its name suggests, is a 'School of Love'. As well as offering the children an exciting and broad academic curriculum, the school also focuses on meeting children's fundamental human needs, which include providing food, protection, love and respect to all its students. It encourages children and young people to develop the skills and awareness that will help protect them from the damaging effects of social instability and violent displacement.

The GHFP has continued its support to Colegio Amor in order to build on and strengthen the social benefits of its educational programmes. These include entrepreneurial courses that enable young people to learn vocational skills and prepare for a more sustainable life after leaving school, psychological counselling to resolve the traumas left by social deprivation and arts and music activities that aim at nurturing children's sense of identity and creativity.

Bina Cita Utama School in Indonesia

Bina Cita Utama School (BCU) is located in an innovative international Subud community, called Rungan Sari, outside Palangkaraya in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.



The name 'Bina Cita Utama' means to nurture ideals, hopes and ambitions. Founded in 2005, the BCU has a mixed pupil population including Indonesians, local Dayak children and children from expatriate families. This mix offers an ideal multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith environment, and the school takes the opportunity to encourage the children to respect and appreciate differences.

Thus, in addition to providing high quality learning experiences, the school also aims to create a culture of peace within the local community.



In 2013, with the GHFP's support, BCU has developed an effective Anti-Bullying Programme which is being introduced and implemented by other schools in the region.

www.bcuschool.com



Lewes New School in England

Founded by a group of parents who lived in South-East England in 1999, the Lewes New School (LNS) is renowned for its strength as a learning community. It seeks to encourage children to find and express their true spirit by creating a range of learning opportunities that accommodate different dispositions and learning preferences. Teaching and learning at the LNS feature a holistic approach, and is situated within trusting relationships between the children and adults. Children are valued for being themselves and at the same time as members of a community. In this way, a child can develop a love for learning and an innate sense of self-worth and belonging, which is essential for a joyful and meaningful life.

In 2013 the GHFP sponsored the school's exploration of innovative teaching and learning practices that explicitly support an educational ethos centred on the holistic well-being and development of the child.

www.lewesnewschool.co.uk

Livelihood for human development

The GHFP is interested in a positive view of development that stresses possibilities rather than problems. 'Livelihood' is our preferred term, emphasising the dignity of work in contributing to overall human development.

Our work in the area of livelihood focuses on identifying innovative approaches for sustainable development, including stimulating entrepreneurial spirit and promoting value-based governance.



Human-centred development in Kalimantan

For a number of years, through a partnership with Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS), an Indonesian NGO dedicated to improving the quality of life of the villagers, the GHFP has been exploring sustainable value-based governance in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. YTS helps rural communities to participate in local governance through the development of village plans that identify needs, which are to be included in municipal planning.

The fruit of this research was the International Conference on 'Sustainability, Governance and Human Centred Development' held on 10th April 2013 in Rungan Sari, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Co-sponsored by the GHFP, YTS, Ford Foundation, Susila Dharma International and other local partners, the conference created an opportunity for development experts, local NGOs and other key players to come together and envision effective strategies

towards more sustainable change in local communities. Amongst the participants, was the Governor of Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. Taking a participatory and visionary approach, the conference applied an interactive format, featuring small group discussions and experiential workshops.



International Child Development Programme

For a number of years, the GHFP has supported the work of the International Child Development Programme (ICDP). ICDP is based on the idea that we are all living in relationships with each other and the quality of these relationships decides how we feel, cope and develop. Humans' social nature also suggests that we are particularly vulnerable when we are deprived of social relationships, as is often the case for institutionalised children. With this understanding the ICDP aims to restore and revive normal human caring interaction, especially in poor and underprivileged communities. This not only applies to care for babies and young children but also to adults and the elderly.

In 1993 the ICDP's psychosocial intervention programme was evaluated by the Division for Mental Health of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva. The programme was later adopted and its manual published as a WHO document. ICDP has also established close cooperation with UNICEF in several countries, especially with UNICEF Colombia. Now the ICDP will be included in the curriculum for students studying for a Masters degree in Child Psychology at Oslo University.

www.icdp.info



Human-centred approach to justice

Dr Livingston Armytage, Director of the Centre for Judicial Studies in Australia, has more than 35 years of experience in consulting and directing programs of judicial education. In 2013 Dr. Armytage joined the GHFP as a Visiting Research Fellow and focused his research on developing policy papers to provide insight into a human-centred approach to justice. Expanding from key ideas set out in his book 'Reforming Justice', Dr Armytage wrote a think-piece which serves the basis for ongoing GHFP's discussion on justice reform with interlocutors, development agencies and reform practitioners. He also analysed and reported on emerging insights into justice reform, based on his experience in Nepal, to assist Dalit women to seek justice and protect their human rights.

