Introduction

Initiatives of Change is active all over the world. One of its strengths is its capacity to generate grassroots initiatives by committed individuals. This report gives glimpses of their action in many countries.

Global Conference Centres
The two main centres of IofC are located at Caux in Switzerland, and Asia Plateau, Panchgani, in India. These centres were established through voluntary donations from countless people who were impacted by the ideas of Initiatives of Change. Owned and operated respectively by the Swiss Foundation CAUX-Initiatives of Change, and Friends of Moral Re-Armament (India), they host hundreds of individuals every year from around the world for programmes, events and internships.

In 2015 over 3,000 people took part in conferences and workshops at Asia Plateau, and nearly 1,400 people at Caux. These events dealt with governance, peacemaking, development and much more, and at the heart of each were the human factors.

How does a person move from self-centredness to concern for others? Where do they find the courage to fight injustice? What can heal hatred? Can those who have suffered forgive? Resolving personal challenges such as these is often crucial to a person’s effectiveness in working to better their society. Asia Plateau and Caux offer everyone the space to seek this resolution.

IofC Network
While IofC teams are registered as formal organizational bodies in several countries, many facilitators, trainers and coordinators work voluntarily in the spirit of service-oriented leadership. This report contains highlights of the impact in many sections of society of the commitment of these individuals and teams.

Focus Areas
The programmes of IofC focus on three areas:
Trustbuilding: Peace and social cohesion by building trust and reconciliation across divides.
Ethical Leadership: Good governance at every level by developing a leadership culture based on integrity, compassion and selfless service.
Sustainable Living: Economic justice and environmental sustainability by inspiring transformation of motives and behaviour.

IofC International
Initiatives of Change International, a non-profit organization registered in Switzerland, serves the wider IofC movement. Thirty-five national bodies and programmes comprise its formal membership. Each Member operates autonomously on projects addressing specific local needs.

Affiliations: IofC International has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe.

Governance and Management: IofC International is governed by an International Council of up to 11 members who contribute their time and experience voluntarily. Day-to-day management is carried out by an Executive Director who oversees the operations team.
A message from Initiatives of Change International

In Europe, 2015 was a year when violence, extremism and migration dominated the news. Around the world polarisation and divisions continue to rise and the gap between the richest and poorest continues to widen, spreading more anger and bitterness. These issues, together with a fragile global economy and the growing impact of climate change, challenge all nations and societies to search for sustainable solutions that give dignity to all.

There is increasing awareness that collaborative partnerships are needed to address the root causes of extremism of all kinds. The prevailing injustice, poverty and feeling of exclusion drive many young people to an ideology of violence. We need partnerships that include anyone and everyone to address issues of common concern and create a better society for everyone.

Initiatives of Change (IofC) is an idea at work around the world. It states that transforming oneself is the first step to bringing about the transformation of thinking and living that is so evidently needed to address world needs. IofC’s approach is simple: the starting point of personal transformation is an honest look at one’s own motives and behaviour; applying moral standards in our own lives and seeking inner wisdom to unlock the creative potential in everyone. Listening to others, dialogue and honest conversations build trust, eradicate stereotypes and enable effective teamwork across divides and partnerships on issues of common interest.

This report documents the world-wide network’s consistent, tireless efforts – as individuals, groups, IofC registered bodies – in collaborative actions in 2015. The initiatives converge around our focus areas of Trustbuilding, Ethical Leadership and Sustainable Living. The report highlights the importance of equipping and connecting people of all backgrounds, ages and professions to start local initiatives that make a difference to our world.

Dr Martin Luther King said, ‘the arc of the universe is long but bends towards justice.’ The stories in this report give us hope and encourage us to continue to work in partnership with others to bend the arc towards lasting changes in society that give purpose, meaning and dignity to all. Initiatives of Change is an idea that includes everyone in the common task of making a better world.

Dr Omnia Marzouk
(UK/Egypt)
President

Mohan Bhagwandas
(Australia/Sri Lanka)
Vice President
Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership

Good governance is more than just efficient management of public affairs: it involves intervention in society to solve the acute problems faced by communities. Ethical leadership based on values of honesty and human dignity enhances the impact of governance. In countries ridden by internal conflicts, just governance and ethical leadership have a vital role in transforming society.

Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE)

Conference and events in Switzerland, London, Sweden, USA and India

The annual TIGE conference in Caux, Switzerland, was attended by 116 people from 28 nations in June. Under the theme ‘Equipping leadership for economic transformation’, it showcased models of economic and personal transformation. Business School Lausanne and Leadership for Transformation (LiFT) delivered an action-oriented training programme, called Impact Leadership, as part of the TIGE conference. In parallel, the Caux Round Table group of business leaders held a meeting on the responsibility of business to create a sustainable global economy.

Christian Felber, Austrian founder of Economy for the Common Good (ECG), spoke on ‘How to create an economy for the common good – can caterpillars fly?’ in London in November. Felber’s visit to the UK, in partnership with the Civil Society Forum, aimed to engage British participants in the ECG model, an economic system based on ‘standards for human relationships as well as constitutional values’.

TIGE Sweden organized several events in November to promote ECG and inspire people in institutions to live and promote values-based stewardship. The programme was in cooperation with the Environmental Party, ECG Sweden and Hallvarsson & Halvarsson.

TIGE UK held a series of talks throughout the year, including: ‘Can big business help to transform the world?’ with Lucy Parker and Jon Miller, co-authors of the book Everybody’s Business, in March; ‘After the elections: Can Britain create a moral economy?’ with the distinguished political philosopher David Marquand two days before the general election in May; and ‘Redefining the purpose of business for the common good’ with Charles Wookey, CEO of Blueprint for Better Business, and Laura Turkington of Vodaphone in October. IofC-UK’s business programmes team delivered two workshops on...
Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership

‘The five pillars of trust’ at York St John University’s social entrepreneurship conference in September, which focused on cross-sector collaboration.

An information and networking event for professionals was organized in Lausanne.

Michael Smith addressed the issue of motivating today’s generations of entrepreneurs and business leaders in Great Company, a new book which draws stories from the Caux TIGE conferences. Launch events were held in the USA, the UK, Switzerland, Sweden, and India.

Just Governance

Dialogue to promote better governance, Switzerland and India

Just Governance depends both on good structures and good leaders. IofC’s conferences on just governance at its centres in Caux, Switzerland, and Asia Plateau, India, focus on the personal qualities which enable each person to take leadership in advancing governance based on integrity and justice. In 2015, the two events were attended by people from a total of 62 countries – diplomats, politicians, academics, NGO leaders and many more.

Michael Møller, Director-General of the UN at Geneva, was among 230 participants at the conference on Just Governance for Human Security at Caux. As in previous years, the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs sponsored 24 senior officials, politicians and civic leaders from Mali, Chad and Niger. In total 25 Ukrainians took part in the conference.

Just Governance at Caux is important for Ukrainians as a platform for dialogue among global changemakers, and a place to reflect on your own activity and think what you can do differently’ – Ihor Koliushko, Head of the Board of Ukraine’s Centre for Political and Legal Reform

Conversations in Caux inspired another Ukrainian participant, an academic from Kiev’s Institute of Diplomacy, to initiate a Summer School for Good Governance in Kiev in 2016. A number of Russians also participated, enabling dialogue between Russians and Ukrainians. Among them was Professor Andrey Zubov, a distinguished historian who spoke out against the invasion of Crimea.

