

GLOBAL DIGNITY | press release

ANNUAL GLOBAL DIGNITY DAY TO BE CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD ON OCTOBER 16

*Hundreds of thousands of young people will be inspired to make a positive impact
by recognizing their own self-worth and the dignity in others*

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New York, October 16, 2019—Today, October 16, 2019, hundreds of thousands of young people around the world will participate in Global Dignity Day, an annual celebration organized by international non-profit Global Dignity.

Workshops, forums, service projects, storytelling, inspirational speakers, musical performances and other activities will help participants tap into the dignity values: self-worth, empathy and compassion. Global Dignity Day events take place in a wide variety of settings, including in schools, youth and community centers, refugee camps and workplaces.

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

John Osborn, Global Dignity Board Chair said: *"In today's troubled times — in the face of diminished empathy and equality all across the world — I am convinced that we need to consciously promote dignity more than ever. The time is now for all individuals and societies to recognize the inherent worth of every member of the human family and shape a world where dignity triumphs."*

Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, Co-Founder of Global Dignity, said: *"Pekka Himanen, John Bryant and I created Global Dignity because we wanted to empower people everywhere to look beyond what divides us and, instead, recognize all that unites us. When we held our very first Global Dignity Day in a small*

classroom in Switzerland, we never imagined that one day we would reach one million young people each year. Yet that's how transformational the concept of dignity is. By recognizing our own dignity, and the equal worth of every other person, we can solve the greatest challenges we face and truly transform the world."

Global Dignity Day celebrations will take place throughout October in dozens of countries, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Jordan, Nepal, Niger, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, UAE, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

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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 sought to better understand the root cause of the violence, intolerance and injustice in our world. Their conclusion: a fundamental lack of dignity and recognition of our shared humanity. They came to the realization that the lack of a real understanding of the concept of dignity and the recognition of our shared humanity is at the heart of so much conflict and polarization.

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, philosopher and author — launched Global Dignity with a workshop in one small classroom in Switzerland. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Richard Branson joined the school visit, and were so moved by the experience, that both signed on as members of the new "Honorary Board" and Global Dignity was founded.

Global Dignity has since grown to a 80-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 865,000 young people in 2018.

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.