



Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace



Annual Report 2008

our mission

is to promote the development of qualities that are needed for ensuring peace and a humane society. We want to facilitate changes that bring greater understanding, compassion and growth, both for ourselves and others.

To achieve this, we aim to create quiet, safe and open spaces for authentic expression and dialogue. When individuals feel respected and valued, they become more able to resolve problems and find strategies to develop their full potential and talents. We hope that this will contribute to the growth of organisations and institutions built around our shared humanity.

About the GHFP

Founded in 1996, the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace (GHFP) is primarily a think-tank, whose aim is to foster peace, harmony and understanding between people, and to find innovative approaches to the pressing issues confronting today's world. The work of the foundation is underpinned by the belief that peace can only be achieved when people are in touch with their own humanity.

The GHFP acts as a catalyst for change and growth in order to promote intercultural and inter-religious understanding, human-centred education and sustainable livelihood.

What we do

The GHFP works as a research institute, investigating areas of human concern in order to identify key questions and promote dialogue and discussions. Specifically, the GHFP conducts and encourages research as well as initiating and supporting projects in the areas of inter-religious dialogue, education and livelihood. The work of the projects, combined with the results of our research, serve to inform the GHFP in organising topical conferences, providing a context for changing the way people think, and transforming individuals' approach to their own life and work.

Work with us

The Foundation is open to collaborating with other organisations and individuals who share or have an interest in our goals and objectives.

Ways to work with us include:

- sponsoring and participating in our research
- supporting our conferences
- providing financial sponsorship to our projects



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progress



GHFP Research Centre in Brighton, England

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2008 was a busy year for our foundation, and a year of overwhelming change and reappraisal in the wider world. The collapse of much of the international financial system – and, with it, the world economy – has cast doubt on old assumptions that had for years underpinned the policies of governments and financial institutions. At the same time, the rising star of President Barack Obama in the United States has shown that a different language and wiser approach to foreign policy can also win elections.

All this has strengthened our confidence in the validity of the ideas that have guided the GHFP's work over the years. In the 21st century, a culture of violence and one-upmanship will no longer work. Human populations are still growing, and rapid technological advance means that we are becoming ever more connected. This demands a change in how we see ourselves in the world. Our survival and flourishing will depend on our discovering fresh guiding principles: grassroots empowerment for example, linked to an awareness of the needs of the whole. Technological progress, which sometimes adds to our problems, also needs to be part of the solution. For that it needs to be sustainable, both within the human context and for our planet as a whole.

The search for such guiding principles has been at the heart of the research the GHFP has been conducting in the last few years. The progress we have made in the areas of education, livelihood and inter-worldview understanding is documented in the pages that follow. In all these three areas, our engagement with innovative, pioneering projects has brought new insights. These in turn have led us to collaborate with a wider community of NGOs who are helping us address specific needs and challenges.

The second half of this year saw the completion of the restoration work on the foundation's new home in Brighton. Now returned to its original simple and graceful proportions, the house and its new meeting-friendly garden carry a warmth and informality that is contributing to our work. All those who work and meet here agree that the effort to achieve this has been worthwhile.

Sharif István Horthy



Our survival and flourishing in the 21st century will depend on our discovering fresh guiding principles...

Inter-religious understanding for transformation

The GHFP believes that dialogue is key to intercultural and inter-religious relations. Our work focuses on exploring how to develop new forms of dialogue that will enhance mutual understanding and respect between people of different backgrounds. We are also interested in investigating the impact that spirituality and religion may have on contemporary life and on the values and assumptions that underpin science, morality and economics. We hope that such inquiries will contribute to developing new platforms for genuine and meaningful dialogue across cultures, religions, ideologies and so forth.

In 2008, the GHFP provided sponsorship for the publication of literature on spirituality. We have participated in international inter-religious dialogues and sponsored other research projects in this area.

FORGIVENESS

The GHFP has been sponsoring activities that contribute towards a deeper understanding of forgiveness as part of any peace process. Through reflection on our own roles in violent situations, we as individuals and groups can be led to forgiveness and feel empowered to end cycles of violence. The GHFP regards forgiveness as a key to conflict resolution and peace.

