



Empathy Surplus Project



Empathy Surplus Project

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

03/18/2016

Subject: Communication on Engagement

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am pleased to confirm that the Empathy Surplus Project continues to support the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. With this re-commitment, we express our on-going intent to advance these principles within our spheres of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We are including a 27 page white paper by our culture change consultant, Joe Brewer, entitled "Who Framed Global Development?" I hope you will find it as helpful to our on-going work to build an empathy surplus as we did. In it Mr. Brewer poses three questions we should all keep at the top of our awareness:

1. How is poverty created?
2. Why is growth the only answer?
3. Who is developing who?

I hope readers interested in making the UNGC and the SDGs more effective will read this important white paper. Mr. Brewer draws the following conclusions:

Herein lies the hope for our collective future. When we know — in detail and with clear insight — what the key misconceptions are, it becomes possible to design a process that is built on solid theoretical ground. In other words, the SDG process could be done differently with insights that:

- ◆ Focus on the mechanisms of wealth extraction that create poverty and inequality around the world;
- ◆ Clarify the role of ideology in setting development agendas so an honest, open conversation can take place across the international community about what we want the development agenda to be;
- ◆ Resolve conflicts about the way nature is treated to remove confusion about whether the economy is part of the environment (which it is) and how we should value its inherent worth;

- ◆ Deeply critique the concept of progress, in particular the myopic focus on economic growth, to ensure the sustainability thinking truly is reflected in the vision put forth for creating a better world;
- ◆ Bring politics to the center of the discussion to identify where power resides and how it should be managed. Otherwise the process will be nothing more than an exercise in futility;
- ◆ Actively deliberate about what “good development” looks like instead of defaulting into the standard reference point of debt-laden, chronically unequal societies built on mass consumption economies. This is probably not the best we can do — and is obviously at odds with the mission to achieve sustainability worldwide.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the biannual submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization’s efforts to support the implementation of the Ten Principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore re-commit ourselves to report on engagement within the next two years of this COE. All this we commit to do “to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,” and social progress and larger freedoms are the strategic reason we need more empathy.

#GoEmpathySurplus,



Chuck Watts  
President & Co-Founder  
Empathy Surplus Project  
4113 W. St. Rt. 73  
Wilmington, OH 45177

cc: Council of Compassion

attached: Who Framed Global Development?

## Engagement and Outcomes

This section highlights the Empathy Surplus Project's our own organization's alignment around the ten principles, as well as calling on business and non-business to do the same.

### Purpose

The Empathy Surplus Project's purpose is to build trust for effective government, especially at the local level, in the following way:

1. To promote the compassionate discourse among citizens of the United States who believe empathy and responsibility to self and others belong in public government through the creation of a federation of neighborhood communities of practice called Caring Citizens' Congresses;
2. To support the research, development, promotion, inward digestion, and distribution of information from the field of cognitive science and linguistics advanced by Dr. George Lakoff and colleagues that demonstrate the benefits of and need for the application of the American core values of empathy and responsibility to self and others in effective public government;
3. To encourage the development of caring public policy directions that promote a measurable empathy surplus and encourage the citizens of the United States to protect and empower each other; and
4. To engage in any lawful act or activity and to do all things necessary, convenient, or expedient to further the general purpose of the corporation either alone or in association with other corporations, firms, associations or individuals.

### Four Empathic Activities

We, members of a Caring Citizens' Congress, an affiliate of the Empathy Surplus Project, are a community of practice. We will occupy compassion every day by practicing Four Empathic Activities:

1. We will inwardly digest and use the values of empathy and responsibility to self and others in daily conversation "in order to form a more perfect Union."
2. We will invest in our peaceable public assemblies and weekly pledge "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor" to strengthen compassion occupation and identify caring policy directions.
3. We will implement our caring policy directions to fulfill our lives, secure our liberties and perfect our pursuit of happiness.
4. We will invite our neighbors and public officials to join us for the sake of freedom and human dignity now and forever.

## **Current Policy Directions**

Policy making has two components: material and cognitive. The material component of a policy is made up of the details of the law, i.e. the nuts and bolts of how the policy works. Advancing a specific policy tends to be divisive. The cognitive component of a policy is made up of the good ideas that have to be in the brains of the public in order for the policy to make sense. Since the cognitive component has less detail and exists at the moral level, they tend to be more unitive. Policy directions focus on the cognitive side of policy.

