

## **Support for Living Values Education from UNESCO and other United Nations Agencies**

### **August 1996**

**Living Values Education (LVE) was initially developed by educators for educators in consultation with the Education Cluster of UNICEF, New York, and the Brahma Kumaris.** This came to pass as Cyril Dalais, a Senior Advisor with the Early Childhood Development Program Division at UNICEF, read the “Sharing Values for a Better World: Classroom Curriculum” chapter written by Diane Tillman in *Living Values: A Guidebook*, a Brahma Kumaris publication. In June of 1996, he called the Brahma Kumaris to say, “The world needs more of this.” Feeling that children would benefit by values education and safe, nurturing quality learning environments, UNICEF and the Brahma Kumaris invited 20 educators from five continents to meet at UNICEF Headquarters in New York in August of 1996.

The group discussed the needs of children around the world, their experiences of working with values, and how educators can integrate values to better prepare students for lifelong learning. Using the values concepts and reflective processes within *Living Values: A Guidebook* as a source of inspiration, and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* as a framework, the global educators identified and agreed upon the purpose and aims of values-based education worldwide — in both developed and developing countries. The team of 20 professional educators from around the world agreed that they wanted the approach to be global, infused with respect for each person and culture. They worked cooperatively together to make sure the books had a variety of values activities from diverse cultures, religions and traditions.

### **July 1997**

**Dr Winsome Gordon, the Head of Primary Education at UNESCO headquarters in Paris,** attended a Living Values Education International Train-the-Trainer Seminar for three days in Oxford, England, addressing the educators and attending the workshops. A quotation from her talk referencing Living Values Education was recorded by Lynn Henshall on 8 July 1997. It was used in the LVE British Isles leaflet. Dr. Gordon said:

“UNESCO gives high priority to programmes promoting human values. The Organisation has renewed its commitment to peace, tolerance, justice, respect for others, unity and freedom with responsibility. All these values are to be found in Living Values, an education programme that is reaching out to people all over the world. Such an initiative should be encouraged by the global community at this time when there is a concerted effort towards world peace and the knowledge that peace must come from within.”

### **April 1998**

Diane Tillman presented at **UNESCO's Education for the 21st Century Conference for the Asia-Pacific Region** in Melbourne, Australia. The article she wrote was published in the UNESCO conference proceedings: *"Parenting for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Values-based Approach"*.

### **February 2000**

**The Education for All conference held in Cairo, Egypt, was organized by UNESCO** headquarters in Paris. Education for All was a global movement led by UNESCO aiming to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015 with quality education for all. The gathering of 1000 delegates from 189 countries included National Leaders, UN Agency heads, The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Education Policy makers, Government representatives, NGO's, Business leaders and donors. UNESCO was mandated to lead the movement and coordinate the international effort to reach Education for All. Chris Drake (Hong Kong), Diane Tillman, (USA), Gayatri Naraine (USA), Peter Williams (UK) and Wajeeha Al Habib (Kuwait) attended the conference in Cairo as LVE representatives. During the conference, Drake and Williams formally requested that values education be added to the goals for Dakar. The six goals they proposed were formally adopted in the "The Dakar Framework for Action: Education for All, meeting our collective commitments". Whilst in Cairo, Living Values Education received an invitation to address an august gathering at UNESCO Beirut in May 2000.

### **May 2000**

LVE representatives addressed a three-day event at the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, Lebanon, attended by all the Ministers of Education in the Arab World with the exception of Iraq. Speaking on and representing LVE were Benoit Duche (France), Chris Drake (Hong Kong), Dadi Janki (India), Diane Tillman (USA), Gayatri Naraine (USA), Jayanti Kirpalani (UK), Neil Hawkes (UK), Peter Williams (UK), Shahida Abdul Samad (Malaysia) and Wajeeha Al-Habib (Kuwait). Two other lecturers from the US addressed the gathering on the theme of cooperation.

### **November 2000**

**LVE leaders were invited to hold a seminar at UNESCO headquarters in Paris titled Integrating Values in Early Childhood Programs/ Services** held 20-22 November 2000. This seminar was co-organized by UNESCO and Living Values Education and focused on Primary and Early Education Sections. The "Framework for Action on Values Education in Early Childhood" was developed at an international workshop "Integrating Values in Early Childhood Programs/ Services". (This document can be found in the *Living Values Education Training Guide*, beginning on page 23 (2020). LVE educators and leaders who spoke at the conference included Benoit Duche (France), Chris Drake (Hong Kong), Diane Tillman (USA), Peter Williams (UK), and Shahida Abdul Samad (Malaysia). Winsome Gordon, the Director of

Primary Education Section, addressed the gathering as well as Bernard Coombs, the head of Early Childhood Education. More than 30 leading educators from Africa and Europe attended.

## **2001 – 2010**

**Living Values Education was an actor in the global movement for a culture of peace in the framework of the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.**

### **July 2001**

**UNESCO, Dakar: Dr Winsome Gordon, the Head of Primary Education at UNESCO, coordinated an LVE presentation during a primary education conference at UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in Dakar, Senegal, 9-13 July 2001.** This five-day conference was attended by 31 Directors of Primary Education Departments in Africa, plus representatives of other educational establishments. A video was created for UNESCO in English and French by Benoit Duche and distributed to UNESCO national offices throughout Africa by UNESCO. As a follow-up to the interest expressed, the Swiss Association for Living Values Education coordinated a series of LVE programs in West and Central Africa from 2003 - 2007, some of which were supported by National Commissions for UNESCO.

