

Words from Oran...

A new paradigm is taking shape. More and more of us are understanding that to fundamentally transform the external wars, physical measures will never be enough. If we wish to truly shift our planet, we need to shift our inner wars as well. Our world mirrors our beliefs, our values and our perceptions.

The Buddha said: "Peace comes from within, do not seek it from without." The more we look at ourselves as the cause of our external experience, the more we can stand accountable and change our world – by changing ourselves. We will look at this concept much deeper during our discussions. It is just important to understand that every thought, emotion and belief that we hold in our awareness takes us closer or farther away from living peace.

As pioneers of this work, I applaud you for having the courage to explore both internal and external pathways to creating peace in our world. We have read each and every one of your applications and believe that you have what it takes to become the individuals that can make this meeting extraordinary. Please be clear that the World Spirit Forum, Nina Meyerhoff and her team from Children of the Earth have set up a structure to create the World Spirit Youth Council but it is up to **YOU** to create and steer the future of the WSYC.

YOU will determine how miraculous, far-reaching, powerful and extraordinary this encounter and meeting will be. You will determine how far the WSYC will stretch and whether the work will touch the lives of 100's and 1000's in the years to come.

As I have said, every single member of the WSYC is Extraordinary in their way of being. Each of us will have to stretch our imagination, dare to participate and offer our uniqueness. There is a great quote which says that the "*whole is greater than the sum of the parts*" And when two people come together to form a synergy, they create the power of three. Imagine what we can do.

So be prepared for this trip to change who you are. Embrace the change and allow the newness of the unknown to permeate your experience. If you surrender to the adventure that this meeting holds, you will become more than you can imagine or fathom right now.

Due to the enormity of this meeting in Arosa, we would like to ask you to utilize the time before arrival to create some solid intentions, agendas and commitments within your own mind and heart as to what you would like to achieve within the time we have available. Once in Arosa, we will be working together in forming a mission and value statement, objectives and functions of the WSYC. The more you prepare and reflect BEFORE our meeting, the deeper we can take the experience we have together. So, please, we urge you to reflect on how you see us moving forward. Please write your own version and ideas on paper and we will explore them together in January.

In closing, I would just like to touch on an important subject: Baggage. Not the kind that Jacqueline has been chatting to you about. (Although, please heed her advice. From personal experience I can vouch that it gets extremely cold in Arosa). Rather, the baggage that we all carry. We all have agendas, and ideas. Those of us who are forming the WSYC are very passionate people. As a result, most of us work with Non-Profit Organizations, promote certain causes and work at helping society as a whole. Because of this, sometimes our preconceived ideas and hidden agendas limit our experience and hinder what we can offer a group.

We applaud you all for the work that you do in your various fields of public service and we are appreciative of your need to liberate this world from its various bondages. However, please take

into consideration that, as a collective, our priority during this gathering is **creating a spiritual youth force** that is called the World Spirit Youth Council that will aid ALL of our causes so when we get together, let us roll up our sleeves and focus on the job at hand. We will create open spaces for you to share your projects and activities with the group and your voices will be heard. Let us come together to create something that is bigger than the sum of the parts!

Thank you for having the courage to become a member of the World Spirit Youth Council and we welcome you aboard to the beginning of a miraculous journey that only we, as a synergy, will determine its destination.

Looking forward to meeting you all!
Sincerely,
Oran

(On behalf of the Coordinating Team)

The End

So, it is straight down to business as we really don't have long before the welcome committee is leaving to pick you up from Zurich Airport! We want to take advantage of these next couple of weeks to start the dialogue and get everyone feeling a little comfortable with the incredible adventure that is awaiting you.

A couple of points to keep in mind: from Jacquie

- This experience will change you!!
- You will meet a bunch of awesome young people and some inspiring adults!
- It will be a whole heap of fun!
- You might get a chance to throw a snowball or two (one should be reserved for Oran – he likes snow!)

Yes, we did say snow and for some this will be your first experience of the white stuff! Oran experienced snow for the first time in January and he will tell you that it is...cold! We will advise you as to the clothes you will need to pack to keep your toes and fingers toasty warm!

What we are coming together to create is very special, not least because it is the first of its kind (we are the first World Spirit Youth Council ever...EVER!!!) but also because of the potential implications for your life and for the world. The basic principle we will be focusing on is working on the inner to create change on the outer. How can we expect world peace if we, as individuals, don't feel peaceful or live peacefully? Spirituality is an important part of understanding how to achieve inner peace and how that then translates to outer peace.

So, ARE YOU READY?? Granted, this may not be a decision you are quite ready to make but we promise that when we are standing together at the foothills of the Swiss Alps (or running around like mad people because we are late for one of the many trains we will have to catch) you will be ready to embark on this most momentous journey...

Excerpt of the first newsletter of the [World Spirit Youth Council](#), Oran Cohen, South Africa