Policy directions are created by Caring Citizens' Congresses and define the work of that particular congress. Caring citizens join a congress to either work to implement and invite others to help implement an existing policy direction; or to develop a new policy direction that they are passionate about and that they can organize around.

We currently have two policy directions:

1. Healthcare is a human right.
2. A caring economy is filled with ethical businesses.

We are a member of the UNGC to advance both of our policy directions.

## **Implementation**

We also pledge to continue to engage with the UN Global Compact and occupy compassion in the following ways:

- Continue to charter Caring Citizens' Congresses and advance our current two policy directions: [1] Implement healthcare human rights, and [2] Build a caring economy filled with ethical businesses;
- Continue to support and promote the latest insights of the brain concerning how to frame our interconnected political lives, especially to clarify the SDGs. Please find our consultant Joe Brewer's white paper entitled "Who Framed Global Development?"
- Continue to collaborate with Rotarians and Rotary International, especially the RI Representative to the UN, as well as members of the Rotary Action Group for Peace to strengthen the relationship Rotary has with the United Nations;
- Invite local businesses, non-business, and, especially municipalities to join the UN Global Compact.

## **Measurement of Outcomes**

The Empathy Surplus Project (ESP) members are organizations called Caring Citizens' Congresses. The governing board of the ESP is made up of caring citizens who are members of a congress. The ESP is currently recruiting its governing board by chartering congresses. Each congress has its own governing board, which includes a representative to the ESP board. The ESP is currently made up of 1 congress of 7 members. When the

ESP board is fully staffed, i.e. 3 founders and 9 representatives, the ESP will have 9 congresses and somewhere between 54 and 108 members.

All members of our current Caring Citizens Congress were invited to submit their measurement of outcomes directly related to their involvement. Fifty-seven percent of the membership responded, including the president. Here are our responses in alphabetical order.

**Anita Dobrzelecki Lewis, Co-Founder and ESP Council of Compassion Member, and Charter Member, First Caring Citizens' Congress, Wilmington, OH**

When asked how she engaged around our Global Compact commitment to the Ten Principles, Anita Lewis reported:

- Attended Rotary Day at the UN in 2014 and networked with Rotarians around UNGC
- Participated as one of four delegate members from the emerging Caring Citizens' Congress of the Empathy Surplus Project in the Summer of 2014 who invited Clinton County commissioners to join the UN Global Compact. The commissioners listened to our presentation and later declined to take this important step.
- Became a charter member of First Caring Citizens' Congress in December 2, 2014.
- Staffed a booth at the Taking Flight With Rotary event held at W-PAFB, Dayton Ohio, April 2015.
- Partnered with Chuck Watts and other Rotarians from our District 6670 to participate in a Habitat For Humanity's Global Village build in Guatemala. Encouraged Habitat employees in the US and Guatemala to invite their Habitat subsidiaries in their respective countries to join the Global Compact.
- Invited her Xenia Rotary Club to create Rotary UN Relationship Committee.
- Joined Rotary Action Group For Peace because of its promotion of the work of the UN
- Invited Xenia Rotary Club to form a Peace Committee through Rotary Action Group for Peace.
- Strived and continues to strive to align her own "micro" businesses, I Am Clean Energy and Roaring Brook Farm, around the Ten Principles.

**Kathryn Palmer, ESP Council of Compassion Member, and Charter Member, First Caring Citizens' Congress, Wilmington, OH**

When asked how she engaged around our Global Compact commitment to the Ten Principles, Kathryn Palmer reported:

- Made an effort to improve personal understanding of concepts advanced by leading thinkers regarding empathy and responsibility for self and others ( the meaning of empathy and its application in everyday life)
- Participated as one of four delegate members from the emerging Caring Citizens' Congress of the Empathy Surplus Project in the Summer of 2014 who invited Clinton County commissioners to join the UN Global Compact. The commissioners listened to our presentation and later declined to take this important step.

- Became a charter member of First Caring Citizens' Congress in December 2, 2014.
- Attended and continues to attend weekly Caring Citizen Congress in Wilmington, Ohio.
- Co-signed a bi-partisan letter with fellow members of my First Caring Citizens' Congress to fifteen 2015 Ohio primary candidates living in Clinton County, Ohio, inviting them to frame their campaigns around our five caring ideas of Stronger America(ns), Broader Prosperity, Better Future, Effective Government, and Mutual Responsibility. Inserts included the Ten Principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One candidate used the ideas in his campaign. Another candidate thanked us for writing.
- Co-wrote and signed a letter from my Springfield Friends Meeting, Wilmington, OH, to Ohio governor and our Ohio Congress in support of welcoming Syrian refugees to Ohio for resettlement.