‘I remember the Caux meetings with such joy. The work of God is often carried out unobtrusively and quietly, having the result of bringing peace in the world.’ – Andrey Zubov, Russian historian

Armenian and Turkish students met to explore how to build trust between their peoples. ‘We said things we had never been able to say,’ said a Lebanese Armenian participant. ‘There were tense moments, but the dialogue paved the way towards reconciliation. We are now planning more meetings for the coming year: A workshop on challenging the narrative of violent extremism was led by Guled Osman, a Somali, who is now based in the UK.

The Dialogue on Just Governance at Asia Plateau covered such themes as corruption, trust-building in divided societies, healing historical wounds and the rights of minorities. Following the dialogue, workshops were held on peace-building, ethics and governance. The opening session was addressed by Kem Sokha, Vice President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, Sarah Awel James Ajith, Chair of the South Sudan Womens Association,
Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership

and Adnan Fakir, lecturer in Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University in Bangladesh. The dialogue focused on the human attitudes which threaten just governance — apathy, greed, blame, fear of taking responsibility.

‘I affirm that from now on, Cambodia will not have change with violence.’ – Kem Sokha, Vice President of the Cambodian National Rescue Party

**Caux Initiatives for Business (CIB)**
**Malaysia, Kenya, South Africa, India**

Thirty people from business and industry took part in a round table deliberation organized in collaboration with Business Ethics Institute of Malaysia (BEIM) in March. They examined the challenges facing industry and in making a business sustainable. The same month, Senator Paul Low Seng Kuan, the Minister responsible for integrity, transparency and human rights in the Malaysian Prime Minister’s Department, received a group from CIB. During an hour’s conversation with CIB Director Sarosh Ghandy, Vivek Asrani, MD of Kaymo Fastener Company, and Charles Fernandes from the CIB Secretariat, the Senator spoke of the need to address the trust deficit between the government and civil society.

In Kenya, CIB held formal interactions with key persons from business and industry, a round table hosted by Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited, and a meeting with business leaders and MPs. They also attended the Annual National Prayer Breakfast in Nairobi, graced by the President and the Deputy President.

In South Africa, a CIB roadshow met Sabine Dall’Omo, CEO of Siemens Southern and East Africa, and Joanna Yawitch, CEO of the National Business Initiative. The team met with the CEO of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, senior managers of Thebe Investments, members of the management committee of the Da Vinci Institute, the CEO and guests of Professional Aviation at Lanseria Airport, senior executives of Anglo Vaal Industries, Econometrix and Neotel, and two executives of Ethics South Africa, who are keen to develop a memorandum of understanding with CIB. CIB interacted with business people and individuals who want to encourage social responsibility in the private sector.

In India, three round tables were conducted in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai on the theme ‘Is business ready to change, to change India?’ Another Round Table on the theme, ‘Are we willing to change ourselves, to change business?’ also took place.
Initiatives for just governance and ethical leadership

Effective Living and Leadership (ELL) and Heart of Effective Leadership (HEL) programmes

Leadership training for the business community, India

During 2015, 11 Effective Living and Leadership (ELL) programmes and nine Heart of Effective Living (HEL) programmes took place at Asia Plateau, involving more than 950 people from over 40 organizations. ELL encourages people from industry and business to find their unique contribution to the transformation needed in the world, starting with themselves. The HEL programme is designed for senior executives and managers in private and public enterprises. The diverse and experienced faculty drew from their own lives to show the connection between leadership based on knowing oneself, sustainable success in business, and purpose in life. Inaugurating one of these programmes, the resident director of Asia Plateau, Ravindra Rao said, ‘We must care to listen and dare to obey, to change the world.’

Facilitation Tools Training Programme
Three-day workshop, Switzerland

Representatives from NGOs and the corporate sector took part in two days’ training on group facilitation and a day on action planning. Participants learned powerful methods for generating consensus in groups and for building ownership of projects or events. The workshops were conducted in collaboration with the Institute for Cultural Affairs UK.

Impact Initiatives Challenge
Conference to equip, inspire and connect the next generation of changemakers, Switzerland

A diverse group of young changemakers living in Europe took part in the Impact Initiatives Challenge (IIC) in Caux in August. They went on a two-part journey, starting with reflection and connection to discover their purpose, and going on to set goals to put their ideas into practice. They participated in workshops on such topics as personal development for entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurship, visual thinking and open space. In the summer of 2015, one participant founded a French branch of the DEEP (Dialogue, Empathic Engagement, and Peacebuilding) Network.

Peace and Good Governance Programme
Dialogue in the Great Lakes region, Africa

In spite of the terrible setbacks in Burundi, and the remaining political tensions in DRC, IofC’s Peace and Good Governance programme continued to promote political dialogue in the Great Lakes region. In DRC, work to promote political dialogue was launched nationally in August 2014, in collaboration with other institutions, and continued throughout 2015. Opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the crisis in eastern DRC were undermined by confrontations between the army and local militias at the end of 2014. While some politicians accept the principle of dialogue, others are suspicious and neutral facilitators are needed. It is also important that the rebel movements are included in the process.

‘To overcome the deadlock in Africa, we must go beyond solutions based on political mechanisms and build on people’ – Thomas Ntambu, Director of the programme

Ethics in Public Governance

Ethical Leadership Programme, India

In December, two training programmes in ethical leadership for government officials were organized at Asia Plateau. The first, on Ethical Leadership in Urban Governance, was attended by officials of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The second, on Ethical Leadership in Public Governance, was attended by officers of the Odisha Administrative Service. The courses were conducted by Directors of the IofC Centre for Governance in Delhi.
Inclusive dialogue across borders

In a world in a state of turmoil, dialogue supersedes war; peaceful and inclusive exchange of ideas across international borders offers a better atmosphere for solving problems. Dialogues aimed at peacemaking and trustbuilding between people from conflict areas around the focused particularly on Europe in the light of the migration crisis and rising extremism.

Addressing Europe’s Unfinished Business

Conference on Europe’s conflicts in Caux, Switzerland

‘Creating a Common Understanding of Issues and Values’ was the theme of a conference at Caux in the framework of a four-year project on ‘Addressing Europe’s Unfinished Business’ (AEUB). The programme seeks to engage Europeans from all backgrounds in developing a spirit of partnership and solidarity across the continent. Participants reflected on current issues: recurring conflicts, massive waves of migration, shaky minority rights and dealing with the past. AEUB also launched its Young Ambassadors programme: 35 young ambassadors aged between 18 and 25 from 24 countries took part in the conference.

AEUB also launched its Young Ambassadors programme: 35 ambassadors aged 18 to 25 representing 24 countries were present at the conference.

‘The conference gave me the ability to debate in a positive and constructive manner with peers coming from traditionally conflictual areas.’ – AEUB young ambassador from Albania

Egyptian Dialogue Market Forum

Dialogue on conflict transformation, Egypt

During October, a team from IoFC was invited to participate in the first Egyptian Dialogue Market Forum 2015, organized by the Swiss embassy, the Danish-Arab Dialogue Masritee and several other civic entities. The participants represented a variety of NGOs, academic research centres, and political parties. The programme involved two panels on dialogue, several workshops and an artistic performance. Workshops covered dialogue and conflict transformation, designing dialogue processes, facilitating and designing a successful dialogue, bringing dialogue into everyday life, early warning and rapid response mechanisms, art as a tool for dialogue, community dialogue, and social responsibility.
Inclusive dialogue across borders

Initiatives and Dialogues

France

In a France, where the threat of rupture and violence looms large, IoFC has a vital role in creating links between people. An atmosphere of trust and openness – where people can express their feelings and listen to those they have trouble understanding or of those they have – helps to break taboos and to overcome fears and prejudices.

