

Compassion in Action: Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and HH the Dalai Lama (Draft)

Background/Rationale

This year we celebrate the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa to lead the freedom struggle as well as the 80th birthday of HH the Dalai Lama, two of the most ardent advocates of compassion and non-violence.

Both Gandhiji and HH the Dalai Lama have a vision of a just, fair and peaceful world. They both strongly believe that to change the world, you must first change yourself- *be the change you want to see in the world*.

Today the world needs to imbibe the wisdom and sound ethics of these two great leaders more than ever. Although the world is developing at a rapid pace in terms of material progress, there is neither equal or fair distribution nor does this progress alone bring peace, equality and justice. There is a great need to engage on issues of integrity, ethics and promote a sense of responsibility.

Who We Are?

We are a mixed group of Tibetan and Indian social activists and community workers residing in Delhi. In our group, we have those with extensive experience in theatre and social work and others who are connected with community service.

Supporting us are two groups based in Delhi- Empowering the Vision Project and Lunar Energy – a creative engagement platform.

Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION) is a non-governmental organisation based in New Delhi working on youth empowerment. The vision of the organisation is to see self-reliant and dynamic Tibetans, who are fully engaged members of the global community. To know more, please visit our website: www.empoweringvision.org

Lunar Energy is an initiative led by theatre artist/ activist Jaya Iyer – that brings artists with a deep commitment to ecology, equity and creative processes.

What/How we want to do?

We are interested in conveying the message of Gandhiji and HH the Dalai Lama particularly to schoolchildren in Delhi area through creative interaction.

The first interaction will begin on July 6th to coincide with the birthday of HH the Dalai Lama and go on for a year.

We have prepared a list of schools around Delhi keeping in the mind the need to interact with children from all sections of the society.

Number of participants: 300- 800 (at the assembly)

Sample Schedule

8.00 – 8.45 – assembly (play and interactions)

8.45- 9.00 – disbursal to classes

9.00- 10.00- creative interactive activities/ engagement for class VI

10.30- 11.30- creative interactive activities/ engagement for class VII

12.00- 1.00- creative interactive activities/ engagement for class VIII

(We can adapt the schedule to suit specific needs)

Group activities would include:

- Poster making
- Creative writing
- Interactive games/ theatre activities
- Charkha
- Art (sketching/ painting/ nature craft)
- Pledge and card making –common to all