**Miriam Speaight, Charter Member, First Caring Citizens' Congress, Wilmington, OH**

When asked how she engaged around our Global Compact commitment to the Ten Principles, Miriam Speaight reported:

- Participated as one of four delegate members from the emerging Caring Citizens' Congress of the Empathy Surplus Project in the Summer of 2014 who invited Clinton County commissioners to join the UN Global Compact. The commissioners listened to our presentation and later declined to take this important step.
- Became a charter member of the First Caring Citizens Congress December 2, 2014.
- Invested in and continues to invest weekly peaceable assembly of her congress to practice using the language of human rights and effective government.
- Co-signed a bi-partisan letter with fellow members of my First Caring Citizens' Congress to fifteen 2015 Ohio primary candidates living in Clinton County, Ohio, inviting them to frame their campaigns around our five caring ideas of Stronger America(ns), Broader Prosperity, Better Future, Effective Government, and Mutual Responsibility. Inserts included the Ten Principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One candidate used the ideas in his campaign. Another candidate thanked us for writing.
- Co-wrote and signed a letter from my Springfield Friends Meeting, Wilmington, OH, to Ohio governor and our Ohio Congress in support of welcoming Syrian refugees to Ohio for resettlement.
- Strived and continues to strive to align her own "micro" businesses, Dawn of Healing, around the Ten Principles. She holds a monthly Reiki Peace Clinic, offering free Reiki to the public on the principle that if inner peace is achieved for the individual, then peace can be achieved in the world.

**Chuck Watts, Co-Founder and ESP Council of Compassion Member, and Charter Member, First Caring Citizens' Congress, Wilmington, OH**

When asked how he engaged around our Global Compact commitment to the Ten Principles, Chuck Watts reported:

- Became a charter member of the First Caring Citizens Congress December 2, 2014.
- Participated as one of four delegate members from the emerging Caring Citizens' Congress of the Empathy Surplus Project in the Summer of 2014 who invited Clinton County commissioners to join the UN Global Compact. The commissioners listened to our presentation and later declined to take this important step.
- Co-signed a bi-partisan letter with fellow members of my First Caring Citizens' Congress to fifteen 2015 Ohio primary candidates living in Clinton County, Ohio, inviting them to frame their campaigns around our five caring ideas of Stronger America(ns), Broader Prosperity, Better Future, Effective Government, and Mutual Responsibility. Inserts included the Ten Principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One candidate used the ideas in his campaign. Another candidate thanked us for writing.
- Interviewed local citizens using the Caring Citizen Freedom Survey on Healthcare Human Rights. Find results at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-NFLJXDDL/>
- Spoke to various Rotary Clubs in District 6670 and invited local Rotarians to visit our congress.
- Invited his own Rotary Club to form a Rotary UN Relationship Committee.
- Staffed a booth at the 2015 Rotary District 6670 Conference about the collaboration between Rotary and the Global Compact.
- Invited Christ Episcopal Church, Dayton, OH, to become the first faith community to join the Global Compact.
- Opened dialogue with the Rotarian Action Group for Peace about a joint project.
- Created the Empathy Surplus Project Caring Citizens' Moment, a reflection of the five caring ideas, on [WALHradio.com](http://WALHradio.com), sponsored by local Edward Jones financial advisors reading their Financial Focus.
- Worked with Rotary International Representative Joseph Laurenzi at the Rotary Day at the UN to get more participation from Global Compact members.
- Attended Rotary Day at the UN in 2014 and 2015 with other Rotarians from District 6670.
- Invited USA Network board members to attend the 2015 Rotary Day at the UN and was declined
- Invited UN Global Compact to advertise 2009 Rotary International UNGC Collaboration and was declined.
- Hosted Helle Bank Jorgensen, Head, Canada Network of Global Compact, at the 2015 Rotary Day at the UN.
- Served on the Health Working Group of the 2015 UPR, Mary Gerisch, chairperson, and attended civil society testimony at the US State Department and made a two minute presentation on the results of our healthcare human rights interviews.
- In the Summer of 2015, invited the mayor and the judiciary committee of the city council of Wilmington, OH, to join the UN Global Compact. They listened to our presentation and decided not to take the proposal to the entire council for a vote.