A public event was held in Paris two months after the attacks of January 2015 on the topic of ‘Freedom of expression when tested by social breakdown’. More than 250 people interacted with a panel of eminent speakers: the sociologist and philosopher Edgar Morin, Professor Tariq Ramadan, Jean Baptiste de Foucauld, the founder of the Civic Pact, and Camille Besse, a cartoonist who worked on Charlie Hebdo. At the end of the year a similar event was held on ‘Migrants: understand each other to act together’. It aimed to increase understanding by giving a voice to migrants and those involved in receiving them.

Some 10 spaces for dialogue have been created during the year, with the aim of building of deeper and more sustainable links between individuals. They have taken place in Paris and in the suburbs, bringing together people of different generations, social and cultural backgrounds. In Versailles, a group of women meet regularly to discuss topics of daily concern. In Villeneuve-la-Garenne, one of the poorest towns in the west of Paris with a high rate of unemployment, IoFC and a local association held a Cultural and Citizens’ Café on the theme of success. 120 people took part, almost half of them aged under 25.

Finally, IoFC organized a writing workshop for young people under the banner ‘Paris in dialogue: let’s make the most of fraternity’, in support of the campaign for fraternity launched by several associations nationwide. The workshop, on images and stereotypes in the media, was led by a media specialist and graphic artist who illustrated the participants’ remarks as they discussed. At a creative workshop on the Place de la République in Paris, people were invited to draw their perception of fraternity, to coincide with a dialogue on this theme at the Musée Social.

Dialogue concerning European communities

Stockholm, Sweden

In February, the newly elected President of the Council of Europe International NGO (INGO) Conference, Professor Anna Rurka, signed a bi-annual agreement governing INGO Dialogue Projects with IoFC delegate Christoph Spreng. The INGO Dialogue Hub provided one of three training sessions for local community leaders organized by IoFC Sweden’s Hope in Järva social cohesion project. Two trainees went on to organize a dialogue on global citizenship and social inclusion. Three participants facilitated dialogues among fellow Somalis of different clans, including ex-combatants. Another two organized a youth dialogue on segregation and stereotyping in Tensta district, while others run dialogues on housing rights for vulnerable people in the same district. These have led to the rehousing of vulnerable residents who were due to be displaced. The Dialogue Hub Coordinator also provided a session for Ukrainian civil society facilitators.
Beyond Forgiving dialogue

Canada and UK

IoF Centre hosted a screening in Quebec City of *Beyond Forgiving*, the award-winning film which tells a story of reconciliation in post-apartheid South Africa. An audience of 56 gathered in the spirit of the evening’s theme: ‘To come out of our solitudes – dare to build together.’ After the screening, participants representing each of Canada’s four ‘solitudes’ (Aboriginals, French, English and immigrants) shared their testimonies, linking the film to the context of Quebec. Each spoke movingly from the heart. After a long time of silence, participants were invited to share their convictions on the relevance of the film and its use in the region. As a fruit of this activity, IoF Centre partnered with Development and Peace and others to create a committee, ‘Passerelle Interculturelle’, which met monthly from August 2015 to prepare a series of gatherings. The programme included an Aboriginal ceremony, diverse cultural legends, tasting traditional Innu bannock bread, and presentations on human rights and Quebec International Solidarity Days. The programme also featured a time of silence, followed by a circle of sharing.

‘With this year symbolising two decades since South Africa’s first democratic elections, we very much hope that Ginn and Letlapa’s experience of tragedy and hope will serve as a poignant modern day parable to go beyond forgiving to break the cycle of vengeance and help others.’ Imad Karam, the film’s director

Initiatives for healing and understanding

Australia and the Pacific

In a year when treatment of asylum-seekers caused tensions, IoF Centre Australia reached out to its neighbours. In March, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu opened an exhibition commemorating the slave trade which, from 1863, brought Pacific Islanders to Australia as labourers. ‘Australian Reflections on Blackbirding’ was created by David Bunton, the great-grandson of a missionary who opposed the trade, and his artist wife, Helen. Both had earlier taken part in similar commemorations of the trade in Fiji.

Miftahul Huda and his wife, Nenden Ulfa, both leaders of the IoF community in Indonesia, spent two months in Australia, where they spoke at meetings, held media interviews, conducted workshops, interacted with academics and argued for a dialogue of understanding to counter radicalization.

Peacebuilding initiative

Reconciliation dialogue, Colombia

An IoF Centre team participated in Agape por Colombia, an initiative which works for reconciliation in all strata of society. They work with guerrillas, paramilitary, victims of rape, government representatives, child soldiers, policemen and former hostages.

Engaging with international networks

Geneva Office, Switzerland

Initiatives of Change continued building relationships with international actors in Geneva in 2015. A panel was organized in partnership with World Vision at the Geneva Environment House, to share the conclusions of July’s Caux Dialogue for Land and Security (CDLS) with Geneva’s environmental community and to brainstorm on sustainable development.

During a visit to Caux, the Director-General of the UN office in Geneva, Michael Møller, encouraged broader collaboration between IoF Centre and the UN.
Inclusive dialogue across borders

This led to IoFIC’s participation in the ‘Perception Change Project’, a partnership of over 60 NGOs and institutions with the UN who are working to shed light on the vibrant hub of organizations in Geneva. A ‘cookbook’ was launched at the Geneva book fair, mixing real recipes from well-known chefs and the work of NGOs explained in ‘recipe’ form. It included the unique recipe for a ‘successful Caux conference’. In another instance of this collaboration, the Honorary President of IoFIC International, Cornelio Sommaruga, was invited to participate in a high-level panel on early warning mechanisms during the Human Rights Council in March.

Green Cross International invited IoFIC to have a stand at the International Conference on a Green and Inclusive Economy in October in Geneva. ‘Initiatives for Land, Lives and Peace’ (ILLP) and the CDLS were well received by entrepreneurs, economists and politicians. A month-long photo exhibition, with 1.5 metre panels, on ‘The future we want’ exposed ILLP and CDLS to countless passers-by. The same images were also displayed at the two-week international climate conference in Paris.

IoFIC continued to bring together people for meaningful exchanges and to forge new relationships. IoFIC’s Creators of Peace network connected many actors in Geneva. The Geneva office coordinated a dialogue on Burundi, in spite of the complex political situation there. Geneva remains an active hub for global change, and IoFIC and Caux continue to play their part in inspiring, connecting and equipping individuals to make it all happen.

In the UK, Howard Grace and Talia Smith delivered over 40 events around the country using Initiatives of Change’s award winning documentary film Beyond Forgiving.

Over 1,600 people watched the film, including over 1,000 children. Partners and hosts for the events included Feltham Youth Offenders Institute, London Interfaith Centre, Newbury Women’s Group, UK Progressive Christianity Network, Hounslow Somali Community, Women’s Interfaith Network, Restorative Justice Hub, Winchester University, the London Central Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre and others.
Inner transformation is a key to peacemaking and reconciliation between communities in conflict. The process of inner listening and change can help us to overcome our prejudices and wounds, and become agents of justice and peace.

Caux Scholars Program

Residential course, India and Switzerland

This year, 17 scholars from 11 countries participated in the Caux Scholars Program at Asia Plateau, India. Sessions covered peace-building, internal conflict resolution, circles of trust, the importance of quiet reflection, conflict transformation, local intervention, and development. The scholars visited Grampari, the ecological conservation project of Asia Plateau, and its local development centres, and shared their experiences of personal change.

"I realized that though we are different, we are the same in many aspects, in terms of the problems we face in our countries." – Eman, Egypt

The Caux Scholar Program in Caux, Switzerland comprised four 4 weeks of training, deliberations, visits, group tasks, and dialogue. The participants were introduced to the "Caux spirit" through trustbuilding exercises and leadership orientation programmes. In the second week, they helped to run the Just Governance conference where they met leaders from government and the corporate, and social sectors. The last two weeks of the course focused on sustained dialogue, transitional justice, reconciliation and healing.