In 2008, the GHFP's trustees visited the site of the Garden of Forgiveness in central Beirut, and met senior members of Solidère, the company responsible for the re-construction of Beirut's City Centre and the Garden. The Garden of Forgiveness is a place for contemplation and healing. It aims to take us beyond the traps of past wounds and grievances. Unique to the Garden of Forgiveness in Beirut is the emphasis on the human dimension in reviving communities and recreating spaces for peaceful co-existence in the future.



In conjunction with this project the GHFP sponsored the publication in English and translation in Arabic of the paper entitled 'Breaking the Cycle of Violence'.

The GHFP regards forgiveness as a key to conflict resolution and peace



PROMOTING INTER-RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING

In 2008, the GHFP continued to work with other organisations to develop approaches to intercultural and inter-religious understanding.

In February, the GHFP hosted and sponsored the Third Study Team Meeting of the 'Children in World Religions Project' in Marrakech. This was a joint project of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and UNICEF. This meeting's aim was to research and document the teaching, approaches and

perspectives of six major religions vis-à-vis children, and young people. It was seeking to examine how, over centuries, the religions have developed their respective views on the child, including their rights and obligations, and how their communities (parents, family, educators, etc.) have internalised these norms. It included experts from the major world religions and indigenous traditions, such as religious scholars, educators and practitioners.

In 2008, the GHFP continued to sponsor the Harvard Divinity School's ongoing scholarly work in inter-religious dialogue.

We have also provided a research grant for the development of a bilingual version of the InterWorldView website, and the mapping of the InterWorldView dialogue.



PUBLICATION OF LITERATURE ON SPIRITUALITY

An important part of the GHFP's mission is to support the development of human understanding that facilitates peace. To this end, for over a decade, the Foundation has sponsored the publication of a variety of literature on spirituality. One such ongoing project is the translation of the words of a Javanese spiritual thinker, Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjo, from Javanese into English and other languages. These writings explore the foundations of religious and spiritual experience and offer an understanding of our relationship as humans with the material world during our spiritual journey.



Saad Kettani, Fès Foundation and Simon Xavier Guerrand-Hermès, (right) at the Fès Forum

PARTICIPATING IN AND SPONSORING INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE EVENTS

In 2008, the GHFP attended several intercultural and inter-religious dialogue events, including the First Alliance of Civilizations Forum hosted by the Government of Spain on January 15-16 in Madrid. The Alliance of Civilization (AoC) was established in 2005, at the initiative of the governments of Spain and Turkey under the auspices of the United Nations. This first AoC Forum was an open dialogue between political and religious leaders, civil societies, international bodies and foundations. The aim was to launch joint initiatives to promote cross-cultural global understanding, in areas such as youth, media, education and migration.

The GHFP was also a co-sponsor of the second Fès Forum on Civilisations and Cultural Diversity on 15-17 November. The Forum was organised by the Moroccan Centre for Inter-disciplinary, Strategic and International Studies (CMIESI). Founded in 2007, CMIESI is a centre for reflection, research and interdisciplinary expertise in dealing with complex strategic, diplomatic and international issues. The second Fès Forum's Declaration highlights the necessity for eliminating destructive ideas and biased or stereotypical thinking in the media. In addition, it stresses the importance of educating the world's children to move away from ignorance and prejudice about the 'Other'.



...so children and young people can grow up as dignified human beings, able to care for and respect one another and the world around them

Education for human flourishing

An important goal of the GHFP's work is to understand more fully how education can enable individuals to live a meaningful and flourishing life and achieve their full potential. We are particularly interested in exploring the educational values, principles and practices necessary for nurturing the growth of our human qualities, so that children and young people can grow up as dignified human beings, able to care for and respect one another and the world around them.

In 2008, the GHFP continued its work in education through research, educational programmes and supporting innovative teaching and learning practices.

HUMAN-CENTRED EDUCATION

Over the past ten years, through research and engaging with alternative schools in different parts of the world, the GHFP has developed a unique vision of education, which has been defined in the new book entitled 'Human-Centred Education', written by Scherto Gill and Garrett Thomson, to be published in 2009/10.

Briefly, Human-Centred Education places the human being at the heart of all education processes:

- Education aims to respect the child fully as a person, and not treat him/her instrumentally, that is, as a means to an end, be it academic, social, political or economic;
- The primary aim of education is to promote the well-being and flourishing of the human being, to develop

individual autonomy, self-awareness, positive attitudes, self-direction, and more;

- Education is directed at the child as a whole, nurturing his/her diverse qualities and virtues as well as integrity and harmony.

