



Lazar Simeonov

## President's message

In the face of enormous environmental, economic and social challenges, how can we address the divisions that get in the way of effective responses? For my wife and myself, one response has been a five-month 'Voyage of dialogue and discovery' to 14 nations, accompanied by a multinational team of mostly young *Initiatives of Change* activists. We did not go to preach solutions, but with a hope for honest dialogue and collaboration.

Our journey began in war-scarred Sri Lanka. Then to Indonesia, where the genuine faith of our young hosts showed us Islam with heart, with compassion. In Kenya and South Africa, we encountered a hunger for reconciliation between tribes, races, and within families. In Norway we met young families building bridges with the Muslim minority.

In Palestine I was not prepared for the devastating impact of innumerable Israeli settlements, walls, and settler-only roads. Yet nor did I anticipate the quality and dedication to non-violence, peace and justice we witnessed in many Palestinians and Israelis.

In Romania the depth of faith, especially among young people, was striking. In Ukraine, where cultures and political influences clash, our Voyage sparked a national Week of Trust which the media picked up, placing trust on the national agenda. In Japan we found a nation at a crossroads, caught between greater involvement in Asia and consciousness of its past mistakes. The Voyage continues through USA, and countries of Latin America.

In every country, simple messages made the strongest impact:

- when I point an accusing finger at my neighbour, there are three more pointing back at me
- the most important connection is between each individual and the 'inner voice' of conscience.

Everywhere, we invited people to consider a 'coalition of conscience' to confront the real enemies, which are hate, fear and greed. Obedience to that inner voice of truth is not only available but the irreplaceable response to the crises we face.

**Rajmohan Gandhi**

President, *Initiatives of Change International*

Professor Rajmohan Gandhi has been President of *lofC International* since 1 January 2009. A journalist, academic and social reformer, Gandhi has received international acclaim for his biography of his grandfather, Mohandas K Gandhi.

## About Initiatives of Change

*Initiatives of Change International (lofC International)* is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working for peace, reconciliation and human security worldwide. It has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It stresses the importance of personal responsibility, ethical leadership and building trust across the world's divides.

Based in Caux, Switzerland, *lofC International* was founded in 2002 as an association bringing together the autonomous national bodies of the *Initiatives of Change* movement which are active in 39 countries, many of them over several decades.

*lofC International* represents the universality and multi-faith character of the movement, and facilitates its relationships with the United Nations and other international organizations through its Geneva office. Its Office of Training Services in Geneva connects the training capacities of the worldwide movement with needs identified by the UN and other international agencies.

*lofC International* has operational responsibility for *Initiatives of Change's* global communications and facilitates collaboration between *lofC* national bodies. Certain transnational programmes of the *Initiatives of Change* movement also operate under its auspices.

## Aims

As a diverse global network, *lofC* initiates programmes aimed at:

- Healing the wounds of history
- Strengthening the moral and spiritual dimensions of democracy
- Building trust and integrity in the global economy to sustainably meet the needs of humanity and protect the environment
- Rebuilding a sense of community and tackling causes of racial and communal discrimination
- Forging networks among people of different cultures and faiths to work for reconciliation, justice and peace
- Encouraging a culture of care and responsibility in personal and family life



Maria Grace

CAUX CONFERENCE CENTRE  
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## Funding

*Initiatives of Change* is financed by a combination of individual contributions, its own activities, grants from corporations, foundations and governments, and income from invested funds, mostly received from bequests.

Its major conference centre, owned and managed by the Swiss foundation *CAUX-Initiatives of Change*, is funded in like manner and by the lease of the Caux facility to a hotel management school for 10 months of the year. Asia Plateau centre in India is largely funded by training programmes and contributions of conference participants.

Full-time workers receive modest salaries or allowances and in-kind support. Part-time volunteers make significant contributions of their time and skills. Accounts of national societies are audited annually and are available on request.

*Initiatives of Change International* receives occasional grants for specific projects from governments and private foundations, and is supported by contributions from individuals and its 21 national society members. Fresh funds would enable us to expand our capacity to satisfy the growing demand for our trust-building work. Contributions are usually most tax efficient through the national associations of *lofC*. Contributions and funding enquiries for international operations can be directed through the Treasurer: [treasurer@iofc.org](mailto:treasurer@iofc.org).