Supporting the work of Susila Dharma International Association

Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) has been a long-term partner of the GHFP, and we have supported its educational projects, grassroots activities, participatory development and humanitarian initiatives. In 2012/2013 the GHFP supported a Media Project which focused on reporting the social, economic, political and other challenges faced by the communities that the SDIA projects serve. The Media Project "tells the story" visually of how the different project activities have empowered these local communities to address their various challenges.



GHFP research into well-being

The GHFP's well-being research aims to explore how a person appreciates the value of the activities and processes that constitute, in part, his/her good life or well-being. This research has three parts: Part One develops a theory of well-being; Part Two reports on our empirical work, which takes a life history and narrative approach in order to encourage the participants to reflect on their life as a whole and their perspectives on their experiences of well-being; Part Three is constructive critique of social policy informed by the theoretical and empirical parts. The in-depth interviews carried out in this research will serve as an important empirical data base for further exploring human values in the individual's lived experiences and how one might pursue a good life.



... aims to explore how a person appreciates the value of the activities and processes that constitute...

Selected publications in 2013

In 2013 the GHFP's research team completed three major publications.



“Education as Humanisation: Dialogic Pedagogy in Post-Conflict Peace-building”

Special Issue of the Journal of International and Comparative Education, Volume 44, Issue 1, due out in January 2014.

In the context of post-conflict and divided societies working towards building peace, it has been widely recognised that education can play a critical part in either fermenting community division or in assisting socio-political change leading to the reconstruction of community relationships. Reinstating humanisation as both the aim and process of education in post-conflict peace-building is a compelling vision at present, especially when the role of education is perceived as controversial, and the pressure for economic growth and recovery tends to drive education towards a more impoverished model. We believe that promoting dialogic pedagogy can help to ensure that individuals and communities can become more aware of those beliefs and practices that perpetuate a system of control, oppression and dehumanisation in order to transform them. Thus this Special Issue will help educational thinkers, researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and NGO workers re-examine some of the key concepts in peace-building education to identify hopeful approaches and pedagogic strategies, especially in terms of how they may present new ways to meet global, regional and national challenges relating to societal divisions.

“Critical Narrative as Pedagogy”

Co-authored by Scherto Gill and Ivor Goodson, published by Bloomsbury Academic, due out in early 2014.

In this book Scherto and Ivor expound a theory of critical narrative by analysing and discussing trans-disciplinary literature as well as case studies in diverse contexts of learning. They maintain that narrative is not just a rich and profound way for humans to make sense of their lives, but is, of itself, a process of pedagogical encounter for learning and transformation. As pedagogic sites, life narratives can allow the individual to critically examine their ‘scripts’ which are encapsulated in their lived experience, thought process, discourses, beliefs and values. The book thus demonstrates how critical narratives can help educators and students shift from participating in education as a disenfranchised tradition to engaging in education as humanisation and empowerment.

“Redefining Religious Education: Spirituality and Human Flourishing”

Co-edited by Scherto Gill and Garrett Thomson, published by Palgrave Macmillan, due out in early 2014.

This volume is dedicated to the proposition that religious education should be directed primarily (but not exclusively) towards the spiritual insofar as it is part of a flourishing human life. The proposal was originally put forward at an international symposium on the theme ‘Religion, Spirituality and Education for Human Flourishing’. Convened jointly by the GHFP and the UN Alliance of Civilisations in February 2012 in Marrakech, Morocco, the Symposium drew together religious leaders, spiritual practitioners, policy makers and educationalists in an attempt to redefine religious education in the way described above. This volume is a collection of selected articles presented at the Symposium.

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The GHFP's MISSION

The mission of the GHFP is to promote the development of qualities that are needed for peace and a sustainable human future.

In order to initiate and facilitate processes that bring people towards understanding, compassion and personal growth, the Foundation creates quiet, safe and open spaces for dialogue, education and communication. Such spaces contribute to the resolution of strategically important problems and to the development of human potential in a spirit of optimism and realism.

The Foundation works as a learning organisation, investigating areas of human concern in order to identify key questions that promote dialogue and discussion. Such communication in turn facilitates new understandings and transformations inspired by core values.

The GHFP's AREAS OF CONCERN

- The fostering of peace and harmony between people.
- The promotion of inter-religious understanding through dialogue and the deepening of individual religious and spiritual experience.
- The provision of education and experiences for the development of the full potential of each person, including the stimulation of an entrepreneurial spirit that enables people to use their talents to improve the quality of their lives and of those around them.
- The seeking of innovative solutions to the problems of poverty and injustice and to the need for sustainable development and transformation.



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