The book will provide a clear conceptual framework for understanding human-centredness in education. It will explore the educational thinking that the GHFP has developed to identify practical new options for secondary state education in the UK and other countries. These ideas will include some of the best approaches from both mainstream and alternative education.

RESEARCH INTO LIFE NARRATIVES AND HUMAN FLOURISHING

Another strand of the GHFP's research in education is to look into the notion of human flourishing through reflecting on how individuals engage with their own and other people's life narratives.

Human life can be chaotic, and the capture of narrative plots and temporality in text and story form allows the chaotic nature of life to assume a certain structure and configuration as well as coherence, direction and unity. The GHFP sees the narrative process as a learning process. Learning takes place when the narrator makes sense of his/her life experiences and uses this meaning and understanding to guide their future choices and directions. The narrative approach can have a 'therapeutic' effect in the sense that individuals can adapt and modify their stories to achieve shift and transformation. Facilitating learning in this way is what we term 'narrative pedagogy', an important approach to help individuals find pathways.

In 2008, Professor Ivor Goodson became a visiting research fellow of the GHFP's Centre for Research in Human Development. Our research into life narratives has greatly benefited from his expertise and insights in this area.



'EDUCATION FOR WELL-BEING' CONSORTIUM EUROPE

In 2008, the GHFP played an active part in the European Foundation Centre's 'Education for well-being' Consortium. This is a partnership initiative where several foundations come together to share understanding and good practices under the common theme of promoting the child's wellbeing in education. They will work collaboratively to take the collective vision forward in the wider context of Europe.



The European Foundation Centre provided an ideal platform for foundations to establish this partnership. It has made it possible for foundations to collaborate in areas such as health, education and youth employment in order to scale up good practices and make bigger impact on the wellbeing and growth of children in Europe.

The GHFP's own work in human-centred education and our understanding of how humans flourish has contributed to the development of a conceptual framework underpinning the notion of education for wellbeing.

Through working in this partnership, the GHFP have come to realise that philanthropic foundations can greatly affect social change, in part because they have autonomy, resources and are less subject to bureaucracy.

MA IN EDUCATION STUDIES WITH A FOCUS ON PERSON-CENTRED EDUCATION

For a number of years, the GHFP, in collaboration with the Sussex School of Education, University of Sussex, has convened an innovative MA Education Studies programme with the focus on Person-Centred Education (PCE). Person-Centred Education is an extension of human-centred education in higher learning. It shares the same concerns as human-centred education regarding the development of the whole person, and explores how to enable each individual to flourish through learning communities.



The programme strives to be person-centred in its values, intellectual intentions and focus of research inquiry, and contributes to further insights into teaching and learning in a specifically human-centred way within a variety of settings.

In 2008, the programme welcomed its third cohort of students and continued to receive interest from teachers and educators in Southeast England and beyond.

...several foundations come together to share understanding and good practices under a common theme...

Educational project support

The GHFP provides ongoing support for education projects that seek to identify and articulate educational innovations and develop more human-centred approaches to teaching and learning. Our grants have allowed these schools to continue providing unique educational experiences to children and adults.



Colegio Amor, Columbia



COLEGIO AMANECER

In 2008 the GHFP continued its sponsorship of the work of the Colegio Amanecer Nuestra Señora de Fatima, located in a rural area of Colombia. The school aims to nurture an inner state of well-being in children by helping them to connect with the beauty of the surrounding natural environment. The school also focuses on fostering children's self-esteem, helping young people to heal themselves from within, particularly those with emotional wounds. The school provides an environment that is caring and loving, allowing children to be free from the fear of failure, punishment and blame.

The GHFP's grant to the Colegio Amanecer ensures the continued articulation and implementation of their pedagogical ideas.

COLEGIO AMOR (THE SCHOOL OF LOVE) IN COLOMBIA

Colegio Amor was founded in 1988 in Soacha, a shanty town in Bogotá that is mostly made up of a migrant community of violently displaced families. The school regards children and young people as agents of change who can contribute to promoting peace and wellbeing in the wider community.