For online payments see: [www.iofc.org/support](http://www.iofc.org/support)



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# HIGHLIGHTS 2009-2010



Mike Brown

WOMEN, CREATORS OF PEACE CONFERENCE



Maria Grace

MUSLIM PEACEMAKERS IN EUROPE



Wadiah Khoury

GANDHI WITH STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

SUDANESE,  
PAKISTANIS  
AND  
AMERICANS  
IN CAUX



Cécile de Nomazy



**Building trust across the world's divides**

*Initiatives of Change International*

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

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## How it works

Shortly after the massive stroke which almost killed him, Frank Buchman, the initiator of *Initiatives of Change*, said: 'I have been organizing a movement. But a movement should be the outcome of changed lives, not the means of changing them. From now on I am going to ask God to make me into a great life-changer.' In practice IofC is both. But Buchman's insight remains central to how IofC works.

For example, the launch of *Initiatives of Change Ethiopia*, 16 October 2009, in the historic hall of the African Union, came after decades of steady IofC work in the country going back to the 1960s – including times when it could not operate openly. The President of Ethiopia said that IofC is meeting a need to mould ethical citizens in order to face the challenges posed by conflict, corruption, climate change and injustice. The launch was followed by a six-week 'Harambee leadership programme' for 18 young people from seven African countries, undertaking outreach to schools and universities.

Similarly, when IofC's Foundations for Freedom (F4F) programme was officially registered as an independent international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Ukraine in September 2009, it was the culmination of several years work by IofC in the region. F4F was started in 1993 by IofC-UK, with the aim of training a new generation of leaders in Central and Eastern Europe. The new organization aims, 'to promote development of truly free, democratic and fair societies where citizens understand and practise the values on which freedom thrives, in particular honesty, integrity, personal responsibility and servant leadership'.

Through public forums, competitions, street activities and the media, this young team organized a national 'week of trust', timed during the visit of IofC President Rajmohan Gandhi to Ukraine. Getting 'trust' onto the national agenda is no easy task in this nation where corruption and the wounds of history run deep. Some of the team are now building a sustainable community house as a base for dialogue, training, and trust-building in the region.

In each case, the organization or programme is the visible fruit of something less tangible – a deep sense of commitment and responsibility born of faith and moral change in individuals. In countries such as Ethiopia and Ukraine, organizations spring up like mushrooms wherever there is aid money – and disappear just as quickly when aid dries up. But a movement which is the outcome of changed lives, endures.



Chris Breitenberg  
Week of Trust in Ukraine



Laurence Galopin

Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye meet French President Sarkozy at the Fondation Chirac award ceremony

## Peace and trustbuilding

*At the core of IofC's approach to peace building is the practice of listening to the inner voice of conscience and a readiness to take responsibility rather than blame others. The following are some of the activities conducted by IofC during the year.*

At a time of heightened tensions between Sudan's Muslim north and Christian south, Nigerians Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye shared their interfaith mediation experience with religious and political leaders in Khartoum and White Nile State. The story of how these former militia leaders and sworn enemies reconciled and now work for peace is told in the film *The Imam and the Pastor*, made by IofC's FLTfilms. Their visit to Sudan in January, assisted by IofC, was to launch the Arabic version of the film, and followed a similar visit to Egypt in May/June 2009. In November the pair were presented with the first *Fondation Chirac Prize for Conflict Prevention*.

Creators of Peace is a women's initiative which challenges and empowers women to become active peacemakers. The fifth Creators of Peace international conference took place in **Australia** in October, 2009, bringing together 235 women from over 30 countries. Forgiveness was 'a golden thread weaving through every session' as Aboriginal Australians, Afghanis and Russians, Indonesians and Timorese, Europeans and Africans shared stories of breaking out of conflict.

**Hope-Sierra Leone**, a Freetown-based NGO affiliated to IofC, works to implement recommendations from the nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It has coordinated a series of reconciliation and symbolic reburial ceremonies over eight months in 17 chiefdoms around the country. A decade of brutal civil war, ending in 2002, left 50,000 dead and thousands more traumatized – destroying the economic and social fabric of the country. One part of the government's reparations programme involves payments or services provided to victims. The other, coordinated by Hope-Sierra Leone, addresses the emotional wounds through age-old practices rooted in the local culture.

An initiative described by the BBC as 'ground-breaking', brought 65 young Muslims from across Europe for a five-day programme of 'Learning to be peacemakers' in the IofC conference centre in Caux, **Switzerland** in August 2009. It was the brainchild of British Imam Ajmal Masroor after an earlier visit to Caux led to 'a profound change' in his

thinking. Masroor wants to train 1,000 young **European Muslims**, supporting them to better understand their own faith tradition and to become involved constructively in the wider community.

