



Global leaders unite to promote dignity of all human beings

On Thursday, 20 October 2011, Global Dignity Day events will be held in over 50 countries on every continent around the world. This event is a global demonstration of the inspirational and inclusive power of dignity.

On this day, Young Global Leaders and volunteers will speak to young people around the world in an effort to instill and inspire a new, more positive, inclusive and interconnected language and value proposition for their lives, as they grow into adulthood.

Global Dignity originated in Norway in 2006 and began as a powerful idea, inspired by concerned global citizens and members of the Forum of Young Global Leaders. The three co-founders are His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, Professor Pekka Himanen of Finland and John Bryant Hope of the United States of America.

The founders have worked with many other Young Global Leaders from around the world hosting “Dignity Days” in local communities, schools, and teaching “A course in Dignity” to young people. They came to the conclusion that in this world, which is divided by religion, race, cultural boundaries and political ideologies, dignity is something everyone can agree on, irrespective of our differences.

The mission of Global Dignity is to implement the universal right of every human being to lead a dignified life. We all have the ability to increase the dignity of others and thereby we increase our own dignity. Dignity resides in each of us, despite the obstacles we face.

This year, Global Dignity has organised events with world leaders and opinion leaders in over 40 countries. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, who joined the Global Dignity Honorary Board, will be a featured speaker at the inaugural Global Dignity Forum in Helsinki, Finland on Wednesday, 19 October 2011.

The speakers will share their personal views and experiences on dignity. The event will provide an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and thoughts about dignity and tolerance. Hundreds of students have been invited to participate and hear each others' thoughts on dignity and leadership.

In 2011, MOT South Africa, a non-profit and public benefit organisation, specialising in the teaching of life-skills and the showing of courage amongst the youth, partnered with Global Dignity. Educators from the Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges in the Western Cape were trained in the Global Dignity methodology to create awareness and understanding of dignity and to strengthen the value of dignity amongst their students.

The methodology includes conversations about what dignity means to them and how dignity can be a basic guiding principle for their choices and actions. A dignifying society is about the ability to identify with the lives of others, respect, tolerance and how we can do more to strengthen each others' dignity.

Released by Wanda Möller

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Inclusive power of Global Dignity



Photo (from left): At the Global Dignity training in South Africa; Jacqueline Layman from False Bay College, Rhazia Hamza from West Coast College, Wanda Möller and Delia Timmie from MOT South Africa, Elsie Potgieter from College of Cape Town, Trish van der Merwe from Northlink College, Sigrun Vårvik from MOT Norway and Bård Flaarønning (front), who facilitated the training.