Colegio Amor, as its name suggests, is a 'School of Love'. As well as offering its students an exciting and broad academic curriculum, the school also focuses on meeting the children's fundamental human needs. These include providing food, clothing, safety, protection, respect, loving and close relationships. It particularly encourages children and young people to develop the skills and awareness that will protect them from the abuse and damage caused by social instability, which results

from violent displacement. The school provides nationally recognised vocational qualifications, and the skills developed prepare young people for a more sustainable life within their community.

This year the GHFP received a generous donation from the Hottinguer family towards the work being done at Colegio Amor. This grant has been crucial in enabling the school to continue to provide a unique educational service to the children, including school meals, support from social workers, psychological counselling, arts and cultural programmes, after school programmes and vocational training. Lack of funds had severely threatened these services, but the Hottinguer's contribution has now enabled the GHFP to help the school resume these unique features to ensure the well-being of children.

LEWES NEW SCHOOL IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

The Lewes New School (www.lewesnewschool.co.uk) was set up by a group of parents who lived in the South East of England. The school respects and nurtures what is unique about every child by creating a range of teaching and learning opportunities that accommodate the child's natural pace. An important feature of the school is its caring pedagogy through human relationships, mutual respect, emergent curriculum, conversation-based teaching and more.

In 2008, the GHFP continued to sponsor the school's work on 'respectful communication', seen as the key to creating a learning community where all members are respected as individuals. It also allows each child to develop a sense of self and awareness of others. As such, the school is regarded as an extension of home by the children and parents.

The GHFP also funded the school's innovative approach to a rigorous and open-ended curriculum, as opposed to the highly prescriptive National Curriculum within current state education. In this approach, teachers are facilitators, listeners, observers, guides and learners as they provide support to children's learning.

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Lewes New School children taking part in Indonesian cultural activities

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON 'EXPLORING SELFHOOD'

In September 2008, the GHFP initiated, sponsored and convened an international seminar on 'Exploring Selfhood'. The objective of the event was to deepen our understanding of how individuals from different cultures perceive selfhood through life narratives, and to examine the influence that culture, history and ancestral memories have had on individual trajectories, dispositions and concepts of identity.

The seminar was attended by educators, life historians, and narrative researchers from nine countries. It was a unique and deeply significant experience for all the participants. Scherto Gill is editing a book of the workshop proceedings to be published by the GHFP in 2009.



Inka Samana School, Ecuador

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

The GHFP sponsored an international Educators' Conference that took place in July 2008 in Amanecer, Colombia. The conference was co-convened by Susila Dharma International, and aimed to build a space for educators working within alternative education in South America to come together and reflect on the theme of spirituality in education. More than 50 educators attended the event and shared experiences and insights into how they have integrated spirituality in their day-to-day teaching, school management, and other areas of educational practice.

The conference also created a network of educators in South America for mutual support, inspiration and cooperation.

Livelihood for human development

The GHFP is interested in a positive view of development, looking at possibilities rather than just the problems of poverty. 'Livelihood' is our preferred term, stressing the dignity of work and of human wellbeing, and focussing on how individual talents can be nurtured to contribute to overall human development.



KALIMANTAN'S FUTURE IN DEVELOPMENT: A VISIONING WORKSHOP

In 2008, the GHFP sponsored an interactive workshop to develop a vision for community development in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. The workshop created a space for a broader dialogue between the members of the various projects in the area.

The workshop was attended by 80 project leaders and community members, reflecting in small groups on what each project was trying to accomplish, how and why. These discussions allowed project teams to articulate more clearly the benefits development initiatives are trying to bring to this area. It allowed actions and initiatives to become more coordinated and developed synergy, relationship and network opportunities.



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It aims to empower individuals to play a proactive role in developing their own wellbeing through health promotion and self-healing