"We continue to use the terms we learnt amongst each other to show awareness of how our relationships are evolving." – Leila, Lebanon

Peace dialogue

Colombia

People from different networks attended a monthly gathering to hold film screenings and workshops on such themes as ‘changing paradigms’ and ‘abundance’. Cristina Muñoz spent much of the year in Brazil, conducting several Creators of Peace Circles and training Colombian facilitators. A small group of women have been meeting once a week, for more than 10 years to practise and explore the values of IofC.
Fostering peace and reconciliation

Creators of Peace

Fiji, Mali, India, Afghanistan, Barbados, Brazil, Africa, Kenya, Uganda, New Zealand, Australia

As a programme of Initiatives of Change, Creators of Peace (CoP) holds at its heart the twin practices of inner listening and inner change. It fills a lacuna, identified in many peace and development programmes, where the inner peace needs of the first responders remain unmet, whether humanitarian aid workers or mediators, community activists or grandmothers. Creators of Peace Circles are designed to meet this need.

Fiji is the latest country to embrace CoP Circles. Fifteen women from Suva participated in two circles. Deep conversations were held on the power of forgiveness. Peace circles were also launched in Barbados and Brazil.

CoP President Daphrose Ntarataze and Marthe Mukerabirori, from Burundi, made two visits to Mali to facilitate peace circles for 52 women from the north and south. They were invited by Women in Law and Development in Africa-Mali, who saw the peace circles as a step in a longer process of bridging divides.

The challenge of raising the money to hold peace circles is sometimes met in unusual ways. One example was the offer by two Indian airlines, Spice Jet and Jet Airways, to fly five Kashmiri women activists from Srinagar to Delhi and back free of charge for the peace circle held in India in August. They were invited by Women in Law and Development in Africa-Mali, who saw the peace circles as a step in a longer process of bridging divides.

Afghan students also participated in the circle. On return to Kabul, between studies and violent incidents, they succeeded in running a peace circle in an internally displaced people’s camp. The women who took part had never known peace in their lives.

‘I received tools to change my life; I’m the only one who can do something for myself. Before, I always expected that others had to give me the solution.’ – Creators of Peace Circle participant

Peace circles also took place across Africa; from Zimbabwe, where the peace circles in 2015 were held in the deprived suburbs of Gweru, to villages and slums in Kenya. Also in Kenya, the CoP team continued their engagement with the divided communities in Baringo County, where cattle stealing and murder are major problems. Kenya’s CoP team revisited some of the women who have been trained since 2007 in an effort to assess the impact and value of the programme to the women and community. In total, 14 follow-up meetings were held, reaching over 400 women. A highlight was the apology given by women from the Pokot community to women from the Illchamus and Tugen communities and the reconciliation that followed, as a direct result of the work of CoP in that county.

‘Peace means surrender and you have to be willing to be a good example.’ – Juma, Kenya.

In Uganda, the CoP team has been visiting prisons once a month, to pray with the inmates, counsel them and hold peace circles. They hold Christmas parties for inmates’ children and stay with them during holidays.

In South Africa, CoP reached 91 participants some of whom were men. One of the highlights was a workshop in which majority were foreigners.

‘This programme is a powerful mechanism that can help us as foreigners to sit together with fellow South Africans and solve the xenophobic attacks we are experiencing in South Africa.’ – Creators of Peace Circle participant
Fostering peace and reconciliation

2015 has seen Creators of Peace being re-invited to offer peace circles by Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and by the Auburn Centre for Community.

In New Zealand, peace circles were hosted in Auckland and Wellington.

**A Centre for Community Trust-building**

**Conference for social change, USA**

A conference on ‘Healing History: memory, legacy, and social change’ was held in Richmond, Virginia, in April, following city-wide events to mark 150 years since the end of the US’s bloody civil war and the emancipation of millions of African Americans. More than 300 people from 15 US states were joined by delegates from across the globe: Canada, South Africa, Cambodia, UK, Belgium, Mexico and Curacao. Topics ranged from ‘creating inclusive, sustainable economies’ to ‘unearthing whiteness’, ‘social determinants of health’ and ‘housing and education policy for social diversity’. In the context of the national debate on the excessive use of force by police and the shooting of unarmed black men, a crowded public forum focused on overcoming bias in the criminal justice system. The conference was supported by the WK Kellogg foundation as part of their America Healing project. Local partners included the City of Richmond’s Office of Community Wealth Building, the Library of Virginia, the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University.

‘Richmond is at the beginning of a journey and not the end.’ – Dr Edward Ayers, President, University of Richmond

Over the course of 2015, 50 people participated in the Community Trustbuilding Fellowship, now in its seventh year.

‘The programme helped evolve me as a man, a father and a member of the community. I gained the capacity to build relationships of authenticity and honesty with people I would never have had the chance to connect with before.’ – Duron, community activist from Petersburg, VA

**Seeds of Inspiration**

**Community event, Switzerland**

Seeds of Inspiration (SoI) provides a space for individuals to share the sources of inspiration which drive them. SoI uses theatre to inspire. There were five evening performances, offering comedy, pathos, satire, domestic drama, history and depth. The daily openings to the ‘together times’ by the clowns of Commediagillet brought a welcome touch of humour and joy.

August 6 was devoted to remembering the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima 75 years ago. A Japanese participant read out a message from the present Mayor of Hiroshima. A Swiss participant, Claudine Rochat, movingly recalled the arrival in Caux in 1950 of a Japanese delegation, led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the end of the day a silent candle-lit procession carried dozens of tiny origami cranes to the refugees’ memorial in the garden.

‘When I came here I had a distorted view of the man I wanted to be. The tranquility and the peace have helped me to think about the future. I do want to be a man who follows God.’ – Kwame Reed, UK
Fostering peace and reconciliation

Working with Ex-militants and Refugees

Refugee reconciliation programme, Lebanon

IoF works closely with Fighters for Peace (FFP), a group of ex-fighters who carry the message of reconciliation through story-telling. They have played some role in the reconciliation of opposed groups in Lebanon and Syria. IoF and FFP ran six sessions with a direct IoF message for Syrian refugees, youth and Syrians still living in Syria. IoF Lebanon is also part of a coalition called Unity is Our Salvation which works for civil peace, and has influenced many of the statements produced by this coalition. IoF addressed a conference on Palestinian Refugee Rights, where seeds were sown for future cooperation on reconciling Lebanese and Palestinians living in Lebanon.

An international IoF delegation met the Swiss ambassador to discuss cooperation over the Syrian crisis both within Syria and on Lebanese soil. They also met former Lebanese Prime Minister, Najib Mikati. A team from Lebanon and the Caux Foundation also met the Swiss Foreign Affairs Ministry, to discuss IoF Lebanon's peace-making work with Syrian refugees in Lebanon. IoF Lebanon has organized three confidential dialogues between politicians from different sides in Lebanon. Some were ministers or MPs.

The truth even with a trembling voice, the autobiography of former militia leader, former militia leader, Assaad Chaftari, now an active volunteer with IoF in Lebanon, was launched in November at a round table attended by 200 people.

Refugees as Rebuilders

Agenda for Reconciliation, UK

As Europeans oscillate between fear and compassion at the sight of the masses of refugees entering Europe, they may overlook the fact that among these people are potential rebuilders of their war-torn countries. This is already happening in Somalia, where large numbers of the diaspora are returning, carrying with them lessons from their observation of their host societies. IoF has made a small contribution to this process. Over the last 10 years, the weekly Agenda for Reconciliation (AfR) meetings in IoF’s London centre have provided a forum for refugees from Somalia and other Horn of Africa countries to meet on a platform of reconciliation and willingness to acknowledge the harm that they have caused each other and to heal relationships by serving each other.

