



*Building trust across the world's divides*

*Initiatives of Change International*

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2015







*Caux Palace, Switzerland  
Established 1946*



*Asia Plateau, India  
Established 1968*

# Introduction

Initiatives of Change is active all over the world. One of its strengths is its capacity to generate grassroots initiatives by committed individuals. This report gives glimpses of their action in many countries.

## Global Conference Centres

The two main centres of IofC are located at Caux in Switzerland, and Asia Plateau, Panchgani, in India. These centres were established through voluntary donations from countless people who were impacted by the ideas of Initiatives of Change. Owned and operated respectively by the Swiss Foundation CAUX-Initiatives of Change, and Friends of Moral Re-Armament (India), they host hundreds of individuals every year from around the world for programmes, events and internships.

In 2015 over 3,000 people took part in conferences and workshops at Asia Plateau, and nearly 2,000 people at Caux. These events dealt with governance, peacemaking, development and much more, and at the heart of each were the human factors.

How does a person move from self-centredness to concern for others? Where do they find the courage to fight injustice? What can heal hatred? Can those who have suffered forgive? Resolving personal challenges such as these is often crucial to a person's effectiveness in working to better their society. Asia Plateau and Caux offer everyone the space to seek this resolution.

## IofC Network

While IofC teams are registered as formal organizational bodies in several countries, many facilitators, trainers and coordinators work voluntarily in the spirit

of service-oriented leadership. This report contains highlights of the impact in many sections of society of the commitment of these individuals and teams.

## Focus Areas

The programmes of IofC focus on three areas:

**Trustbuilding:** Peace and social cohesion by building trust and reconciliation across divides.

**Ethical Leadership:** Good governance at every level by developing a leadership culture based on integrity, compassion and selfless service.

**Sustainable Living:** Economic justice and environmental sustainability by inspiring transformation of motives and behaviour.

## IofC International

Initiatives of Change International, a non-profit organization registered in Switzerland, serves the wider IofC movement. Thirty-five national bodies and programmes comprise its formal membership. Each Member operates autonomously on projects addressing specific local needs.

**Affiliations:** IofC International has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe.

**Governance and Management:** IofC International is governed by an International Council of up to 11 members who contribute their time and experience voluntarily. Day-to-day management is carried out by an Executive Director who oversees the operations team.

# A message from Initiatives of Change International

In Europe, 2015 was a year when violence, extremism and migration dominated the news. Around the world polarisation and divisions continue to rise and the gap between the richest and poorest continues to widen, spreading more anger and bitterness. These issues together with a fragile global economy and growing impact of climate change, challenges all nations and societies to search for sustainable solutions that give dignity to all.

There is increasing awareness that collaborative partnerships are needed to address the root causes of extremism of all kinds. The prevailing injustice, poverty and the feeling of exclusion, drives many young people to an ideology of violence. We need partnerships that includes anyone and everyone, organisations and public figures to address issues of common concern and create a better society for everyone.

Initiatives of Change (IofC) is an idea at work around the world. It states that transforming oneself is the first step to bring about the transformation of thinking and living that is so evidently needed, to address world needs. IofC's approach is simple: the starting point of personal transformation is an honest look at one's own motives and behaviour, applying moral standards in our own lives and seeking inner wisdom to unlock the creative potential in everyone. Listening to others, dialogue and honest conversations build trust, eradicate stereotypes and enable effective teamwork across divides that enable partnerships on issues of common interest.

This report documents the world wide network's consistent, tireless efforts – as individuals, groups, IofC registered bodies - in collaborative actions in 2015. The initiatives converge around our focus areas of Trust building, Ethical Leadership and Sustainable living. The report highlights the importance of equipping younger people, connecting people and daring to start local initiatives that make a difference.

Dr Martin Luther King said 'the arc of the universe is long but bends towards justice'. The stories in this report give us hope and encourage us to continue to work in partnership with others to bend the arc towards lasting changes in society that give purpose, meaning and dignity to all. Initiatives of Change is an idea that includes everyone in the common task of making a better world.



*Dr Omnia Marzouk  
(UK/Egypt)  
President*



*Mohan Bhagwandas  
(Australia/Sri Lanka)  
Vice President*

## Contents

Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership	4
Inclusive dialogue across borders	8
Fostering peace and reconciliation	12
Cultivating youth as agents of change	18
Restoring land and environment for sustainable living	22
Developing a sense of community in society	25
Income and Expenditure	27



## Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership

Good governance is more than just efficient management of public functionary. Its role is to intervene in the society and find solutions to acute problems faced by the public. Ethical leadership based on values of honesty and dignity of others enhances the impact of governance. In a society ridden by internal conflicts the role of just governance and ethical leadership in transforming society has been more direct and deliberate.

### Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE)

*Conference and events in Switzerland, London, Sweden, USA and India*

The annual TIGE conference in Caux, Switzerland, was attended by 116 people from 28 nations in June. Under the theme 'Equipping leadership for economic transformation', it showcased models of economic and personal transformation. Business School Lausanne and Leadership for Transformation (LiFT) delivered an action-oriented training programme, called Impact Leadership, as part of the TIGE conference. In parallel, the Caux Round Table

group of business leaders held a meeting on the responsibility of business to create a sustainable global economy.

Christian Felber, Austrian founder of Economy for the Common Good (ECG), spoke on 'How to create an economy for the common good – can caterpillars fly?' in London in November. Felber's visit to the UK, in partnership with the Civil Society Forum, aimed to engage British participants in the ECG model, an economic system based on 'standards for human relationships as well as constitutional values'.

TIGE Sweden organized several events in November to promote ECG and inspire people

in institutions to live and promote values-based stewardship. The programme was in cooperation with the Environmental Party, ECG Sweden and Hallvarsson & Hallvarsson.

TIGE UK held a series of talks throughout the year, including: 'Can big business help to transform the world?' with Lucy Parker and Jon Miller, co-authors of the book **Everybody's Business**, in March; 'After the elections: Can Britain create a moral economy?' with the distinguished political philosopher David Marquand two days before the general election in May and 'Redefining the purpose of business for the common good' with Charles Wookey, CEO of Blueprint for Better Business, and Laura Turkington of Vodaphone in October. IofC-UK's business programmes team delivered two workshops on 'The five pillars of trust' at York St John University's social entrepreneurship conference in September, which focused on cross-sector collaboration.



## Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership

An information and networking event for professionals was organized in Lausanne.

Michael Smith addressed the issue of motivating today's generations of entrepreneurs and business leaders in ***Great Company***, a new book which draws stories from the Caux TIGE conferences. Launch events were held in the USA, the UK, Switzerland, Sweden, and India.

### Just Governance

#### *Dialogue to promote better governance, Switzerland and India*

Just Governance depends both on good structures and good leaders. IofC's conferences on just governance at its centres in Caux, Switzerland, and Asia Plateau, India, focus on the personal qualities which enable each person to take leadership in advancing governance based on integrity and justice. In 2015, the two events were attended by people from a total of 62 countries – diplomats, politicians, academics, NGO leaders and many more.

Michael Møller, Director-General of the UN at Geneva, was among 230 participants at the conference on Just Governance for Human Security at Caux. As in previous years, the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs sponsored 24 senior officials, politicians and civic leaders from Mali, Chad and Niger. In total 25 Ukrainians took part in the conference.

*'Just Governance at Caux is important for Ukrainians as a platform for dialogue among global changemakers, and a place to reflect on your own activity and think what you can do differently' - Ihor Koliushko, Head of the Board of Ukraine's Centre for Political and Legal Reform*

Conversations in Caux inspired another Ukrainian participant, an academic from Kiev's Institute of Diplomacy, to initiate a Summer School for Good Governance in Kiev in 2016. A number of Russians also participated, enabling dialogue between Russians and Ukrainians. Among them was Professor Andrey Zubov, a distinguished historian who spoke out against the invasion of Crimea.

