

## **Global Compassion Coalition: Summary of Vision and Actions**

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Suffering abounds, and moved by compassion, many are working to relieve it.

Many people have come together to establish a Global Compassion Coalition of individuals and organizations for the science, education, application, and advocacy of compassion.

### **Compassion in Action**

Compassion responds to suffering, and to its causes.

It's deeply human. We feel for others, with empathy and caring: the essence of compassion, moved as well to preventing suffering in the first place.

Increasing experiences and expressions of compassion among individuals is profoundly important. It is a deep practice in its own right. And benevolent and moral as well.

Moved by suffering, we also want to change its underlying causes, including longstanding systemic, structural factors.

In forms such as this coalition, humanity can come together to make a world that works for all of us.

### **Mission**

Promoting compassion and justice as the foundation of all societies

### **Strategy**

This initiative began with the idea of creating a coalition that becomes big enough to be a global force for systemic change . . .

... by initially building an organization that delivers value to people and organizations engaged with the science, education, application, and advocacy of compassion, while being skillful in our early messaging, and upfront about our long-term structural aims . .

... and on that solid foundation, pursue a sustained and well-funded influence campaign in culture and politics . . .

... and then use that campaign and the GCC's growing clout to join with other large global organizations to accomplish a flagship project such as ending poverty, child abuse and neglect, or carbon emissions . . .

... that will require and produce a fundamental shift in how the whole human tribe governs itself . . .

... which is the necessary and the only way that humanity will ever live in a world that truly works well for all of us, not just some of us.

## Members

Individuals and organizations from around the world who:

- place compassion at the center of their work, or
- include it as an important aspect of what they do, or
- simply appreciate compassion as a guiding principle and practice

## Major Activities

The Coalition will accomplish its purposes in stages, building on each other:

### Stage One

- Providing a website with resources for researchers, clinicians, educators, advocates, and the public, including:
  - Directory of individuals and organizations that are members
  - Recent studies and archive of research
  - Current programs and trainings in compassion
  - Online resources for experiencing, developing, and applying compassion
  - Listings of compassion-in-action projects
  - Showcasing "compassion heroes," including young people around the world
  - Downloadable handouts, audios, and videos that can be shared with others
  - Expressions of compassion in art, music, and new narratives and stories

- Applications of compassion in particular areas such as trauma, healthcare, business, children, and social justice
- Being a tax-deductible vehicle for supporting compassion projects around the world
- Through grants, fellowships, and summer institutes, foster a generation of young researchers and activists focused on compassion
- Organizing an annual conference/festival
- Offering annual compassion prizes
- Developing and publicizing a compassion index
- Publishing the online magazine, Compassion
- Perhaps sponsoring an academic journal on compassion science and applications
- Being a coherent, influential voice for the common good

#### Stage Two

Sustaining a long-term media campaign for compassion

#### Stage Three

Joining with other large organizations worldwide, the GCC will channel pooled resources for a major, multi-year, compassion-centered project that is worth doing in its own right (e.g., educating all girls and boys) while heightening civil society

### **Guiding Principles**

- Creating a framework - a kind of commons - in which the circle of “us” can expand to include all of humanity
- Boundless compassion for all who suffer, including nonhuman animals
- Urgency to relieve suffering and a willingness to think big

- Emphasizing actions and concrete results that substantially reduce suffering and promote well-being; grow by being useful
- Inclusive, “big tent” for all who value compassion; equal priority given to the four major areas of study, education, application, and advocacy
- Supportive and helpful to those engaged in compassion work
- Valuing science while also exploring pragmatic, therapeutic, moral, political, and spiritual aspects of compassion
- Diverse, multicultural, international, and respectful of differences
- An open framework that will evolve over time, based on the interests and priorities of its members

## **Timeline**

Phase 1 (accomplished) - February to June, 2022. Discussions in the initial working group. Draft initial documents. Reach out to key individuals and organizations involved with compassion for input and support. Secure funding for first year of operations. With pro bono law firm, finalize articles of incorporation and by-laws, and establish the Global Compassion Coalition (GCC) in California as a nonprofit tax-exempt organization. Identify initial members of the coalition’s board, and formally constitute it.

Phase 2 (accomplished) - July 1 to October 31. Develop teamwork and community within the Board. Choose a Chair who can work three-quarters time on the Coalition. Hire a Chief Operating Officer, who will then hire key staff, notably a communications director who can create texts for the website, membership invitations, and press releases. Form Board committees. Develop an Advisory Council. Identify distinguished Founding Supporters. Put up a good initial website. Establish basic organizational infrastructure. Create a realistic financial plan for the GCC’s first year. Ongoing outreach to diverse and international members of the coalition.

Phase 3 - November, 2022 to mid-year, 2023. Create membership policies and begin a soft membership drive, with a full launch in early 2023. Continue to invite distinguished Founding Members. Support clusters of people and organizations coming together to advance “compassion+\_\_\_\_\_”, such as compassion+children,

compassion+economy, compassion+politics, compassion+climate, etc. Begin planning for the first annual conference/festival in the Fall of 2023. Have a fundraising webinar in early 2023 (with prominent teachers of compassion) and call to action that launches the Coalition publicly. Edit the webinar into an online product whose purchase supports the Coalition financially. Launch the first annual Compassion Prizes. Identify additional major donors. Begin the online general interest Compassion magazine. Have a monthly newsletter summarizing the latest compassion studies. Continue the membership campaign. Build out the “science” and “education” elements of the website, and showcase compassion-in-action projects on it. Stabilize the organization financially.

Phase 4 - Fall, 2023 onward. On the foundation of a sturdy organization, move into more of the “advocacy” aspect of the GCC’s reason-for-being by launching a sustained media campaign about compassion and planning for a major transformative compassion-related project such as ending childhood hunger and abuse. And keep on keeping on!