Training in dialogue facilitation and lessons in active listening and non-violent communication are offered because refugee communities bring with them all the divisions that caused their countries to collapse. These skills are among the first steps to recovery. One Somali-British participant, who was trained in 2008, has been enabling conflicting groups to meet each other in Somalia ever since.

In the last 12 months, a group of Somalis has taken part in a training of trainers programme to deliver dialogue facilitation courses in Somalia. Eritrean colleagues are seeking similar support for their community as they wait for the time when it will be possible to return to their country.

Interactions with South Sudanese diaspora

Intercultural peace dialogue, Australia

In March, three politicians from Australia’s three main parties hosted a briefing at the federal parliament in Canberra by the South Sudan Australia Peace Initiative (SSAPI). Twenty South Sudanese from five Australian states briefed the MPs on their efforts towards reconciliation among
Fostering peace and reconciliation

the diaspora in Australia. A Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed among MPs to lobby for increased peace-building and humanitarian support. In November members of SSAPI in Melbourne brought together 35 South Sudanese pastors and priests to advance the ‘non-violent gospel of Jesus Christ’ among their parishioners. During the year, six Australians, including two former child soldiers, made visits to Juba and Addis Ababa, to meet people involved in the peace negotiations. Two Australians partnered with the Committee for National Healing, Peace, and Reconciliation, led by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, to train 100 peace mobilizers in Kuajok and Torit. They used a workshop design developed by IofC in 2013, which aims to make peace and forgiveness real within each of the mobilizers.

Bridging the growing cultural and religious divides

Norway

IofC-Norway invited the British Imam and broadcaster Ajmal Masroor to Oslo to speak on ‘How can we bridge the growing cultural and religious divides in Norwegian society?’ Surveys have shown that many Europeans believe that Islam is not compatible with Europe. Masroor holds the view that it is the Muslims’ responsibility to hear and respond to this fear and prejudice.

IofC-Norway arranged 10 seminars and meetings during Masroor’s five-day stay in Oslo, with churches, mosques, the Islamic Council, a leader of the Jewish community, a high school, a university college, a Christian think-tank and another think-tank addressing the challenges faced by minorities in Norway. Masroor also met State Secretary Laila Bokhari at the Prime Minister’s Office and the President of the Parliament, Olemic Thommesen.

IofC invited the Islamic Council of Norway and Muslim youth organizations in Oslo to discuss how young Muslims can contribute to de-radicalization without being accused of being agents of the security services.

The Sixth Castle Meeting
Lützensömmern, Germany

This year’s edition of the Castle Meeting in Lützensömmern, Germany, was based on the theme ‘Is it still possible to get involved in social issues when our daily lives are so busy?’ Participants learnt about why time in silence is so vital for our lives. They had the chance to rediscover this ‘space of my own thoughts’. They delved into the process of making decisions, how they impact our lives, how human consciousness is shaped and which factors influence our thinking and behaviour. Various participants decided to work with refugees and are actively involved with different initiatives.

‘The presentation and the good discussions helped me finally decide what I really want to do next year.’ — a participant

Follow up to the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Reconciliation efforts, Canada

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) held several events in Ottawa to mark the release of its final report on Indian residential schools. Included among these events was Voix du Silence – a moving retelling of the residential school story through the words of survivors, evoking pain but also the hope of healing and reconciliation. This stage performance was a central part of the Citizen Project, a fruitful partnership between IofC and Espace Art Nature. This project and the Circles of Trust that have grown from it have raised awareness and brought Canadians of all backgrounds into the conversation.
Fostering peace and reconciliation

Foundations for Freedom

Dialogues for peace, Ukraine

Foundations for Freedom continued to conduct dialogues for mutual understanding in Ukraine. In April the network of dialogue facilitators in Ukraine conducted dialogues between the local community, civic movements and the military, using methods of non-violent communication.

‘There is a huge need for people just to talk with each other, and to learn how to listen to the other and to understand, with the aim of going forward. Because it is not possible to solve all problems using violence.’ – participant from Novohrodivka, Donetsk

Future needs memories

Dialogue on history and memories, Ukraine

Ten students representing different regions of Ukraine met five former political prisoners of the Soviet and Nazi regimes residing in Lviv in November. This event was a part of the Future Needs Memories project, which uses dialogue techniques to create a safe space to share life experiences – and build understanding between generations. Former political prisoners found they could let go of the burden of their difficult past. The project’s coordinator, Halyna Bunio, spoke of how dialogue can enable people to transfer life experience across an 80-year gap.

FLT Films for the Love of Tomorrow

USA, Nigeria, UK, Kenya

The peace-building impact of the films The Imam and the Pastor and An African Answer was showcased at the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis, USA. The films’ director, Alan Channer, described how they were made to amplify and sustain the peace-building dynamic resulting from the reconciliation between Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye from Nigeria. Channer gave the keynote lecture on ‘Documentary film and conflict resolution’ at the iREP Documentary Film Festival in Lagos, Nigeria, and presented the work of FLT films in Kenya and Chad at the Centre for International Intervention, Surrey University, UK.

Channer acted as consultant on an episode of Oprah Winfrey’s groundbreaking television series Belief, which featured the reconciliation between Ashafa and Wuye. After it was broadcast, Oprah Winfrey tweeted: ‘The Pastor and the Imam represent the possibility of peace in the world. If they can do it, we can.’

Peace is Together, a short film promoting the interfaith womens’ initiative Mothers in Kenya for Amani (MIKA), was launched in Mombasa, Kenya. The launch was attended by Mombasa County Minister for Youth, Gender and Sport, Mohammed Abbas, and Police Commandant Daoud Mohammed. MIKA grew out of a project to transfer the peacebuilding methodologies depicted in An African Answer.

‘No amount of police, no amount of weapons for the police and no amount of public meetings will create peace. Peace must come from within our hearts. The way forward is the peace-building process I see here.’ – Police Commandant Daoud Mohammed

Three paths in Brazil

Pause for faith and life, Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro

In August 30 people attended a day on ‘The Three Paths’ in Petropolis, State of Rio de Janeiro. The speakers’ different approaches led the audience to reflect on their values and actions and on the need for personal change in the face of world challenges. Saturday was devoted to talks and debates on these topics. On Sunday, a workshop on Initiatives of Change was held. The participants had already attended two ‘Pause for Faith and Life’ sessions hosted by the centre, led by Father Celso and by Paulo Lima.

In October, 40 Catholics attended a meeting on forgiveness and environmental sustainability, which included a showing of the film, Beyond Forgiving.
Youth as agents of change

Young adults across the world today are raising their voices against atrocities and injustice. IofC seeks to empower young people to take the initiative in peace-building by offering leadership training, enabling communication between the generations, informing them about children’s rights and health and helping them to define their purpose and develop an ‘attitude for peace’.

Children as Actors for Transforming Society (CATS)

Youth conference, Switzerland

The CATS event at Caux encouraged collaboration between children and adults, on the theme of how they can be partners for change. Over seven days, children and adults from around the world shared skills, values, practices and testimonies through a variety of activities. Keynote speakers included Kesz Valdez, the 16-year-old winner of the International Children’s Peace Prize 2012, who described his remarkable work to improve the lives of street children in the Philippines. Also present were Judith Diers, Chief of the Adolescent Development & Participation section at UNICEF; Julie Ward, MEP, founding member of the parliamentary intergroup on children’s rights at the European Parliament; and Nkem Orakwue, founder and coordinator of the Nigerian Children’s Parliament.