*'I remember the Caux meetings with such joy. The work of God is often carried out unobtrusively and quietly, having the result of bringing peace in the world.'* – Andrey Zubov, Russian historian

Armenian and Turkish students met to explore how to build trust between their peoples. 'We said things we had never been able to say,' said a Lebanese Armenian participant. 'There were tense moments, but the dialogue paved the way towards reconciliation. We are now planning more meetings for the coming year.' A workshop on challenging the

narrative of violent extremism was conducted by a Somali, who is now based in the UK.

The Dialogue on Just Governance at Asia Plateau covered such themes as corruption, trust-building in divided societies, healing historical wounds and the rights of minorities. Following the dialogue, workshops were held on peace-building, ethics and governance. The opening session was addressed by Kem Sokha, Vice President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, Sarah Awel James Ajith, Chair of the South Sudan Women Association, and Adnan Fakir, lecturer in Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University in Bangladesh. The dialogue focused on the human attitudes which threaten just governance – apathy, greed, blame, fear of taking responsibility.

*'I affirm that from now on, Cambodia will not have change with violence.'* - Kem Sokha, Vice President of the Cambodian National Rescue Party



### Caux Initiatives for Business (CIB)

#### *Malaysia, Kenya, South Africa, India*

Thirty people from business and industry took part in a round table deliberation organized in collaboration with Business Ethics Institute of Malaysia (BEIM) in March. They examined the challenges facing industry and in making a business sustainable. The same month, Senator Paul Low Seng Kuan, the Minister responsible for integrity, transparency and human rights in the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department, received a group from CIB. During an hour's conversation with CIB Director Sarosh Ghandy, Vivek Asrani, MD of Kaymo Fastener Company, and Charles Fernandes from the CIB Secretariat, the Senator spoke of the need to address the trust deficit between the government and civil society.

In Kenya, CIB held formal interactions with key persons from business and industry, a round table hosted by Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited, and a meeting with business leaders and MPs. They also attended the Annual National Prayer Breakfast in

Nairobi, graced by the President and the Deputy President.

In South Africa, a CIB roadshow met Sabine Dall'Omo, CEO of Siemens Southern and East Africa, and Joanna Yawitch, CEO of the National Business Initiative. The team met with the CEO of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, senior managers of Thebe Investments, members of the management committee of the Da Vinci Institute, the CEO and guests of Professional Aviation at Lanseria Airport, senior executives of Anglo Vaal Industries, Econometrix and Neotel, and two executives of Ethics South Africa, who are keen to develop a memorandum of understanding with CIB. CIB interacted with business people and individuals who want to encourage social responsibility in the private sector.

In India, three round tables were conducted in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai on the theme 'Is business ready to change, to change India?' Another Round Table on the theme, 'Are we willing to change ourselves, to change Business?' also took place.

### Effective Living and Leadership (ELL) and Heart of Effective Leadership (HEL) programmes

#### *Leadership training for the business community, India*

During 2015, 11 Effective Living and Leadership (ELL) programmes and nine Heart of Effective Living (HEL) programmes took place at Asia Plateau, involving more than 950 people from over 40 organizations. ELL encourages people from industry and business to find their unique contribution to the transformation needed in the world, starting with themselves. The HEL programme is designed for senior executives and managers in private and public enterprises. The diverse and experienced faculty draw from their own experiences to show the connection between leadership based on knowing oneself, sustainable success in business, and purpose in life. Inaugurating one of these programmes, the resident director of Asia Plateau, Ravindra Rao said, 'We must care to listen and dare to obey, to change the world.'

### Ethics in Public Governance

#### *Ethical Leadership Programme, India*

In December, two training programmes in ethical leadership for government officials was organized at Asia Plateau. The first, on Ethical Leadership in Urban Governance, was attended by officials of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The second, on Ethical Leadership in Public Governance, was attended by officers of the Odisha Administrative Service. The courses were conducted by Directors of the IofC Centre for Governance in Delhi.





### Facilitation Tools Training Programme

#### *Three-day workshop, Switzerland*

Representatives from NGOs and the corporate sector took part in a two-day training on group facilitation and a day on action planning. Participants learned powerful methods for generating consensus in groups and for building ownership of projects or events. The workshops were conducted in collaboration with the Institute for Cultural Affairs UK.

### Impact Initiatives Challenge

#### *Conference to equip, inspire and connect the next generation of changemakers, Switzerland*

A diverse group of young changemakers living in Europe took part in the Impact Initiatives Challenge (IIC) in Caux in August. They went on a two-part journey, starting with reflection and connection to discover their purpose, and going on to set goals to put their ideas into practice. They participated in workshops on such topics as personal development

for entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurship, visual thinking and open space. In the summer of 2015, one participant founded a French branch of the DEEP (Dialogue, Empathic Engagement, and Peacebuilding) Network.

### Peace and Good Governance Programme

#### *Dialogue between various political fronts, Great Lakes, Africa*

In spite of the terrible setbacks in Burundi, and the remaining political tensions in DRC, IofC's Peace and Good Governance programme continued to promote political dialogue in the Great Lakes region. In DRC, work to promote political dialogue was launched nationally in August 2014, in collaboration with other institutions, and continued throughout 2015. Opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the crisis in eastern DRC were undermined by confrontations between the army and local militias at the end of 2014. While some politicians accept the principle of dialogue, others are suspicious and neutral facilitators are needed. It is also important that the rebel movements are included in the process.

*'To overcome the deadlock in Africa, we must go beyond solutions based on political mechanisms and build on people' - Thomas Ntambu, Director of the programme*





# Inclusive dialogue across borders

In a world in a state of turmoil, dialogue supersedes war; peaceful and inclusive exchange of thoughts across international borders facilitates a better atmosphere to solve problems concerning the society. Constructive dialogues aimed at peace-making and trustbuilding between people from conflicted areas around the world were facilitated with a special focus on Europe with a view to curb the migrant crisis and rising extremism.

## Addressing Europe's Unfinished Business

### Conference on Europe's conflicts in Caux, Switzerland

'Creating a Common Understanding of Issues and Values' was the theme of a conference at Caux in the framework of a four-year project on 'Addressing Europe's Unfinished Business' (AEUB). The programme seeks to engage Europeans from all backgrounds in developing a spirit of partnership and solidarity across the continent. Participants reflected on current issues: recurring conflicts, massive waves of migration, shaky minority rights and dealing with the past.

*'The conference gave me the ability to debate in a positive and constructive manner with peers coming from traditionally conflictual areas.'* – AEUB young ambassador from Albania

## Egyptian Dialogue Market Forum

### Dialogue on conflict transformation, Egypt

During October, a team from IofC was invited to participate in the first Egyptian Dialogue Market Forum 2015, organized by the Swiss embassy, the Danish-Arab Dialogue Masrteet and several other civic entities. The participants represented a variety

of NGOs, academic research centres, and political parties. The programme involved two panels on understanding dialogue, dialogue and development, several workshops and an artistic performance. Workshops covered dialogue and conflict transformation, designing dialogue processes, facilitating and designing a successful dialogue, bringing dialogue into everyday life, early warning and rapid response mechanisms, art as a tool for dialogue, community dialogue, and social responsibility.

## Initiatives and Dialogues

### France

IofC realizes more than ever the role of connecting French people, where the threat of rupture and violence is looming large. Its ability to create an atmosphere of trust and openness where one can express one's feelings, listen to the one he has



## Inclusive dialogue across borders

trouble understanding or of which one disapproves beliefs, helps to break taboos, to overcome the fears and prejudices.

Two public events on two topical issues:

A public event was held in Paris two months after the attacks of January 2015 on the topic of 'Freedom of expression in the test of social break-down'. More than 250 people listened to and interacted with a panel of eminent speakers: the sociologist and philosopher Edgar Morin, Professor Tariq Ramadan, Jean Baptiste De Foucauld, the founder of the Civic Pact and Camille Besse, a cartoonist who worked with Charlie Hebdo. 'Migrants: understand each other to act together' was the second topic addressed at the end of the year to meet this challenge facing all of Europe. The aim was to give a voice to migrants and associative actors involved in the reception of migrants to better understand this new phenomenon for which we are ill-prepared.