## Transforming society and culture

*IofC programmes empower individuals and teams to help shape the societies and cultures they are part of. By bringing people together in 'honest conversations' ways are found to address social ills such as racism, corruption, family breakdown and selfish materialism.*

Former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, chair of the Democratic National Committee in the USA, launched a book on *Trustbuilding: an honest conversation on race, reconciliation, and responsibility* on 15 March. The book, published by the University of Virginia Press, was written by Rob Corcoran, founder of IofC's Hope in the Cities programme. It tells how Richmond, a city starkly divided by a history of slavery and racism, has modelled approaches to facilitating honest and inclusive dialogue and building diverse partnerships. 'Listening is a lost art in this world,' said Kaine. 'Hope in the Cities is creating a space where people can talk.'

IofC participated in the fifth **Parliament of the World's Religions** in Melbourne, **Australia**, 3-9 December 2009, with over 6,000 from 200 countries representing the world's major faiths. IofC's contributions included a Creators of Peace workshop, sessions on forgiveness and screenings of *The Imam and the Pastor* by IofC's FLTfilms. Outside the official programme, the IofC centre in Melbourne hosted two occasions with speakers from the Parliament.

In **France**, a 'Dialogue Initiative' has held several conferences involving public figures such as Professor Tariq Ali around the crucial themes of intercultural communication and diversity. Three dialogue groups remain active, giving people of different cultural origins and generations the opportunity to create a society that is totally inclusive and founded on a shared citizenship.

In December, 100 students representing 50 schools and universities launched **SAVE Indonesia** (Students Against Violence and Extremism). A 10-point declaration, drafted



Rahul Kapadia

Jewish, Christian and Muslim peacemakers from the Holy Land speaking in Melbourne

by students, calls on them to respect differences, refuse discriminatory behaviour, speak out against violence and promote a spirit of brotherhood. The declaration was the product of two Youth Peace Camps organized by IofC Indonesia and the Center for Pesantren and Democracy Studies.

## Global economy and sustainability

*From the earliest days of IofC, people from all sides of economic life – workers, management, farmers and financiers – have found common cause in working together to meet the needs of humanity. New energies and creative teamwork emerge when people look beyond their own self-interest, or the narrow interests of their group.*

In July 2009, the second Caux Forum for Human Security was opened by Prince Hassan of Jordan suggesting that 2009 was the year 'to change our mindset' in response to challenges of water and food security, and dwindling natural resources. 'Thinking supra-nationally and intra-dependently is essential,' he said. The Forum, in Caux, **Switzerland**, brought together peacemakers, politicians, environmentalists and campaigners from both governmental and grassroots organizations to explore the interconnectedness of human security, climate change, good governance, corruption and the business sector. In this context there were dialogues between Israelis and Palestinians and between Indians and Pakistanis. Young environmentalists at the Forum formed an IofC 'Environment and Economic' group. Five of them went on to attend the COP15 conference in Copenhagen, working to try to build trust between the parties.

Also in Caux, a conference on Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy took up the challenge of building a people-focused sustainable approach to globalization. Among the industrialists attending, Rajeev Dubey, President of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, India's largest tractor manufacturer, told of his company's investment in bio-diesel and hybrid electric vehicles, and community programmes including planting more than a million trees across the country. A Food and Sustainability Network was launched at the conference, connecting farmers and consumers to promote just and sustainable strategies for food production, water use, health, the soil and the environment.



Rajeev Dubey: planting a million trees per year

## Training and capacity building



Kathy Aquilina

Caux Scholars Program

*Change requires people with a passion for a cause, resilience to keep going when things seem impossible, and moral qualities to inspire others to give their best. IofC training programmes aim to nurture a visionary, inclusive and humble leadership.*

Thirty-nine training programmes of IofC are being offered around the world, three of which have continued for more than 30 years. Vital elements of these training programmes are tools such as inner listening, sharing stories of change that lead to change in the wider community or society, and living a values-guided life where motives and values are shaped by absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.

The 17th Caux Scholars Program, for instance, gave 20 post-graduate students an intensive summer school in the theories and practice of conflict prevention, embedded with the basics of IofC. Weekend 'Youth changing lives' programmes take place through the year in Brazil. And a second 'Tools for Change' conference in Malaysia combined basic tools of personal change with professional skills training for 80 NGO and community activists.

This year the Office of International Training, based in Geneva, launched the IofC Trainers Certification process and the formation of country-based Trainers' Hubs, making programmes and designs available to local, regional and international organizations. The Office conducted trainings on leadership, culture, conflict and team-building to national and international organizations in **Switzerland**, the **Netherlands**, **Sierra Leone**, **Lesotho** and **South Africa**. As a result the Minister of Gender in Lesotho asked IofC International to conduct training to female members of parliament as well as those in the 10 district councils before the end of 2010.