

Agenda for Reconciliation, the global trust-building network, presents the 2007 conference:

Can integrity, respect and justice lead to dignity for all?

Monday 13 August at (16.45) to Sunday 19 August (noon) 2007

Background:

Of all that threatens peace in our world one of the strongest weapons of destruction is humiliation. It causes great pain and a sense of alienation and marginalisation. It crushes people's dignity and leads to despair.

Persistent humiliation and injustice drives individuals, militant groups and nations to respond with violence, to kill and mutilate.

When humiliation has taken its toll in our cities and on the battlefields – how can a basis of trust and respect for each other be created, even when we disagree? How can we open the door to communication?

What can empower and encourage those who have worked for peace, sacrificed for peace, only to have their efforts overwhelmed by fresh rounds of violence and vengeance?

Some see domination, total victory, as the solution. However, in an age of nuclear capability, of 'smart' weaponry and suicide bomber desperation, escalations of war and conflict cause much suffering on all sides. There are no real winners.

The answer will not be found simply by negotiating or applying pressure; even less so by fighting and war.

It can be found through a radical search for the causes of humiliation; and having the humility, honesty and humanity to accept where our group, nation, religion, power bloc has added to the stockpiles of injustices.

It can be found through something beyond us all.

Caux provides a safe space, a meeting point, for those courageous enough, genuine enough, to engage together in the search for such solutions. And a spirit of openness to the experiences and discoveries of others in many diverse settings will help us in this search.

The conference themes:

1. From dehumanization to human dignity;
2. Belief and culture: fuelling or resolving conflict?
3. Stepping out of the shadows of the past;
4. Towards integrity and justice;
5. Respecting difference: building trust.

Practical information:

For conference application and costs, travel details etc, please see the general Caux conference programme in print, or on line at www.caux.ch/en/programme

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