Spaces for dialogue and cultural cafes:

The construction of deeper and more sustainable individual links between citizens is mainly done through the spaces for dialogue. There have been around ten in the year, in Paris and in the suburbs, bringing together people of different generations, of different social and cultural backgrounds. In Versailles, it is a group of women who met together regularly. Topics of daily concerns are addressed and discussed. In Villeneuve-la-Garenne, one of the poorest towns in the west of Paris with a high rate of unemployment, we held a Cultural and Citizen Café on the theme of success, organized in partnership with a local association. 120 participants,

with almost half of them under 25 years. Finally, the year was marked by an original innovation under the banner 'Paris in dialogue: let's do the best of the Brotherhood', a programme which aimed to join and support the construction of the Brotherhood launched by several associations nationwide. A writing workshop with a group of young people on the images and stereotypes in the media was led by a media specialist and graphic artist who illustrated the remarks of participants as they were discussing. Another innovation is a stand of the Brotherhood on the Place de la République in Paris, with a creative workshop, people were invited to draw their perception of brotherhood. The same day in the evening stood a Dialogue-Conference in the Social Museum around the same theme.

## Dialogue concerning European communities

### Stockholm, Sweden

In February, the newly elected President of the Council of Europe International NGO (INGO) Conference, Professor Anna Rurka, signed a bi-annual agreement governing INGO Dialogue Projects with IofC delegate Christoph Spreng. The INGO Dialogue Hub provided one of three training sessions for local community leaders organized by IofC Sweden's Hope in Järva social cohesion project. Two trainees went on to organize a dialogue on global citizenship and social inclusion. Three participants facilitated dialogues among fellow Somalis of different clans, including ex-combatants. Another two organized a youth dialogue on segregation and stereotyping in Tensta district, while others organized dialogues on housing rights for vulnerable people in the same district. These have led to the rehousing of vulnerable residents who were due to be displaced. The Dialogue Hub Coordinator



also provided a session for Ukrainian civil society facilitators.

### Beyond Forgiving film launch and dialogue

#### Film launch and peace dialogue, Canada and UK

lofC hosted a screening in Quebec City of Beyond Forgiving, a story of reconciliation in post-apartheid South Africa. An audience of 56 diversified participants gathered in the spirit of the evening's theme: 'To come out of our solitudes - Dare to build together.' After the screening, participants representing each of Canada's four 'solitudes' (aboriginals, French, English and immigrants) shared their testimonies, linking the film to the context of Quebec. Speaking from their hearts, each witness deeply moved the audience, giving hope as well as ideas on how to face their needs together. After a long time of silence, participants were invited to share their own deep convictions on the relevance of the film and its use in the region. As a fruit of this activity, lofC partnered with Development and Peace and others to create a committee, 'Passerelle Interculturelle.' Since August 2015, they've met

monthly to prepare a series of gatherings. The highly diversified programme included an Aboriginal ceremony, diverse cultural legends, tasting traditional Innu bannock bread, and presentations on human rights and Quebec International Solidarity Days. The programme also featured a time of time of silence, followed by a Circle of sharing.

From 18 –30 May, the South African protagonists Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele of the award-winning short film 'Beyond Forgiving' spoke at a series of public screenings in Belfast, Bradford, Durham, Liverpool and Oxford. The screenings were hosted by universities working in peace studies, conflict resolution and restorative justice. On 10 November, the Beyond Forgiving film was screened at SOAS University (School of Oriental and African Studies), a leading institution in London for the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Imad Karam and Talia Smith from Initiatives of Change engaged the 26 students in a discussion on the role forgiveness plays in justice. Beyond Forgiving has won the Golden Award for Inspiration at the International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration

and Equality (IFFPIE). The award ceremony was held on 4 September 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Beyond Forgiving partnered with The Tutu Global Forgiveness Challenge, a thirty-day online programme, designed to teach everyone how to step off the path of pain and revenge and learn to forgive.

*'With this year symbolising two decades since South Africa's first democratic elections, we very much hope that Ginn and Letlapa's experience of tragedy and hope will serve as a poignant modern-day parable of how it is possible to go beyond forgiving to break the cycle of vengeance and help others.'* - Dr Imad Karam, the film's director

### Initiatives for healing and understanding

#### Australia and the Pacific

In a year when treatment of asylum-seekers caused tensions, lofC Australia reached out its neighbours. In March, the Prime Minister of Vanuata opened an exhibition commemorating the slave trade which, from 1863, brought Pacific Islanders to Australia as labourers. 'Australian Reflections on Blackbirding', was created by David Bunton, the great-grandson of a missionary who opposed the trade, and his artist wife, Helen. Both had earlier taken part in similar commemorations of the trade in Fiji.

Miftahul Huda and his wife, Nenden Ulfa, both leaders of the lofC community in Indonesia, spent two months in Australia, where they spoke at meetings, held media interviews, conducted workshops, interacted with academics and argued for a dialogue of understanding to counter radicalization.





### Peacebuilding initiative

#### *Reconciliation dialogue, Colombia*

An lofC team participated in Agape por Colombia, an initiative which works for the reconciliation of all strata of society. They work with guerrillas, paramilitary, raped women of all ages, government representatives, child soldiers, policemen and former hostages.

### Engaging with international networks

#### *Geneva Office, Switzerland*

Initiatives of Change continued building relationships with international actors in Geneva in 2015. A panel was organized in partnership with Worldvision at the Geneva Environment House, to share the conclusions of July's Caux Dialogue for Land Security (CDLS) with Geneva's environmental community and to brainstorm on sustainable development.

During a visit to Caux, the Director-General of the UN office in Geneva, Michael Møller, encouraged broader collaboration between lofC and the UN. This led to lofC's participation in the 'Perception Change Project', a partnership of over 60 NGOs

and institutions with the UN who are working to shed light on the vibrant hub of organizations in Geneva. A 'cookbook' was launched at the Geneva book fair, mixing real recipes from well-known chefs and the work of NGOs explained in 'recipe' form. It included the unique recipe for a 'successful Caux conference'. In another instance of this collaboration, the Honorary President of lofC International, Cornelio Sommaruga, was invited to participate in a high-level panel on early warning mechanisms during the Human Rights Council in March.

Green Cross International invited lofC to have a stand at the International Conference on a Green and Inclusive Economy in October in Geneva. 'Initiatives for Land, Lives and Peace' (ILLP) and the CDLS were well received by entrepreneurs, economists, and politicians. A month-long photo exhibition, with 1.5 metre panels, on 'The future we want' exposed ILLP and CDLS to countless passers-by. The same images were also displayed at the two-week international climate conference in Paris.

lofC continued to bring together people for meaningful exchanges and to forge new relationships. lofC's Creators of Peace network connected many

actors in Geneva. The Geneva office coordinated a dialogue on Burundi, in spite of the complex political situation there. Geneva remains an active hub for global change, and lofC and Caux continue to play their part in inspiring, connecting and equipping individuals to make it all happen.





## Fostering peace and reconciliation

Initiatives towards peace-making and reconciliation between conflicted communities are needed more than ever. Awareness about the importance of quiet time and conflict transformation can be the way out of suffocation due to continuous clashes in society. This can be achieved by overcoming the biases about our neighbours and engaging in a process of inner listening and change. The impact of these initiatives can only be realized through non-violent communication.

### Caux Scholars Programme

#### *Residential course, India and Switzerland*

This year, 17 young scholars from 11 different countries participated in the Caux Scholar Programme at Asia Plateau, India. Both theory and practical sessions covering topics like peace-building, internal conflict resolution, Circle of Trust, the importance of quiet time, conflict transformation, local intervention, and development. The scholars visited local development centers of Grampari (the ecological conservation project of Asia Plateau). They shared their personal stories of tranny and change. Values

of collaboration, co-existence and co-ordination were learnt through the sessions and exercises.

'I realized that though we are different, but we are the same in many aspects, in terms of the problems we face in our countries...' - Eman, Egypt

The Caux Scholar Programme in Caux, Switzerland was divided into 4 weeks of training, deliberations, visits, group tasks, and dialogue. The participants were introduced to the 'Caux Spirit' through trust building exercises and leadership orientation programmes. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, the participants joined in organizing the Just Governance conference where

they got to meet leaders from various fields like government, corporate sector, and social sector. In the last two weeks of the course, sustained dialogue, transitional justice, reconciliation, and healing were the themes covered.

