

*Children of the Earth* is a not-for-profit, 501 © (3) [United States legal non-profit designation], officially recognized United Nations NGO organization, dedicated to the building of a better future for all generations. To this end, COE offers Youth leadership programs globally, educational workshops, conferences, as well as presentations at national and international forum. COE promotes building networks and coalitions of groups with common purposes to further the concept of creating greater global cooperation, multicultural understanding, spiritual values and ethical living. COE's goal is for Youth to hear the call, one by one, and individually become socially responsible and active peace builders.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century holds the greatest possibilities for an integrated peaceful and prosperous global community. Connected by telecommunications and a growing spirituality, humankind has a chance to actualize an evolutionary state of being. At the same time, the future has never before been more challenged by worldwide terrorism, poverty, rapid climate change, inadequate education and health care and geopolitical unrest. The kind of world that the next generation will experience will depend upon the collective vision and intention of world leaders. As long as the global culture is grounded in fear, greed and scarcity, we will continue to use our human and financial resources for war and destruction. As we shift towards love, compassion and education, we will deploy resources for the common good, lifting up all people to a life of hope and security.

Today, science and spirituality are coming to the same conclusion that all people are intrinsically similar; the human genome project has proven that we are genetically 99.9 % alike with only 1 tenth of one percent that makes us different. Until we realize that I am you and you are me, only then will right action and thought be supported by the universal laws of nature. Until we can concentrate on what makes us the same instead of what makes us different, only then can we deal with the challenges ahead. It is imperative that we spend our time and resources on young people, supporting leadership and educational experiences that promote respectful communities, common ethics, sustainable practices, peace, and economic opportunities.

Children of the Earth is an organization whose purpose is to create a network of young leaders committed to the promotion of peace and opportunity. Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Nina Meyerhof, COE has been bringing youth together for over 25 years, providing community and networking opportunities to young leaders who are committed to positive global change. By developing a culture of co-operation, collaboration, mediation, relationship-building and understanding of our common humanity, these young people go back to their local communities and influence others through sharing their vision of how we can be together.

To this end Children of the Earth has established Chapters around the world. The Chapters serves youth participation by offering them to become an affiliate of Children of the Earth and an active representative within the United Nations NGO Forums. In addition each Chapter receives guidance and support in their endeavors. Children of the Earth will host an interactive learning website for ongoing lessons in all relevant areas for the youth in becoming peace activists in their communities. They receive materials, documents and other helpful tools for building their Chapter. To date Chapters are merging in Liberia, Uganda, Ghana, the Philippines, Pakistan, India, Nepal Canada as well as other countries around the world

Chapters shall include such programs as but not limited to;

- (1)Community-based
- (2)Child/Youth-focused
- (3)Local Peace Initiatives
- (4)Environmental ~educational ~economic

Children of the Earth also hosts the World Spirit Youth Council. The WSYC comes together as a youth movement to inspire the awakening of people of all nations to the

experience of universal Love as understood by Truth, Justice, Compassion and other ethical virtues that unite humankind as one family while fostering cultural, ethnic, religious and personal diversity . Our vision is to unite in order to remember that we are one family of humankind.

The WSYC envisions achieving this by aligning individuals and organisations , inspired by a deeper spiritual consciousness, and inviting all to commit to inner transformation for initiating world peace actions towards forming a more global harmonious society.

The aim of the WSYC is to connect youth who live oceans apart by awakening the realization that we are all related to one another and the earth. Youth are inspired by other active people they meet and become spiritually activated themselves; they are called to be a moral force on the world's stage. They often start their own small organizations or make a daily contribution to the world, also sharing their work with more youth and creating a ripple effect. The WSYC awakens young people to the human connection that is as the root of all humanitarian and social change.

The WSYC started in January 2005 when fifteen young leaders from around the world came together to represent the voice of youth at the World Spirit Forum. At the close of this gathering they recognized the need for more young people to be involved in exploring ways of bringing spirituality and peace into the world, since then the WSYC has been meeting all around the world. As a result of these meetings the need for a permanent council emerged and is now currently being formed. They will have the responsibility to guide and shape the future of other youth to live ethically and have moral obligations for creating a more harmonious world. They will also make decisions for the WSYC.

Since 2005 young people from around the world have been meeting to give form to the WSYC, to deepen their spirituality understanding and practice, and inspire others to join in this work. In 2006 young people returned to the World Spirit Forum and met for the first time under the banner of WSYC. In September of 2006 the WSYC met in Nepal and in November the WSYC met in Japan. Each gathering has served a different purpose but all have been focused on giving life to the WSYC – defining structure, establishing values, focusing on projects, and so on. Wherever the WSYC meets there is the intention that local youth will be involved and will become inspired to become part of this growing movement. For example, in Japan, meeting in conjunction with the Goi Peace Foundation, the WSYC was able to throw open its arms to Japanese youth, and by opening their minds and hearts was able to inspire them to form a regional WSYC hub.

The work of the World Spirit Youth Council is endorsed by The Club of Budapest, with people such as Ervin Laszlo, Mikhail Gorbachev, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Wangari Mathai, Hazel Henderson, Desmond Tutu and Hans-Dietrich Genscher. In addition, The World Wisdom Alliance has recognized this group's work. It is very important to the WSYC that friendships with other spiritual organizations are developed so that there is strength, diversity, and recognition of the place of young people.

Our next meeting is to held in Thailand in February, sponsored by a Buddhist group, Dhammakaya where the youth will meet with Thai youth to continue the circle of linking and creating HUBs as well as formulating the formal World Spirit Youth Council..

Finally the ultimate goal is for Children of the Earth to establish a One Peace Institute. The mission of the COE One Peace Institute is to support Humanity in creating a future that embodies the universal values of peace, tolerance, dignity, freedom, equality, and solidarity for all life. The OPI will offer structured learning opportunities to young

people that inspire, motivate and unite them to translate these universal values into global action and culturally appropriate projects in their own communities.

In support of this mission, the OPI will establish and house eight programs:

1. Ethical Living Leadership Program
2. Educators and Youth for Social Change
3. Global Leadership Gathering
4. Virtual Telecommunications Center,
5. Publishing Spiritual Peacemaker Guidebooks
6. Internship Programs
7. The World Spirit Youth Council Program
8. Local Initiatives, Data and Research Center

Please visit [www.children-of-the-earth.org](http://www.children-of-the-earth.org) for further information.