

## GLOBAL DIGNITY | press release

### ANNUAL GLOBAL DIGNITY DAY TO BE CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD ON OCTOBER 17

*Thousands of young people will be inspired to make a positive impact  
by recognizing dignity in themselves and others*

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**NEW YORK, NY, OCTOBER 17, 2018**—Today, October 17, 2018, tens of thousands of young people around the world will participate in Global Dignity Day, an annual celebration organized by international non-profit Global Dignity.

In dozens of countries across the world, Global Dignity Day volunteers will facilitate workshops, forums, service projects, inspirational speakers, musical performances and more to help young people tap into the dignity values: self-worth, kindness, tolerance and compassion. Global Dignity Day events take place in a wide variety of settings, including in schools, youth and community centers, refugee camps and beyond.

Global Dignity Day, and Global Dignity's year-round work, promotes the values of tolerance, understanding, compassion, and love. With these values at their core, individuals can go on to create communities that honor and practice peace, equality, inclusion and justice.

John Osborn, Global Dignity Board Chairman said: *"In the face of so much division, conflict and inequality across the world, the need for dignity has never been more clear. We are especially reminded of the importance of these values this year as we celebrate the birth of Nelson Mandela 100 years ago, and mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both Mandela and Dr. King led lives devoted to putting the values and principles of dignity into action, and inspired countless others to do the same—including Global Dignity's founders. 2018 is also the 70th anniversary of the United*

*Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a powerful call for all societies to recognize the inherent dignity of every member of the human family."*

Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, a Co-Founder of Global Dignity, said: *"When Pekka Himanen, John Bryant and I came up with the idea of creating Global Dignity we wanted to strengthen what we, as human beings, have in common. We still have much work to do on that front, but momentum continues to build, especially among young people. By recognizing our own dignity, and the dignity of every other person, we can truly transform the world."*

Global Dignity Day celebrations will take place throughout October in Canada, Pakistan, Germany, Romania, Costa Rica, Poland, Indonesia, and other countries in which Global Dignity is active.

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## **ABOUT GLOBAL DIGNITY**

Global Dignity's mission is to unite everyone with the belief that we all deserve to live a life of dignity.

At the 2006 World Economic Forum, three Young Global Leaders (YGLs) sought to understand the cause of our increasingly polarized world. Their conclusion: a fundamental lack of dignity and recognition of our shared humanity.

Determined to unite more people in the belief that everyone deserves to live a life of dignity, these young leaders — Crown Prince Haakon of Norway; John Bryant, CEO and Founder of Operation HOPE; and Pekka Himanen, author, professor and advisor to the former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari — launched Global Dignity with a workshop in one small classroom in Switzerland.

Global Dignity has since grown to a 70-nation-strong network of volunteer educators, civil society and business leaders, working to strengthen dignity-based values among young people in their communities. Through its annual Global Dignity Day in October and in year-round Dignity Workshops, Global Dignity reached a record 680,000 young people in 2017.

With the establishment in 2017 of its first-ever Home Office, based in New York City, Global Dignity is increasing its reach and deepening its engagement with the next generation of dignity-centered leaders around the world.

More at [globaldignity.org](http://globaldignity.org).