'I love the terms used during team building exercises of storming, forming, etc... because we continue to use them amongst each other to show awareness of how our relationships are evolving.'  
- Leila, Lebanon

### Peace dialogue

#### *Colombia*

People from different networks attended a monthly gathering to hold film screenings and workshops on such themes as 'changing paradigms' and 'abundance'. Cristina Muñoz spent much of the year in



## Fostering peace and reconciliation

Brazil, conducting several Creators of Peace Circles and training Colombian facilitators. A small group of women have been meeting once a week, for more than 10 years to practise and explore the values of lofC.

### Creators of Peace

**Fiji, Mali, India, Afghanistan, Barbados, Brazil, Africa, Kenya, Uganda, New Zealand, Australia**

As a programme of Initiatives of Change, Creators of Peace (CoP) holds at its heart the twin practices of inner listening and inner change. It fills a lacuna, identified in many peace and development programmes, where the inner peace needs of the first responders remain unmet, whether humanitarian aid workers or mediators, community activists or grandmothers. Creators of Peace Circles are designed to meet this need.

Fiji is the latest country to embrace CoP Circles. Fifteen women from Suva participated in two circles. Deep conversations were held on the power of forgiveness. Peace circles were also launched in Barbados and Brazil.

CoP President Daphrose Ntarataze and Marthe Mukerabirori, from Burundi, made two visits to Mali to facilitate peace circles for 52 women from the north and south. They were invited by Women in Law and Development in Africa-Mali, who saw the peace circles as a step in a longer process of bridging divides.

The challenge of raising the money to hold peace circles is sometimes met in unusual ways. One example was the offer by two Indian airlines, Spice Jet and Jet Airways, to fly five Kashmiri women activists



from Srinagar to Delhi and back free of charge for the peace circle held in India in August. This, they said, was their contribution to 'an initiative serving women's empowerment'. The invitation to run the peace circle in Delhi came from a Member of the Tibetan Parliament in exile in India. Two Afghan students also participated in the circle. On return to Kabul, between studies and violent incidents, they succeeded in running a peace circle in an internally displaced people's camp. The women who took part had never known peace in their lives.

*'I received tools to change my life; I'm the only one who can do something for myself. Before, I always expected that others had to give me the solution.'* – CoP Circle participant

Peace circles also took place across Africa; from Zimbabwe, where the peace circles in 2015 were held in the deprived suburbs of Gweru, to villages and slums in Kenya. Also in Kenya, the CoP team continued their engagement with the divided communities in Baringo County, where cattle

stealing and murder are major problems. Kenya's CoP team revisited some of the women who have been trained since 2007 in an effort to assess the impact and value of the programme to the women and community. In total, 14 follow-up meetings were held, reaching over 400 women. A highlight was the apology given by women from the Pokot community to women from the Ilchamus and Tugen communities and the reconciliation that followed, as a direct result of the work of CoP in that county.

*'Peace means surrender and you have to be willing to be a good example.'* – Juma, Kenya.

In Uganda, the CoP team has been visiting prisons once a month, to pray with the inmates, counsel them and hold peace circles. They hold Christmas parties for inmates' children and stay with them during holidays.

In South Africa, CoP reached 91 participants some of whom were men. One of the highlights was a workshop in which majority were foreigners.

## Fostering peace and reconciliation

*'This programme is a powerful mechanism that can help us as foreigners to sit together with fellow South Africans and solve the xenophobic attacks we are experiencing in South Africa.'* – Creators of Peace Circle participant

2015 has seen Creators of Peace being re-invited to offer peace circles by Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and by the Auburn Centre for Community.

In New Zealand, peace circles were hosted in Auckland and Wellington.

### A Centre for Community Trust-building

#### Conference for social change, USA

A conference on 'Healing History: memory, legacy, and social change' was held in Richmond, Virginia, in April, following city-wide events to mark 150 years since the end of the US's bloody civil war and the emancipation of millions of African Americans.

More than 300 people from 15 US states were joined by delegates from across the globe: Canada, South Africa, Cambodia, UK, Belgium, Mexico and Curacao. Topics ranged from 'creating inclusive, sustainable economies' to 'unearthing whiteness', 'social determinants of health' and 'housing and education policy for social diversity'. In the context of the national debate on the excessive use of force by police and the shooting of unarmed black men, a crowded public forum focused on overcoming bias in the criminal justice system. The conference was supported by the WK Kellogg foundation as part of their America Healing project. Local partners included the City of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building, the Library of Virginia, the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University.

*'Richmond is at the beginning of a journey and not the end.'* – Dr Edward Ayers, President, University of Richmond

Over the course of 2015, 50 people participated in the Community Trustbuilding Fellowship, now in its seventh year.

*'The programme helped evolve me as a man, a father and a member of the community. I gained the capacity to build relationships of authenticity and honesty with people I would never have had the chance to connect with before.'* – Duron, community activist from Petersburg, VA

### Seeds of Inspiration

#### Community event, Switzerland

Seeds of Inspiration (Sofi) provides a space to share the sources of inspiration which drive us as individuals. Sofi uses theatre to inspire. There were five evening performances, offering comedy, pathos, satire, domestic drama, history and depth. The daily openings to the 'together times' by the clowns of Commediagillet brought a welcome touch of humour and joy.

August 6 was devoted to remembering the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima 75 years ago. A Japanese participant read out a message from the present Mayor of Hiroshima. A Swiss participant, Claudine Rochat, movingly recalled the arrival in Caux in 1950 of a Japanese delegation, led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the end of the day a silent candle-lit procession carried dozens of tiny origami cranes to the refugees' memorial in the garden.

*'When I came here I had a distorted view of the man I wanted to be. The tranquility and the peace have helped me to think about the future. I do want to be a man who follows God.'* -Kwame Reed, UK





## Fostering peace and reconciliation

### Working with Ex-militants and Refugees

#### *Refugee reconciliation programme, Lebanon*

lofC closely works with Fighters for Peace (FFP), a group of ex-fighters who carry the message of reconciliation through story-telling. They have played some role in the reconciliation of opposed groups in Lebanon and Syria. lofC and FFP ran six sessions with a direct lofC message for Syrian refugees, youth and Syrians still living in Syria. lofC Lebanon is also part of a coalition called Unity is Our Salvation which works for civil peace, and has influenced many of the statements produced by this coalition. lofC addressed a conference on Palestinian Refugee Rights, where seeds were sown for future cooperation on reconciling Lebanese and Palestinians living in Lebanon.

An international lofC delegation met the Swiss ambassador to discuss cooperation over the Syrian crisis both within Syria and on Lebanese soil. They also met former Lebanese Prime Minister, Najib Mikati. A team from Lebanon and the Caux Foundation also met the Swiss Foreign Affairs Ministry, to discuss lofC Lebanon's peace-making work with Syrian refugees in Lebanon. lofC Lebanon has organized three confidential dialogues between politicians from different sides in Lebanon. Some were ministers or MPs.

*The truth even with a trembling voice*, the autobiography of former militia leader, and an active volunteer of lofC in Lebanon, Assaad Chaftari, was launched in November at a round table attended by 200 people.



### Refugees as Rebuilders

#### *Agenda for Reconciliation, UK*

As Europeans oscillate between fear and compassion at the sight of the masses of refugees entering Europe, they may overlook the fact that among these people are potential rebuilders of their war-torn countries. This is already happening in Somalia, where large numbers of the diaspora are returning, carrying with them lessons from their observation of their host societies. lofC has made a small contribution to this process. Over the last 10 years, the weekly Agenda for Reconciliation (AfR) meetings in lofC's London centre have provided a forum for refugees from Somalia and other Horn of Africa countries to meet on a platform of reconciliation and willingness to acknowledge the harm that we have caused each other and to heal relationships by serving each other.

Training in dialogue facilitation and lessons in active listening and non-violent communication are offered because refugee communities bring with them all

the divisions that caused their countries to collapse. These skills are among the first steps to recovery. One Somali-British participant, who was trained in 2008, has been enabling conflicting groups to meet each other in Somalia ever since.

