

INITIATIVES OF CHANGE – INTERNATIONAL

PREAMBLE

Fundamental Principles and History of the Movement

Initiatives of Change is a world-wide network of people of diverse races, nations, creeds and backgrounds, who are committed to transformation in society based on change in individuals, starting with themselves.

It proposes standards of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love as guidelines to private and public conduct.

It affirms that there is a divine purpose for the world and each person in it.

It encourages people to seek this purpose through listening to their inner voice and to their conscience and through making what they know of God and eternal moral values central in their lives.

These ideas when lived out spread from person to person. They have given rise to the international movement which since 1946 has held world conferences in Caux, Switzerland, and generates initiatives on every continent to address such fundamental challenges as:

- Bringing reconciliation and healing where there is conflict;
- Tackling the root causes of corruption, poverty and social exclusion;
- Strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of democracy.

Initiatives of Change is based on the work built up by Frank Buchman (1878 - 1961), a Lutheran minister from Pennsylvania, USA. It has been known since 1938 as Moral Re-Armament (MRA). In 1932 in Geneva, Buchman defined the essence of his thinking:

"The international problems of today are, at bottom, personal problems of selfishness and fear. Lives must be changed if problems are to be solved. Peace in the world can only spring from peace in the hearts of people. A dynamic experience of God's free Spirit is the answer to regional antagonism, economic depression, racial conflict and international strife."

Later, he expressed the role of MRA as bringing "the full dimension of change: economic change; social change; national change; international change; all based on personal change" (1949). Such a work, he believed, offered a "good road...upon which all can unite..." Christian, Jew, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Confucianist – "all find they can change, where needed, and travel along this good road together" (1948), implicitly referring to all major faith traditions.

The Members of Initiatives of Change – International affirm their adherence to the above and establish the following principles:

- Initiatives of Change – International does not discriminate on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief or political opinion;
- The Initiatives of Change Movement is independent of any and all political or economic authorities, entities or organisations. The Members of Initiatives of Change – International will maintain their autonomy, subject to the laws of their respective countries, and act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement;
- Initiatives of Change is a voluntary movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain;
- There can be only one Member of Initiatives of Change – International in any one country. Members shall be National Societies. Where these cannot exist for any reason, other entities or individuals may become "Associates"; and
- The Initiatives of Change Movement, represented by the International Council and Initiatives of Change – International, and including individuals and entities connected to Initiatives of Change activities, is world-wide. All Members of the Association have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.