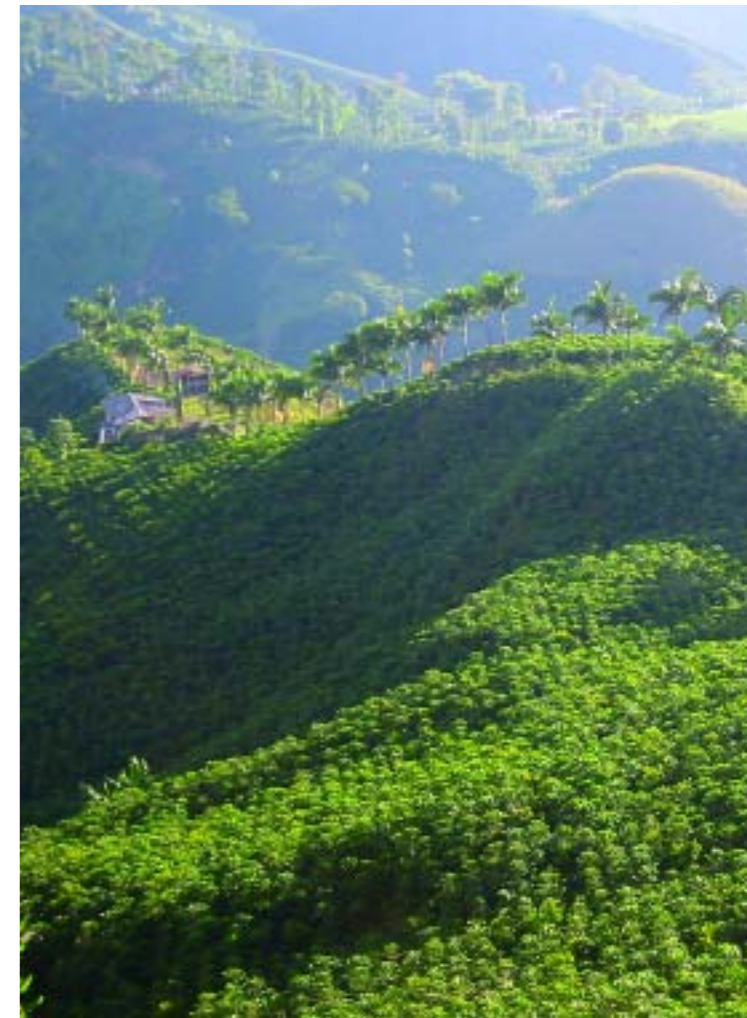
GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT: A 'THINK BIG' WORKSHOP

The relationship between governance and development has been an important topic within GHFP's research. We believe that it is at the heart of community development and social projects. In 2007/8, the GHFP sponsored research to formulate an overview exploring the relationship between Governance and Development at the macro level, as well as using qualitative interview techniques with development practitioners to understand such relationship from their everyday experiences.

One of the key findings of this research was the importance of 'thinking big'. In other words, development practitioners must have a wider vision to be able to have a significant impact on

the community. As a follow-up, the GHFP sponsored an international workshop on 'Governance and Development' held in Amanecer, Colombia in July 2008. Amongst others, one goal was to share a preliminary analysis of the research findings with development practitioners.

The workshop inspired newer project leaders to 'Think Big' and consider what they might do to expand their sphere of influence beyond their limited target population to enhance governance at the local, regional or national levels.



VIVIR'S SYSTEMATISATION

Vivir is a successful health care project in Ecuador. Founded in 1987 as a private not-for-profit organisation, Vivir's interdisciplinary team has set up a health-care model that aims to develop people's health and wellbeing from an integrated point of view by considering the different aspects that influence health and wellbeing. The Vivir model respects the country's native healing culture and regards each person as the protagonist in caring for his/her own

health. It aims to empower persons to play a proactive role in developing their own wellbeing through health promotion and self-healing.

Vivir's training programme has reached 22 provinces in Ecuador, and is offering training to health professionals in both public and private sectors. The Vivir programmes have now been recognised by the World Health Organisation/ Pan-American Health Organisation (WHO/PAHO) as one of 15 examples of Health Promotion in the world.

In 2008, the GHFP sponsored the project team's review of its methodology. By finalising its approaches and extrapolating insights in a systematic way, their knowledge can be now disseminated at national level. The work involved gathering all the necessary data for analysis, editing and publishing. The final outcome of this research will be a book on the pedagogy of Vivir, to be used as a manual and training resource for health care workers in Ecuador and other countries in South America.



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The Vivir model respects the country's native healing culture

income and expenditure

For the
year ending
31.12.08

€ (Euros)

Donations received	851,333.00
Other income	3,733.61
Admin & project coordination	63,765.35
Expenditure (UK and Paris)	99,820.26
Distribution to projects	216,834.00
Distribution to research	55,168.41
Investment	306,380.82
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	113,097.77





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