In the last 12 months, a group of Somalis has taken part in a training of trainers programme to deliver dialogue facilitation courses in Somalia. Eritrean colleagues are seeking similar support for their community as they wait for the time when it will be possible to return to their country.

### Interactions with South Sudanese diaspora

#### *Intercultural peace dialogue, Australia*

In March, three politicians from Australia's three main parties hosted a briefing at the federal parliament in Canberra by the South Sudan Australia Peace Initiative (SSAPI). Twenty South Sudanese from five Australian states briefed the MPs on their efforts towards reconciliation among the

## Fostering peace and reconciliation

diaspora in Australia. A Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed among MPs to lobby for increased peace-building and humanitarian support. In November members of SSAPI in Melbourne brought together 35 South Sudanese pastors and priests to advance the 'non-violent gospel of Jesus Christ' among their parishioners. During the year, six Australians including two former child soldiers, made visits to Juba and Addis Ababa, to meet people involved in the peace negotiations. Two Australians partnered with the Committee for National Healing, Peace, and Reconciliation, led by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, to train 100 peace mobilizers in Kuajok and Torit. They used a workshop design developed by lofC in 2013, which aims to make peace and forgiveness real within each of the mobilizers.

### Bridging the growing cultural and religious divides

#### Norway

lofC-Norway invited the British Imam and broadcaster Ajmal Masroor to Oslo to speak on 'How

can we bridge the growing cultural and religious divides in Norwegian society?' Surveys have shown that many Europeans believe that Islam is not compatible with Europe. Masroor holds the view that it is the Muslims' responsibility to hear and respond to this fear and prejudice.

lofC-Norway arranged 10 seminars and meetings during Masroor's five-day stay in Oslo, with churches, mosques, the Islamic Council, a leader of the Jewish community, a high school, a university college, a Christian think-tank and another think-tank addressing the challenges faced by minorities in Norway. Masroor also met State Secretary Laila Bokhari at the Prime Minister's Office and the President of the Parliament, Olemic Thommesen.

lofC invited the Islamic Council of Norway and Muslim youth organizations in Oslo to discuss how young Muslims can contribute to de-radicalization without being accused of being agents of the security services.

### The Sixth Castle Meeting

#### Lützensömmern, Germany

This year's edition of the Castle Meeting in Lützensömmern, Germany, was based on the theme 'Is it still possible to get involved in social issues when our daily lives are so busy?' Participants learnt about why time in silence is so vital for our lives. They had the chance to rediscover this 'space of my own thoughts'. They delved into the process of making decisions, how they impact our lives, how human consciousness is shaped and which factors influence our thinking and behaviour. Various participants decided to work with refugees and are actively involved with different initiatives.

*'The presentation and the good discussions helped me finally decide what I really want to do next year.'*  
– a participant

### Follow up to the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission

#### Reconciliation efforts, Canada

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) held several events in Ottawa to mark the release of its final report on Indian residential schools. Included among these events was **Voix du Silence** – a moving retelling of the residential school story through the words of survivors, evoking pain but also the hope of healing and reconciliation. This stage performance was a central part of the Citizen Project, a fruitful partnership between lofC and Espace Art Nature. This project and the Circles of Trust that have grown from it have raised awareness and brought Canadians of all backgrounds into the conversation.





### Foundations for Freedom

#### *Dialogues for peace, Ukraine*

Foundations for Freedom continued to conduct dialogues for mutual understanding in Ukraine. In April the network of dialogue facilitators in Ukraine conducted a number of dialogues between the local community, representatives of the local civic movements and military people, using methods of non-violent communication.

*'There is a huge need for people just to talk with each other, and to learn how to listen to the other and to understand, with the aim of going forward. Because it is not possible to solve all problems using violence.'* - a participant from Novohrodivka, Donetsk

### Future needs memories

#### *Dialogue on history and memories, Ukraine*

Ten students representing different regions of Ukraine met five former political prisoners of the Soviet and Nazi regimes residing in Lviv in November. This event was a part of the Future Needs Memories project, which uses dialogue



techniques to create a safe space to share life experiences – either to confirm or to remove set ideas about different generations. Former political prisoners were listened to and could let go of the burden of their difficult past. The project's coordinator, Halyna Bunio, spoke of how dialogue can enable people to transfer life experience across an 80-year gap.

### FLT Films for the Love of Tomorrow

#### *USA, Nigeria, UK, Kenya*

The peace-building impact of the films *The Imam and the Pastor* and *An African Answer* was showcased at the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis, USA. The films' director, Alan Channer, described how they were made to amplify and sustain a new peace-building dynamic, resulting from the reconciliation between Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye from Nigeria. Channer was invited to give the keynote lecture on 'Documentary film and conflict resolution' at the iREP Documentary Film Festival in Lagos, Nigeria, and also to present the work of FLT films in Kenya and Chad at the Centre for International Intervention, Surrey University, UK.

Channer acted as consultant on an episode of Oprah Winfrey's groundbreaking television series *Belief*, which featured the reconciliation between Ashafa and Wuye. After it was broadcast, Oprah Winfrey tweeted: 'The Pastor and the Imam represent the possibility of peace in the world. If they can do it, we can.'

*Peace is Together*, a short film promoting the inter-faith womens' initiative Mothers in Kenya for Amani

(MIKA), was launched in Mombasa, Kenya. The launch was attended by Mombasa County Minister for Youth, Gender and Sport, Mohammed Abbas, and Police Commandant Daoud Mohammed. MIKA grew out of a project to transfer the peacebuilding methodologies depicted in *An African Answer*.

*'No amount of police, no amount of weapons for the police and no amount of public meetings will create peace. Peace must come from within our hearts. The way forward is the peace-building process I see here.'*  
- Police Commandant Daoud Mohammed

### Three paths in Brazil

#### *Pause for faith and life, Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro*

In August 30 people attended a day on 'The Three Paths' in Petropolis, State of Rio de Janeiro. Lectures were given on spirituality, the way of being a channel and the way to world regeneration. The speakers' different approaches led the audience to reflect on their values and actions and on the need for personal change in the face of world challenges. Saturday was devoted to talks and debates on these topics. On Sunday, a workshop on Initiatives of Change was held. The participants had already attended two 'Pause for Faith and Life' sessions hosted by the centre. The first session was led by Father Celso of the Parish of Nossa Senhora d'Ajuda on Ilha do Governador on the theme of spirituality in later life. The second session by Paulo Lima was on 'The scientific reality of longevity of life'.

In October, 40 Catholics attended a meeting on forgiveness and environmental sustainability, which included a showing of the film, *Beyond Forgiving*.



## Cultivating youth as agents of change

Young adults across the world today are raising their voices against atrocities and injustice. Providing proper direction to the youth by enabling communication between youth and older generations, informing them about children's rights and health, exploiting various methods of expressions such as art, poetry, etc. is vital for their overall development. Encouraging youth to take initiative will help them to define a purpose of living and develop an 'attitude for peace'.

### Children as Actors for Transforming Society (CATS)

#### *Youth conference, Switzerland*

The CATS event at Caux encouraged collaboration between children and adults, on the theme of how they can be partners for change. Over seven days, children and adults from around the world shared skills, values, practices and testimonies through a variety of activities. Keynote speakers included Kesz Valdez, the 16-year-old winner of the International Children's Peace Prize 2012, who described his remarkable work to improve the lives of street

children in the Philippines. Also present were Judith Diers, Chief of the Adolescent Development & Participation section at UNICEF; Julie Ward, MEP, founding member of the parliamentary intergroup on children's rights at the European Parliament; and Nkem Orakwue, founder and coordinator of the Nigerian Children's Parliament.

### LMAD – Let's Make a Difference

#### *Seven-day youth conference, India*

More than 140 young people from different parts of India took part in the 21st LMAD youth

conference. The conference stressed the value of quiet reflection, as well as other IofC principles, in the context of goals, family relationships and lifestyle choices. To celebrate 21 years, a gathering was held at Asia Plateau for all the coordinators of previous LMAD conferences. The LMAD team also organized a conference for 259 schoolchildren in Jamshedpur, tailor-made to their needs and aspirations.