LMAD – Let’s Make a Difference

Seven-day youth conference, India

More than 140 young people from different parts of India took part in the 21st LMAD youth conference. The conference stressed the value of quiet reflection, as well as other IofC principles, in the context of goals, family relationships and lifestyle choices. To celebrate 21 years, a gathering was held at Asia Plateau for all the coordinators of previous LMAD conferences. The LMAD team also organized a conference for 259 schoolchildren in Jamshedpur, tailor-made to their needs and aspirations.

Asia Pacific Youth Conference 2015

International youth conference, Cambodia

Son Soubert, High Privy Counsellor to the King of Cambodia, opened the 21st Asia Pacific Youth Conference (AYPC) in Sihanoukville in August. AYPC drew people from 14 countries. It provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on their lives and relationships, and for Cambodians and
Youth as agents of change

Vietnamese to seek ways to further peaceful relationships between their countries. Later a Cambodian group visited Thailand to discuss the future of ICA’s Cambodian-Thai Exchange Programme.

Life Matters Course

Youth orientation programme, Australia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka

Three IofC Life Matters courses took place in 2015: in Australia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. The course, developed in Australia, helps young adults to ‘shape a path and purpose for living’. The Melbourne course, over a long weekend in January, focused on identity, forgiveness, relationships and change-making. The 27 participants left determined to listen to colleagues at work, engage in voluntary work or mend bridges within their families and between communities.

‘I feel like I finally “get it” – what it means to be the change you want to see in the world.’ – Elisee Higginbotham

In May, 16 Filipinos, both Christian and Muslim, and 11 from other countries took part in a nine-day Life Matters Course in Pagadian, in the troubled province of Mindanao. During the course, a Muslim student leader contacted his parents to ask their forgiveness. On the final day of the course, a dialogue took place between the Muslim and Christian participants, who included a sergeant from the local army base.

‘IofC has released me from my hatred’ – Life Matters Course participant

The Life Matters workshop in Mannar, northern Sri Lanka, took place in August as part of a two-week ‘moral and spiritual campaign’ run by Bridging Lanka, an NGO which works for reconciliation and community development in this town. Towards the end of the workshop, several participants spoke of decisions to heal hurts and settle clashes in their families.

School for Changemakers

Youth programme and conference, UK

School for Changemakers (SfCM) is a weekend residential programme for participants from different cultures and varying ages. Meetings during the year gather core alumni to share together, plan future events, learn new skills and seek support and advice.

The theme of this summer’s conference in July was ‘changing human attitudes and behaviours’. The programme began with an introductory networking event, where participants shared their experiences of change. Alexander Nunn, Head of Campaigns and Communications for Action for Happiness, delivered a highly self-reflective workshop which directed individuals to reflect on the concepts of wonder, gratitude, hope, love and change.

Education for Peace

France

Since 2005, Education for Peace has been working to help children and young people. In 2015, the programme received a certificate for the 25th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and a public awareness award from the French Child Rights Defenders. Activities included 69 workshops in schools and City Councils, where participants could learn about and experiment with their rights; to have an identity; to be respected for what we are and to respect others in all our diversity; to express an opinion and to respect others’ opinions without judging; and to participate. Training was given to professionals working with children and in education.

For the ninth time, Education for Peace partnered with Plantu (Cartooning for Peace) and Copain du Monde in running a drawing completion on ‘the attitude of peace’. Groups of children and young people from all over France were invited to imagine an action to improve an unfair situation. Four hundred and thirty-six participants offered suggestions on how to face harassment, gender discrimination, racism, exclusion, terrorism, mistreatment, malnutrition, pollution, handicaps, war, human trafficking.

‘Even if you are little and young, you can do something to change things’ – a seven-year-old participant
Youth as agents of change

Change in Progress Camp
Youth camp, South Africa

Young people were a focus of IoC’s work in South Africa, where 14 South Africans and Zimbabweans between the ages of 18 and 25 took part in a Change in Progress camp in December. Five days of intensive training, at a campsite in the Golden Gate National Park, were followed by a week of outreach to people and organizations in Botshabelo, near Bloemfontein. A Zimbabwean participant commented, ‘I never thought that the Basotho people and we Shona had so much in common. The camp reinforced in me the importance of applying absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, love and unselfishness in all situations of my life.’ The camp was the third in a series springing from the Freedom Our Responsibility conference in Bloemfontein in 2014.

Springs of Hope Programme and Time for Change Workshops
Youth programmes, Uganda

Uganda’s Springs of Hope programme organizes leadership training and school visits. It sent a team to the East Africa Youth Forum which took place in Juba, South Sudan. A group of young professionals from Uganda’s North-Western Region runs Time for Change workshops on applying moral and spiritual values in the workplace. One participant described how he had considered secretly ‘borrowing’ money from his workplace to pay for urgent medical treatment for his father. His experience at the workshop convinced him to talk honestly with his manager. His employers helped him with some money, and he was able to live with a clear conscience.

Equipping Young Changemakers
Youth programmes, Canada

At the University of Ottawa young people have participated in many movie & discussion nights and taken on the practice of quiet reflection. In Alberta, young people helped to organize and activate numerous programmes, including a nine-month Social Work Practicum for student Augustino Lucano, participation in a Harmony Café in January, a workshop in March on ‘Peacing it together: youth speak up,’ IoC’s Annual General Meeting in May, a very successful Compass Programme in October; and finally the launch of a book of poetry by a young South Sudanese in December.

12th International Youth Leadership Camp
Youth programme, Indonesia

Young people from IoC Indonesia held the 12th International Youth Leadership Camp in Malang, East Java, in December, on the theme ‘Rediscover your life purpose’. Participants in the six days’ camp came from Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Canada. The camp was opened by Iskandar Finachrio, President of IoC Indonesia, at a ceremony which included prayers led by participants of different faiths.

Changemakers for life
Youth orientation programmes, Lebanon and Turkey

For the fifth year, some 25 people, half of them Armenians, took part in the Musa Dagh reconciliation trip in Turkey, visiting the site of the Armenians’ last stand before they were evacuated from Turkey. A summer camp organized by Linaltaki (‘Let us meet’) brought together 65 teenagers from 11 schools and districts of Lebanon. This activity
helps students, teachers and parents from different religious communities to get to know each other. A youth training programme entitled ‘Changemakers for life’ began in November.

**Workshops on values**

*Youth workshops, Taiwan*

In 2015, IofC Taiwan offered workshops on values in 15 schools and NGOs and supported some 200 teenagers from challenging backgrounds in their search for self-esteem and purpose. IofC staff and volunteers facilitated group sharing and gave one-to-one support throughout the year; alongside workshops, activities, experiential field trips, personal talks and home visits. Participants were inspired to take ownership of their lives.

‘I’m grateful to my aunt, who is like a safety net for me when walking the tightrope of life. Now I am committed to becoming such a safety net for her and others’ – Sheng-Ji

**Projects for young people**

*School programme, Sweden*

In 2015, IofC Sweden’s collaboration with UNICEF on the pilot project of Rights Respecting Schools entered its third and final year. The team contributed to the third CATS conference in Caux and in November presented its work to a network of 50 Swedish NGOs focusing on children’s rights and health.

After a long research and development phase, the team is now seeking partners and funders for Inner Compass, a digital game which promotes children’s psychosocial health. It combines geocaching and scouting elements in an adventurous way to ask, ‘Who am I, who are you and how can we together make our neighbourhood a better place to live in, starting with ourselves?’

The Hope in Järva project has been granted a second year’s funding. It focuses on intergenerational dialogue and festivals, fostering communication between young and older people.

