

Widening our view towards the coming 100 years - Preparation of the upcoming World Early Childhood Conference, April 15-19, 2019

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This conference will remind us of the important development Waldorf Education has gone through. We can look back over the past 100 years and be grateful for the many special people who were engaged in opening the door for this new education. We like to think about the large number of children who had the opportunity to meet dedicated educators who deepened their understanding of early childhood through the insights of Rudolf Steiner and brought them into their daily practical work, courageously overcoming many outer and inner obstacles. In the course of all these years many experiences and skills were developed in order to answer the needs of young children. These have been passed on in courses and seminars to new generations of educators all over the world.



The use of this painting with the title "Confidence" was donated by the artist Stefan Krauch from Frankfurt, Germany, and will appear on the conference posters and program. Click here for more on the artist [Stefan Krauch](#)

This 100th anniversary of Steiner/Waldorf Education is also an opportunity for us to look around and perceive the needs of our time, and to try to expand our view towards the coming 100 years. What are the qualities we need to develop in this quickly changing culture? How do we help the children to meet their future?

Working with these thoughts and questions we realize that one of the most urgent issues of our time is the caring for the human surroundings and the quality of the adult relationships around the child, to provide a warm, safe and free space for the child's development.

The title of the conference will be

"Inner Freedom - Social Responsibility: Finding ways into a human future"

- **The lectures** in the morning will address different aspects of human encounters and the ways we can promote new social spaces for childhood. There will be two speakers for each keynote lecture. These speakers will be invited to prepare the theme of the lecture together and to engage with one another during the lecture.
- After a break there will be **small group discussions on the theme of the lecture** and the conference. These groups will allow us to connect more deeply to the theme of the conference and the lectures by allowing the participants to make contributions and have discussions, as well as participating in social games, artistic exercises, etc. The conference preparation group will create these smaller groups so that not more than 2 languages are spoken in each group. The groups can be culturally diverse, but with organized translations.
- After lunch there will be **working groups on arts and crafts**.
- In the late afternoon time we will have **working groups on pedagogical questions and burning issues**.

As a basis for the preparation of the conference we recommend the 6th lecture from GA 306 ("The Child's Changing Consciousness"). In addition we would also like to recommend two other lectures on social questions: "Social and Anti-social Forces in the Human Being" (lecture on 12.12 1918 from GA 186), and "How Can the Soul Needs of the Times Be Met?" (lecture on 10.10.1916 from GA 168).