### Asia Pacific Youth Conference 2015

#### *International youth conference, Cambodia*

Son Soubert, High Privy Counsellor to the King of Cambodia, opened the 21st Asia Pacific Youth Conference (AYPC) in Sihanoukville in August. AYPC drew people from 14 countries. It provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on their lives and relationships, and for Cambodians and Vietnamese to seek ways to further peaceful



## Cultivating youth as agents of change

relationships between their countries. Later a Cambodian group visited Thailand to discuss the future of ICA's Cambodian-Thai Exchange Programme.

### Life Matters Course

*Youth orientation programme, Australia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka*

Three lofC Life Matters courses took place in 2015: in Australia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. The course, developed in Australia, helps young adults to 'shape a path and purpose for living'. The Melbourne course, over a long weekend in January, focused on identity, forgiveness, relationships and change-making. The 27 participants left determined to listen to colleagues at work, engage in voluntary work or mend bridges within their families and between communities.

*'I feel like I finally "get it" – what it means to be the change you want to see in the world.'- Elisee Higginbotham*

In May, 16 Filipinos, both Christian and Muslim, and 11 from other countries took part in a nine-day Life Matters Course in Pagadian, in the troubled province of Mindanao. During the course, a Muslim student leader contacted his parents to ask their forgiveness. On the final day of the course, a dialogue took place between the Muslim and Christian participants, which included a sergeant from the local army base.

*'lofC has released me from my hatred' – one of the participants*

The Life Matters workshop in Mannar, northern Sri Lanka, took place in August as part of a two-week

'moral and spiritual campaign' run by Bridging Lanka, an NGO which works for reconciliation and community development in this town. Towards the end of the workshop, several participants spoke of decisions to heal hurts and settle clashes in their families.

### School for Changemakers

*Youth programme and conference, United Kingdom*

School for Changemakers (SfCM) is a weekend residential programme for participants from different cultures and varying ages. Meetings during the year gather core alumni to share together, plan future events, learn new skills and seek support and advice.

The theme of this summer's conference in July was 'changing in human attitudes and behaviours'. The programme began with an introductory networking event, where participants shared their experiences of change. Alexander Nunn, Head of Campaigns and Communications for Action for Happiness, delivered a highly self-reflective workshop which directed individuals to reflect on the concepts of wonder, gratitude, hope, love and change.

### Education for Peace

*France*

Since 2005, Education for Peace has been working to help children and young people live better. In 2015, the programme received a certificate for the 25th anniversary of the International Convention on the Right of the Child and received a public awareness award from the French Child Rights Defenders. Activities included 69 workshops in schools and City Councils, where participants could

learn about and experiment with their rights: to have an identity; to be respected for what we are and to respect others in all our diversities; to have and express an opinion and to respect others opinions without judging; and to participate. Training was given to professionals working with children and in education.

For the ninth time, Education for Peace partnered with Plantu (Cartooning for Peace) and Copain du Monde in running a drawing competition on 'the attitude of peace'. Groups of children and young people from all over France were invited to imagine an action to improve an unfair situation. Four hundred and thirty-six participants offered suggestions on how to face harassment, gender discrimination, racism, exclusion, terrorism, mistreatment, malnutrition, pollution, handicap, war, human trafficking.

*'Even if you are little and young, you can do something to change things' – a seven-year-old participant*

### Change in Progress Camp

*Youth camp, South Africa*

Young people were a focus of lofC's work in South Africa, where 14 South Africans and Zimbabweans between the ages of 18 and 25 took part in a



## Cultivating youth as agents of change

Change in Progress camp in December. Five days of intensive training, at a campsite in the Golden Gate National Park, were followed by a week of outreach to people and organizations in Botshabelo, near Bloemfontein. A Zimbabwean participant commented, 'I never thought that the Basotho people and we Shona had so much in common. The camp reinforced in me the importance of applying the four absolute moral standards (honesty, purity, love and unselfishness) in all situations of my life.' The camp was the third in a series springing from the Freedom Our Responsibility conference in Bloemfontein in 2014.

### Springs of Hope Programme and Time for Change Workshops

#### *Youth programmes, Uganda*

Uganda's Springs of Hope programme organizes leadership training and school visits. It sent a team to the East Africa Youth Forum which took place in Juba, South Sudan. A group of young professionals from Uganda's North-Western Region runs Time for Change workshops on applying moral and spiritual values in the workplace. One participant described how he had considered secretly 'borrowing' money from his workplace to pay for urgent medical treatment for his father. His experience at the workshop convinced him to talk honestly with his manager. His employers helped him with some money, and he was able to live with a clear conscience.

### Equipping Young Changemakers

#### *Youth programmes, Canada*

At the University of Ottawa young people have participated in many movie & discussion nights and taken on the concept of quiet times. In Alberta, young people helped to organize and activate numerous programmes, including a nine-month Social Work Practicum for student Augustino Lucano, participation in a Harmony Café in Janaury, a workshop in March on 'Peacing it together: youth speak up,' lofC's Annual General Meeting in May, a very successful Compass Programme in October, and finally the launch of a book of poetry by a young South Sudanese in December.

### 12th International Youth Leadership Camp

#### *Youth programme, Indonesia*

Young people from lofC Indonesia held the 12th International Youth Leadership Camp in Malang, East Java, in December, on the theme 'Rediscover your life purpose'. Participants in the six days' camp

came from Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Canada. The camp was opened by Iskandar Finachrio, President of lofC Indonesia, at a ceremony which included prayers led by participants of different faiths.

### Changemakers for life

#### *Youth orientation programmes, Lebanon and Turkey*

For the fifth year, some 25 people, half of them Armenians, took part in the Musa Dagh reconciliation trip in Turkey, visiting the site of the Armenians' last stand before they were evacuated from Turkey. A summer camp organized by Linaltaki ('Let us meet') brought together 65 teenagers from 11 schools and districts of Lebanon. This activity helps students, teachers and parents from different religious communities to get to know each other. A youth training programme entitled 'Changemakers for life' began in November.





### Workshops on values

#### Youth workshops, Taiwan

In 2015, lofC Taiwan offered workshops on values in 15 schools and NGOs and supported some 200 teenagers from challenging backgrounds in their search for self-esteem and purpose. lofC staff and volunteers facilitated group sharing and gave one-to-one support throughout the year, alongside workshops, activities, experiential field trips, personal talks and home visits. Participants were inspired to take ownership of their lives.

*'I'm grateful to my aunt, who is like a safety net for me when walking the tightrope of life. Now I am committed to becoming such a safety net for her and others' - Sheng-Ji*

### Projects for young people

#### School programme, Sweden

In 2015, lofC Sweden's collaboration with Unicef on the pilot project of Rights Respecting Schools entered its third and final year. The team contributed to the third CATS conference in Caux and in November presented its work to a network of 50 Swedish NGO focusing on children's rights and health.

After a long research and development phase, the team is now seeking partners and funders for the Inner Compass, a digital game which promotes children's psychosocial health. It combines geocaching and scouting elements in an adventurous way to ask, 'Who am I, who are you and how can we together make our neighbourhood a better place to live in, starting with ourselves?'

The Hope in Järva has been granted a second year's funding. It focuses on intergenerational dialogue and festivals, fostering communication between young and older people.

### Healing the Past

#### Youth programme, Ukraine

History Begins in the Family is a two-year (2015-6) international project run by Ukrainian Action: Healing the Past. It helps young people to research their family history and learn how historical events influenced their families' values and attitudes.

*'The project changes views, breaks stereotypes and serves as a great push for self-improvement and self-development.' - Serhiy Zalevskyi, participant in History Begins in the Family from Odessa oblast*

Ukrainian Action also organized a workshop on ethical leadership in Briukhovychi, Lviv, for young

people from youth organizations and social movements. Over seven days they discussed leadership, ethics, motivation, life values and society. They studied a method of non-violent communication that helps people to share the information which is necessary for solving conflicts and disputes on the personal, family and political level. The workshop helped participants to understand themselves and other people better, improve their leadership potential, and learn how to work together. It was held in partnership with The Institution of Management and Leadership of Ukrainian Catholic University.