**Healing the Past**

*Youth programme, Ukraine*

History Begins in the Family is a two-year (2015-6) international project run by Ukrainian Action: Healing the Past. It helps young people to research their family history and learn how historical events influenced their families’ values and attitudes.

‘The project changes views, breaks stereotypes and serves as a great push for self-improvement and self-development.’ – Serhiy Zalevskyi, participant in History Begins in the Family from Odessa oblast

Ukrainian Action also organized a workshop on ethical leadership in Briukhovychi, Lviv, for young people from youth organizations and social movements. Over seven days they discussed leadership, ethics, motivation, life values and society. They studied a method of non-violent communication that helps people to share the information which is necessary for solving conflicts and disputes on the personal, family and political level. The workshop helped participants to understand themselves and other people better, improve their leadership potential, and learn how to work together. It was held in partnership with the Institute of Management and Leadership of Ukrainian Catholic University.

**Inside-Out Leadership**

*Six-day course, Moldova*

The second edition of the Inside-Out Leadership course was conducted in September. Thirteen women and ten men from eight countries, with an average age of 29, gathered in Lalova, Moldova. The focus of the course was exploring the heart and practice of IofC, mixing the traditional with the modern, and using the latest insights to shine a light on its core ideas.

‘These ideas must be kept alive, developed and shared, because all that we experienced in six days is just one step in a long journey of becoming a new type of human being, ‘Homo Lucis – Person of Light.’ – Victor Levinta, Moldova
In the context of climate change, a move towards sustainable living practices is urgent and dialogue between farmers, government officials, NGOs, policy makers and environmentalists is fundamental to this. Such dialogues can lead to steps to conserve our shared resources and to increased awareness about the importance of sustainable living.

Farmers’ Dialogue International

**Switzerland, France, India**

Farmers’ Dialogue International (FDI) continues to mobilize farmers to feed humanity. An international gathering was held on the French island of Mayotte (near Madagascar), where 15 farmers from abroad joined 100 local farmers in discussion. A journalist described the event as the first international conference ever held on the island. Farmers involved in FDI shared their experiences the Just Governance conference and Dialogue on Land and Security in Caux.

Eighty-five international farmers and 115 Indian farmers attended the International Farmers’ Dialogue held in Asia Plateau. The dialogue focused on empowering women farmers and discussing emerging technologies.

**Making local mosques more sustainable**

**Sustainable living project, Netherlands**

A group of young Muslims from the Netherlands initiated the Green Mosque project to raise awareness and stimulate sustainable behaviour amongst visitors to mosques. They started a pilot by ‘greening’ the Indonesian mosque in The Hague with posters on saving water, bins for separating plastic waste and a small exhibition on the relation between Islam and sustainable living.

*Sustainability plays an important part in Islam. We can use our religion as an inspiration for ourselves and the people around us to live in harmony with our natural environment and resources.* – Javed Latif, project member.

**Grampari – Rural Ecology Programme**

**Ongoing programmes, India**

For the last 40 years, IoFC’s Grampari programme has offered training on values-based leadership development in rural, Maharashtra, India. Grampari envisions a just and sustainable society for all and works to create this vision by building the capacity...
of rural society through thoughtful, innovative and community-led programmes in livelihoods, health and environment, empowerment and local governance.

In 2015, Grampari conducted a residential programme for 12 girls from an ashram in Satara, where the girls were exposed to such new skills as sewing and organic farming. Sixty-four agricultural officers from Maharashtra were also trained. Spring boxes were built in three villages, Kavadi, Vivar and Saighar, giving clean drinking water to about 1,500 people. An Aquifer Committee of representatives from six villages was formed to promote the concept of ground water as a common resource. School Handwashing Programmes (SHPs) reached over 1,500 students in 15 schools. Global Handwashing Day was celebrated in the Panchgani municipal schools by building ‘tippy taps’ and giving information about the importance of handwashing with soap. Eighty teachers from the schools where Grampari is implementing the SHP took part in a day’s training programme.

A seed festival was organized in Panchgani to promote dialogue about seed saving and cultivation. The Grampari Adopted Villages (GAVs) programme was launched to create ‘ideal’ villages with active participation from locals. Thirty-five people, including 20 women, attended a three-day Governance programme to train newly elected Sarpanches (village heads).

**Initiatives for Land, Lives, and Peace**

*Caux Dialogue on Land and Security, Switzerland*

It is well established now that the vicious cycle of land degradation, conflict, poverty and forced migration, leading ultimately to failed states, can be turned into a virtuous cycle, in which arid lands are reclaimed and populations enabled to thrive where they are. The question addressed at the Caux Dialogue in July was, ‘What can we do to scale up these successes?’ The Dialogue was organized in collaboration with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. About 100 professionals and experts in land restoration and trustbuilding participated – farmers, activists, policy-makers,
Restoring land and environment for sustainable living

Initiatives of Change

Ministry of Housing, the Arab League and the UN Habitat commission in Egypt. The slogan for the forum was ‘My city is my responsibility’. It was an opportunity to contribute to the promotion of an agenda for human settlements.

During December, architects Nagia Abdelmoghney and Tivoli Tawfik presented a paper at the first Arab Ministerial Housing Meeting and Forum organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, The Arab League and UN Habitat. Dr Abdelmoghney Said also presented a paper entitled ‘The miracle and grace of guidance’ in Lebanon.

Food Week
Awareness programme, Netherlands

A Food Week was organized in October to raise awareness about the challenges of sustainable living and work towards focused action. The week included private meetings with NGOs, scientists, and government officials, and a public event was held on World Food Day. The week resulted in a partnership between a Dutch and a Swedish NGO, and improved relationships between different stakeholders in the field of food safety and regulation.

Eco-training Centre
Moldova

Liliana Botnaru and her family have created an eco-training centre and eco-community in a rural area of central Moldova. The centre, designed for up to 50 participants at a time, is envisaged as a hub for practical education in organic agriculture, sustainable living, and community-building. It aims to help people reconnect with themselves, with each other and with nature.

Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Chair of IofC Malaysia, K Haridas, was invited to provide an ethical perspective at the Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change in Kuala Lumpur in October. He also gave a presentation at the second annual symposium on Malaysia’s War on Corruption in Kuala Lumpur in November.

Egyptian Urban Forum
Dialogue on human settlements, Egypt

In June, an IofC team participated in the first Egyptian Urban Forum, organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, the Arab League and the UN Habitat commission in Egypt. The slogan for the forum was ‘My city is my responsibility’. It was an opportunity to contribute to the promotion of an agenda for human settlements.

A new film, Ethiopia Rising, showing land restoration work which is transforming regions affected by famine in the 1980s, was screened at the Dialogue.

One outcome was a decision by the large Kenyan delegation to organize a meeting in the arid northwest of Kenya in April 2016.

Eco-training Centre
Moldova

Liliana Botnaru and her family have created an eco-training centre and eco-community in a rural area of central Moldova. The centre, designed for up to 50 participants at a time, is envisaged as a hub for practical education in organic agriculture, sustainable living, and community-building. It aims to help people reconnect with themselves, with each other and with nature.
Community-focused programmes help to develop a sense of unity across religious and political borders which is important in the fight against violent extremism. Several of IofC’s activities in 2015 focused on social welfare and community building.

**Caux Interns Leadership Programme**
*Youth leadership programme, Caux, Switzerland*

Fifty-five young people from 27 countries took part in Caux Interns Leadership Programme in 2015 in two four-week batches. They were trained in leadership concepts, community contribution and values-based discernment. They then applied what they had learnt in their service to the conference centre and the conferences themselves. The interns learnt to work with diversity, take responsibility and plan initiatives. Initiatives. Space for reflection and personal development are an essential component of both the training and the work.