### **December 2001**

**Following the recommendation of UNESCO, The African Regional Conference on Values Education was held in Mauritius** to look into setting up African regional training of trainers programmes on values education and initiating development of Ubuntu-based or related materials that could be used in classroom and non-formal settings. This conference was done with the cooperation of the Mauritius Institute of Education. LVE leading educators who spoke at the conference were Diane Tillman (USA), Mila Rangulam (Mauritius) and Neil Hawkes (UK). The Mauritius Institute of Education worked with LVE educators on this island nation to use the LVE approach to train educators.

## **2002**

After the November 2000 Seminar at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, Bernard Combes, the head of Early Childhood Education, asked Diane Tillman if she would write some LVE materials for street children. He commented, "We have street children who are three-years old in South Africa and we don't know what to do with them." In response, in 2002 she wrote *Living Values Activities for Street Children Ages 3–6* and *Living Values Activities for Street Children Ages 7–10*. **UNESCO sent copies of these LVE resource materials to the national UNESCO offices throughout Africa and Asia.**

### **January 2003**

**John Daniel, the Assistance Secretary General for Education of UNESCO, wrote a letter to Diane Tillman** dated 16 January 2003 as the International Coordinator of Content and Training for LVE. (The letter is attached.) The content of the letter:

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to thank you for your letter providing an update of the activities of Living Values: An Educational Program over the last few years.

I noted with great interest the description of activities LVEP has carried out jointly with UNESCO, through both Headquarters and field offices, reflecting our common thinking on how to help people learn to live together through finding ways to empower educators, youth and children to seek quality learning and teaching. I commend you for the quality of the LVEP books and for the Award they have earned.

As LVEP has already initiated activities with UNESCO, in particular in Africa and Asia Pacific and, as you point out in your letter, LVEP is quite complementary to our guidance, values and international understanding education programmes, I encourage you to pursue this very fruitful cooperation. In particular I would suggest that LVEP pursue its joint initiatives with:

- the Primary and Early Education Sections here at Headquarters;
- UNESCO Dakar as follow-up to the African Regional Conference on Values Education held in Mauritius in December 2001 to look into setting up African regional training of trainers programmes on values education and initiating development of Ubuntu-based or related materials that could be used in classroom and non-formal settings;
- UNESCO-APNIEVE (Asia Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education) and UNESCO-APCEIU (Asia Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding) in Korea.

It would also be beneficial for LVEP to approach UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions to explore the opportunities for developing local initiatives.

I wish you and the LVEP network of educators success in your efforts to promote and implement a culture of peace.

Yours sincerely,  
John Daniel

**2006 though 2022**

**UNITWIN / UNESCO International Values Education Research Consortium: Learning to Live Together and Learning to Be**

The UNITWIN/UNESCO International Values Education Research Consortium advances the study of values education across the globe by engaging researchers and practitioners from throughout the world in developing national and transnational research initiatives that explore a broad range of issues pertaining to values development in children, youth, and adults.

Members of the consortiums include leading values education scholars from the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), University of Newcastle (Australia), University Putra (Malaysia), Institute of Psychology, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences (Vietnam), Universidad Mayor

(Chile), Universidad Casa Grande (Ecuador). The Consortium's work focuses on building a global research agenda for values education and supporting the development and implementation of a series investigations that address a broad range of theoretical, methodological, and policy issues concerning the study and practice of values education.

Several LVE leaders were part of this research consortium from 2006 through 2010, including Benoit Duche (France), Diane Tillman (USA), Nazreen Dasoo (South Africa), Neil Hawkes (United Kingdom), Pratiba Naran (South Africa) and Shahida Abdul Samad (Malaysia). Meetings of the Consortium have been held at the University of California, Berkeley, United States (2006), the University of Johannesburg, South Africa (2007), and the University of Newcastle, Australia (2008).

Dr. Nazreen Dasoo continues to be the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair for Values Education at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. The Chair continues to work closely with its Living Values affiliate and supports both training and research in this area. She noted in December 2022: "The most significant work the Chair has achieved is its work in Values Education broadly and the publications in journals and research handbooks. Such research has in some cases mentioned the impact of the Living Values Education Programme. The Chair has also had to rethink its research agenda over the years and while Values Education remains a core, it is now looking at the role of Global Citizenship too."

## **November 2022**

### **LVE presentation at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP27 in Egypt.**

ALIVE's new book, *Living Values Education Activities for Caring for the Earth*, was presented at a workshop in the Earth Day Pavilion at COP27 on 9 November 2022. The book combines the "Simplicity and Caring for the Earth and Her Oceans" values units from the updated LVE Activities Book 1s. It is a climate change resource for children and young adults. Organizations were offered the opportunity to download the book free of charge from the [livingvalues.net](http://livingvalues.net) site and post it on their website for wider dissemination. Many young people are in despair about climate change. This book offers hope, and knowledge about how they can make a positive difference. The values work of LVE actively continues to support UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals toward its 2030 agenda.