## Restoring land and environment for sustainable living

With the dawn of climate change, sustainable living practices are important to conserve our shared resources. Dialogue between stakeholders like farmers, government officials, NGOs, policy makers is important to facilitate exchange of ideas within the community. Through these dialogues, a synergy is created between communities which results in creation of spaces for ecological conservation and increased awareness about the importance of sustainable living.

### Farmers' Dialogue International

*Switzerland, France, India*

Farmers' Dialogue International (FDI) continues to mobilize farmers in the task of feeding humanity while reflecting on their specific mission. One major international gathering was held on the French island of Mayotte (near Madagascar), where fifteen farmers came from abroad and joined 100 local farmers to discuss the theme: 'Together, let us promote the individual initiative'. A journalist talked about this Dialogue as the first international conference ever on the island. Farmers involved in

FDI were invited to share their experiences at two sessions held in Caux (Switzerland), *Just Governance* and *Dialogue for Land and Peace*.

Eighty-five International farmers and 115 Indian farmers attended the International Farmers' dialogue held in Asia Plateau. The theme of the dialogue was empowering women farmers and discussing emerging technologies. The dialogue was followed by a visit to Grampari, where women farmers shared their stories of change.

### Making local mosques more sustainable

*Sustainable living project, Netherlands*

A group of young Muslims from the Netherlands initiated the project 'The Green Mosque' to raise awareness and stimulate sustainable behavior amongst visitors to mosques. They started a pilot with 'greening' the Indonesian mosque in The Hague. In the mosque, they have put up posters for decreasing water usage, placed special bins for separating plastic waste, and designed a small exhibition on the relation between Islam and sustainable living.

*'Sustainability plays an important part in Islam and therefore we can use our religion as an inspiration for ourselves and the people around us to live in harmony with our natural environment and resources.' - Javed Latif, project member.*



## Grampari – Rural Ecology Programme

### *Ongoing programmes, India*

Grampari is a programme of IofC which, for the last 40 years, has held trainings on values-based leadership development in rural areas of Panchgani, Maharashtra, India. Grampari envisions a just and sustainable society for all and works to create this vision by building the capacity of rural society through thoughtful, innovative and community-led programmes in livelihoods, health and environment, empowerment and local governance.

In 2015, Grampari conducted a residential programme for twelve girls from an Ashram in Satara, where the girls were exposed to new skill sets like sewing, organic farming, etc. A training for 64 agricultural officers from Maharashtra was also organized. Spring work was completed in three villages Kavadi, Vivar and Saighar, giving clean drinking water to about 1500 people, with seven spring

boxes built. An Aquifer Committee of representatives of six villages was formed to understand the concept of ground water as a common resource. School Handwashing Programmes (SHPs) were conducted in fifteen schools reaching out to more than 1500 students. The Global Hand Wash day was celebrated in the Panchgani Municipal schools by building 'tippy taps' and giving information about the importance of hand washing with soap. Eighty teachers from the schools where Grampari is implementing the SHP came for a day's training programme.

A seed festival was organized in Panchgani with the purpose was to promote a dialogue about indigenous seed saving and cultivation. The Grampari Adopted Villages (GAVs) programme was launched to create 'ideal' villages with active participation from locals. The three-day Governance programme to train the newly elected Sarpanches (village

heads) and the executive body was attended by thirty-five people including twenty women.

## Initiatives for Land, Lives, and Peace

### *Caux Dialogue on Land and Security, Switzerland*

It is well established now that the vicious cycle of land degradation, conflict, poverty, and forced migration, leading ultimately to failed states, has in some instances been turned into a virtuous cycle, in which arid lands are reclaimed and populations enabled to thrive where they are. The question addressed at the Caux Dialogue was, 'What can we do to scale up these successes?' The Dialogue was organized in collaboration with UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification) and IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). About 100 professionals and experts in land restoration and trustbuilding participated – farmers, activists, policy-makers, diplomats and officials of government or UN agencies, scientists, and business people.

The question above was addressed in three main ways:

1. In discussion with farmers and experts who are successfully restoring land, hearing from them about the factors which slow down the growth of their work.
2. Through an in-depth focus on water as part of the food value chain, asking how farmers could be better incentivized to manage water and their land sustainably.
3. By investigating the relationship issues behind the problem.



## Restoring land and environment for sustainable living

The first ever showing of a new film, Ethiopia Rising, showing land restoration work which transformed regions better known for famine in the 1980s, was screened at the Dialogue. One outcome was a decision by the large Kenyan delegation to organize in Kenya in April 2016 a meeting in the arid northwest of the country. This has been confirmed in a formal invitation from Deputy Governor Mathew Tuitoek of Baringo County, in the North Rift, and active preparations are under way.

### Egyptian Urban Forum (EUF)

#### *Dialogue on human settlements, Egypt*

In June, an IofC team participated in the first Egyptian Urban Forum (EUF), organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, the Arab League and the UN Habitat commission in Egypt. The slogan for the forum was 'My city is my responsibility'. It was an opportunity to contribute to the promotion of an agenda for human settlements.

During December, Dr Nagia Abdelmoghney and architect Tivoli Tawfik presented a paper entitled 'Towards An Effective Tool For Evaluation

Of Housing Policies' at the first Arab Ministerial Housing Meeting And Forum organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, The Arab League and UN Habitat. Dr Nagia also presented a paper entitled 'The Miracle and Grace of Guidance' in Lebanon.

### Food Week

#### *Awareness programme, Netherlands*

A Food Week was organized in October to raise awareness about the challenges of sustainable living and work towards focused action. During the week, meetings were held with representatives and policy officers from NGOs, scientists, and government officials. A public evening was also held on World Food Day. The week resulted in a partnership between a Dutch and Swedish NGO, and improved relationships between different stakeholders in the field of food safety and regulation.

### Eco-training Centre

#### *Moldova*

Liliana Botnaru and her family were successful with building up an eco-training Centre and initiating an eco-community in a rural area of central Moldova. The Centre, designed for up to 50 participants at a time, is meant to be a hub for practical education in organic agriculture, sustainable living, and community-building. They hope the Centre will not only bring inspiration but help people re-connect with themselves, with each other and with nature.

### Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change

#### *Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

The Chair of IofC Malaysia, K Haridas, was invited to provide an ethical perspective at the Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change in Kuala Lumpur in October. He also gave a presentation at the second annual symposium on Malaysia's War on Corruption in Kuala Lumpur in November.







## Developing a sense of community in society

Contributing to the community we live has a positive impact on its evolution. While personal space for reflection plays an important role in the development of the individual, community focused programmes help to develop a sense of togetherness across religious and political borders. Interacting and working with local communities enrich them and make way for effective and positive living.

### Caux Interns Leadership Programme

*Youth leadership programme, Caux, Switzerland*

A group of 55 young people coming from 27 different countries took part in the programme in 2015 in two four-week batches. They were trained in leadership concepts, community contribution, and values-based discernment. These ideas were then applied to the services provided by the conference centre and the conferences themselves. Working with diversity, taking responsibility and planning initiatives, are part of the personal outcomes for the interns. In the training as well as the service, space

for reflection and personal development remains an essential component.

### Asia Plateau Internship Programme

*Youth Internship programme, Asia Plateau, India*

This year, a young group of students joined the programme and have been involved in various activities and dialogues conducted at Asia Plateau. The interns were immersed in the different sessions, from skits to facilitation. A young lofC team conducted training programmes in the states of Meghalaya in the east and Tamil Nadu in the south. Both these visits

entailed a direct intervention with the local community to understand their problems better. These also included visits to schools, colleges, health-aid centers, police stations, etc. Various activities like cleaning the village, dialogues for understanding the importance of forgiveness, and quiet time practice were conducted to help the inhabitants of these villages.

### Caux Artists Programme

*Caux, Switzerland*

The artists participating were from Ukraine, South Sudan, and India. CAP 2015 was partially funded by the Caux Foundation, Hahnloser Foundation, Initiatives of Change-Sweden, Concordia Foundation (UK) and numerous individuals who contributed to the Caux Scholarship Fund.