**Asia Plateau Internship Programme**
*Youth Internship programme, Asia Plateau, India*

In addition to taking an active part in events at Asia Plateau, some of this year’s interns conducted training programmes in the states of Meghalaya in the east of India and Tamil Nadu in the south. Both these visits entailed a direct intervention with the local community to understand their problems better, with visits to schools, colleges, health centres and police stations. Participants helped to clean villages, ran dialogues on the importance of forgiveness and introduced the practice of quiet times to the villagers.

**Caux Artists Programme**
*Caux, Switzerland*

Artists from Ukraine, South Sudan, and India took part in the Caux Artists Programme in 2015, with assistance from the Caux Foundation, Hahnloser Foundation, Initiatives of Change-Sweden, Concordia Foundation (UK) and replacements with contributors to the Caux Scholarship Fund.

> ‘I believe in music as a tool of peacebuilding in community, society, state and between nations.’ – Lisa Yasko, Ukraine.

**Kenya I Care**
*Creative leadership programme, Kenya*

IofC’s creative leadership programme, Kenya I Care, engaged high school, college and university students.
Developing a sense of community

in building a Kenya free of greed and hate. Events in 2015 included a workshop for media students in Nairobi in October, and a three-day Effective Living workshop at the end of December in Subakia, Nakuru, attended by 55 young Catholics.

‘I always pretend to be working hard and I end up not doing what I am supposed to. As a teacher, I realize that my behaviour and discipline affect the school. 2016 will be my year with a change.’ – a teacher from Kenya

In May, the programme held an Effective Living workshop for a group of young South Sudanese living in Kenya. They spoke of the post-independence violence. Within Kenya, the rise of religious extremism is causing alarm. IofC has worked to address this over the years, and in 2015 ran workshops in Mombasa, Nairobi, Eldoret, and Nakuru. The aim of the workshops was to alert members of the community to the needs of those who are at risk.

In Mombasa, training in trauma counselling was also offered, to equip participants to help those disengaging from violent extremism.

‘All forms of violent extremism seek change through fear and intimidation rather than through peaceful means. I will be an ambassador for peace.’ – Abubakar Swabir

Community Leaders Congress

Dialogue for local communities, Sitio Sao Luiz, Petrópolis

A Community Leaders Congress was held at Sitio Sao Luiz, in Petrópolis, in September. After setting the scene, Pedro Renan Marcondes presented the NGO, Argilando. He talked about the elements of effective leadership: the recognition of the existence of the crisis, taking responsibility, the ability to be sensitive to each other and to see a crisis as an opportunity. In the second part, the participants were divided into discussion groups. One participant concluded: ‘If you are unhappy with the world, make changes yourself. Make sure you yourself do all that you expect others to do.’

Initiatives of Change on ‘Radio Maria’

Community outreach through radio, Colombia

For five years, an hour-long radio fortnightly programme called Initiatives of Change is being broadcast in Bogota, Colombia in an international Catholic Broadcasting Station called Radio Maria. Themes have included moral values and how and why to have a quiet time, and people have shared their experiences.

Social welfare through community outreach

Social initiatives by youth, Cambodia

Students and young people inspired by IofC distributed cooked food to people who sort through the rubbish after the markets have closed and cooked a meal for 240 HIV/AIDS patients at the Khmer-Soviet Hospital in Phnom Penh. They raised money to buy school supplies for 700 students in three villages, with the aim of encouraging parents to keep them at school. The Initiatives of Change Association also hosts groups of dentists from a Canadian NGO, who offer free dental care in rural areas and children’s homes.

Fifty young adults attended a camp in Mondulkiri, in northern Cambodia, which focused on the environment and family relationships. Fifty university students spent a day clearing litter from a beauty spot outside Phnom Penh and learning about IofC.

Health education for refugee leaders

Refugee outreach, Malaysia

Malaysia is home to nearly 300,000 people of concern to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Over the last four years, Dr Robert Chen and his colleagues have provided health education for refugee leaders and community health workers, at Health Equity Initiatives, an NGO which responds to the psychological needs of refugees. They also run workshops for the staff of the shelter for trafficked women.
Developing a sense of community in society

**Education to the disadvantaged**

*Literacy programme, Malaysia*

Members of the IofC team took part in programmes to bring education to the disadvantaged. In Petaling Jaya, Philomena Morris and Tia Nair conducted bi-weekly classes in maths and literacy for children from the Agathian Shelter for Boys. In Sarawak, Ng Chui Cheng and Lee Chee Ling worked with an NGO which offers educational opportunities to marginalized and indigenous communities.

‘I love to see children taking a chance to learn, vulnerable yet having the courage to try, make mistakes, reflect and try again’ – Lee Chee Ling

---

**Income and Expenditure**

*Account Statement of IofC International for year ended 31 Dec 2015*

IofC International is financed by a combination of individual donations, contributions by member associations, foundations, and by government grants for specific projects.

We are grateful for the generous contributions over and above their dues from several member bodies, as well as for grants from the Irene Prestwich Trust and the Robert Hahnloser Foundation. We thank our partners for their cooperation, and sister organizations, donors and those who have left legacies for their generosity.

The financial report reflects the budget of IofC International. Much of the work described in this Annual Report is done by local teams with separate budgets.

The national member bodies are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States. The international programme members are Creators of Peace, Foundations for Freedom, Grands Lacs Association and International Farmers’ Dialogue.

---

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>37,871</td>
<td>38,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations from IofC/MRA Bodies</td>
<td>233,055</td>
<td>309,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for Web Services</td>
<td>23,797</td>
<td>18,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Donations Received</td>
<td>53,996</td>
<td>138,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation of Office Space</td>
<td>14,853</td>
<td>14,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>363,573</strong></td>
<td><strong>525,057</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initiatives of Change (IofC)

IofC is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own.

Vision
A just, peaceful and sustainable world to which everyone, responding to the call of conscience, makes their unique contribution.

Mission
To inspire, equip and connect people to address world needs, starting with themselves.

Approach
IofC focuses on the link between personal change and global change. Its approach involves:

Starting with oneself: An honest look at one’s own motives and behaviour is often the starting point for personal transformation.

Listening to others: With its intergenerational, multicultural and interreligious diversity, IofC enables honest conversations in an open spirit, building bridges of trust and community between people of similar, different, and even antagonistic, backgrounds.

Taking focused action: IofC’s people and programmes work for peace and social cohesion by building trust and reconciliation across divides; for good governance at every level by developing a leadership culture based on moral integrity, compassion and selfless service; and for economic justice and environmental sustainability by inspiring transformation of motives and behaviour.

Recognizing that it will take more than human reason and ability to solve the problems of the world, IofC places the search for inner wisdom at the heart of its approach. When people listen to what is deepest in their hearts, insights often come which lead in unexpected directions. While some understand this experience as divine guidance and others see it as the leading of conscience, many find that the regular practice of silence can give access to a source of truth, renewal, inspiration and empowerment.

www.iofc.org
info@iofc.org
Facebook.com/initiativesofchange
Youtube.com/initiativesofchange
Twitter @IofcIntl
Registered Address: Mountain House, CH-1824 Caux, Switzerland
Secretariat: Rue de Varembe 1, CH-1202 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Email: ia-secretariat@iofc.org
Tel: +41.22.749.1620
Published by
Initiatives of Change International

The publishers thank the numerous individuals who voluntarily contributed to the annual report by writing, editing, proof-reading this document and all those who took photographs and let them be used on these pages.

COVER PHOTO: The Tree of IofC – the absolute standards of honesty, purity, love and unselfishness are the trunk from which the work in all regions of the world has grown. People from all over the world flock to these branches as birds. IofC’s programmes are the fruits of this tree.