## Developing a sense of community in society

'I believe in music as a tool of peacebuilding in community, society, state and between nations.' - Lisa Yasko, Ukraine.

### Kenya I Care

#### *Creative leadership programme, Kenya*

lofC's creative leadership programme, Kenya I Care, engaged high school, college and university students in building a Kenya free of greed and hate. Events in 2015 included a workshop for media students in Nairobi in October, and a three-day Effective Living workshop at the end of December in Subakia, Nakuru, attended by 55 young Catholics.

*'I always pretend to be working hard and I end up not doing what I am supposed to. As a teacher, I realize that my behavior and discipline affect the school. 2016 will be my year with a change'— a teacher from Kenya*

In May, the programme held an Effective Living workshop for a group of young South Sudanese living in Kenya. They spoke of the post-independence violence. Within Kenya, the rise of religious extremism is causing alarm. lofC has worked to address this over the years, and in 2015 ran workshops in Mombasa, Nairobi, Eldoret, and Nakuru. The aim of the workshops was to alert members of the community to the needs of those who are at risk.

In Mombasa, training in trauma counselling was also offered, to equip participants to help those disengaging from violent extremism.

*'All forms of violent extremism seek change through fear and intimidation rather than through peaceful means. I will be an ambassador for peace.'*-Abubakar Swabir

### Community Leaders Congress

#### *Dialogue for local communities, Sitio Sao Luiz, Petrópolis*

A Community Leaders Congress was held in Sitio Sao Luiz, in Petrópolis, in September. After setting the scene and exchanging general thoughts about leadership and community work, the NGO Argilando was presented by Pedro Renan Marcondes who talked about the elements of effective leadership: the recognition of the existence of the crisis, taking responsibility, the ability to be sensitive to each other and seeing a crisis as an opportunity to change. In the second part, the participants were divided into discussion groups with specific topics. In conclusion, one participant said: 'If you are unhappy with the world, make changes yourself. Make sure you yourself do all that you expect others to do.'

### Initiatives of Change on 'Radio Maria'

#### *Community outreach through radio, Colombia*

Over the past five years, there is an hour-long fortnightly Radio Programme called 'Initiatives of Change' going on in Bogotá Colombia in an International Catholic Broadcasting Station called Radio María. We have had sessions on lofC's four Principles, on what the Quiet Time means, how to do it, why it's such a useful tool, and gave examples of situations when they have helped people invited to the programme. Two women who heard the programme, participate now in our Group of Women Creators of Peace, which started in 2003. During the last year and a half, we have been working on translating into Spanish the book 'The Fullness of Life'. Radio Maria will edit the book while



some generous English donors have contributed the money to print it.

### Social welfare through community outreach

#### *Social initiatives by youth, Cambodia*

lofC friends in Cambodia comprising of students and young people distributed cooked food to people who sort through the rubbish after the markets have closed and cooked a meal for 240 HIV/AIDS patients at the Khmer-Soviet Hospital in Phnom Penh. They raised money to buy school supplies for 700 students in three villages, with the aim of encouraging parents to keep them at school. ICA also hosts groups of dentists from a Canadian NGO, who offer free dental care in rural areas and children's homes. Fifty young adults attended a camp in Mondulkiri, in northern Cambodia, which focused on the environment and family relationships. Fifty university students spent a day clearing litter from a beauty spot outside Phnom Penh and learning about lofC.



## Health education for refugee leaders

### *Refugee outreach, Malaysia*

Malaysia is home to nearly 300,000 people of concern to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Over the last four years, Dr Robert Chen and his colleagues have provided health education for refugee leaders and community health workers, at Health Equity Initiatives (HEI), an NGO which responds to the psychological needs of refugees. He also runs workshops for the staff of the shelter for trafficked women.

## Education to the disadvantaged

### *Literacy programme, Malaysia*

Members of the lofC team took part in programmes to bring education to the disadvantaged. In Petaling Jaya, Philomena Morris and Tia Nair conducted bi-weekly classes in maths and literacy for children from the Agathian Shelter for Boys. In Sarawak, Ng Chui Cheng and Lee Chee Ling worked with an NGO which offers educational opportunities to marginalized and indigenous communities.

*'I love to see children taking a chance to learn, vulnerable yet having the courage to try, make mistakes, reflect and try again' - Lee Chee Ling*

# Income and Expenditure

## *Account Statement of lofC International for year ended 31 Dec '15*

lofC International is financed by a combination of individual donations, contributions by member associations, foundations, and by government grants for specific projects.

We are grateful for the generous contributions over and above their dues from several Member bodies which help significantly in meeting its budget, as well as for grants received from the Irene Prestwich Trust and the Robert Hahnloser Foundation. We thank the partners for their cooperation, and the legacies, sister organizations and donors for their generosity.

The financial report reflects the budget of lofC International. Much of the work described in this Annual Report is done by local teams with separate budgets.

The national member bodies are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States. The international programme members are Creators of Peace, Foundations for Freedom, Grands Lacs Association and International Farmers' Dialogue.

INCOME	2015	2014
Membership Fees	37,871	38,430
Donations from lofC/MRA Bodies	233,055	309,113
Fees for Web Services	23,797	18,583
Other Donations Received	53,996	138,289
Donation of Office Space	14,853	14,853
Other income	0	5,789
<b>Total income</b>	<b>363,573</b>	<b>525,057</b>
EXPENDITURE		
Work with International Organisations	92,269	152,082
International Website and Communications	121,606	151,543
President's Budget and International Council	43,511	58,510
Projects	0	1,221
Operations, administration and coordination	72,950	150,465
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>330,336</b>	<b>513,821</b>
Earnings before interest	33,237	11,236
FINANCIAL RESULT		
Financial income	5,412	17,009
Financial expenses	-5,067	-10,341
Financial result	345	6,668
Exceptional Income		
Extraordinary income/expenditure	-630	300
Total exceptional income	-630	300
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>32,952</b>	<b>18,204</b>

All the figures are rounded up to the nearest Swiss Franc.



[www.iofc.org](http://www.iofc.org)

[info@iofc.org](mailto:info@iofc.org)

[Facebook.com/initiativesofchange](https://www.facebook.com/initiativesofchange)

[Youtube.com/initiativesofchange](https://www.youtube.com/initiativesofchange)

Twitter @lofcIntl

Registered Address: Mountain House, CH-1824  
Caux, Switzerland

Secretariat: Rue de Varembe 1, CH-1202 Geneva  
20, Switzerland

Email: [ia-secretariat@iofc.org](mailto:ia-secretariat@iofc.org)

Tel: +41.22.749.1620

Published by  
Initiatives of Change International

---

The publishers thank the numerous individuals who voluntarily contributed to the annual report by writing, editing, proof-reading this document and all those who took photographs and let them be used on these pages.

---

*COVER PHOTO: The Tree of IofC - the four absolute standards are the trunk from which the work in all regions of the world has grown. People from all over the world flock to these branches as birds. IofC's programmes are the fruits of this tree.*

# Initiatives of Change (IofC)

IofC is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own.

## Vision

A just, peaceful and sustainable world to which everyone, responding to the call of conscience, makes their unique contribution.

## Mission

To inspire, equip and connect people to address world needs, starting with themselves.

## Approach

IofC focuses on the link between personal change and global change. Its approach involves:

Starting with oneself: An honest look at one's own motives and behaviour is often the starting point for personal transformation.

Listening to others: With its intergenerational, multicultural and interreligious diversity, IofC enables honest conversations in an open spirit, building bridges of trust and community between people of similar, different, and even antagonistic, backgrounds.

Taking focused action: IofC's people and programmes work for peace and social cohesion by building trust and reconciliation across divides; for good governance at every level by developing a leadership culture based on moral integrity, compassion and selfless service; and for economic justice

and environmental sustainability by inspiring transformation of motives and behaviour.

Recognizing that it will take more than human reason and ability to solve the problems of the world, IofC places the search for inner wisdom at the heart of its approach. When people listen to what is deepest in their hearts, insights often come which lead in unexpected directions. While some understand this experience as divine guidance and others see it as the leading of conscience, many find that the regular practice of silence can give access to a source of truth, renewal, inspiration and empowerment.