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Contact
Peter Maas, founder

1 Personal Message

Hi there,

we are pleased to present You the second Newsletter, mainly concentrating on the basic principles of the Helping People Network.

Defining those principles will help us create understanding amongst the needing and helping people and organizations for what we actually do and stand for.

The first Newsletter raised numerous questions and readers have difficulty trying to "get the picture" of the actual work of the Helping People Network. In the next Newsletter(s) we will address all those questions. We are very grateful for those questions, because every one of them make that "picture" clearer. In time, all those questions and answers will be available on the Network's Website. Please keep sending them!

Although You may not realize it, but all of Your ideas are more than welcome, especially in this initial phase of developing the organization. Please feel free to "let out" all those ideas, questions, comments by means of an Email message to ideas_questions_comments@helping-people.net.

Regarding Your questions about **translation work**: we are looking for some more assistance for French and Spanish translations. Any help is very much appreciated!

Thanks & Bye for now! Have a good time!

Kind Regards,

Peter Maas

PS: feel free to forward our Newsletters to Your Friends and Family. When forwarding the Email message, please include subscribe-newsletter@helping-people.net in the CC-field of the message, so that we can add the Emailaddress(es) to our Mailinglist.

Post: P.O. Box 825, NL-4600 AV Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands
info@helping-people.net <http://www.helping-people.net>

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2 Basic Principals

The Helping People Network is a non-profit organization, a worldwide group of people, with the intention to help the needing people to find the help they need and mediates between the needing and helping people.

To avoid any wrong impressions before we start helping people with wrong expectations, it is necessary to formulate what the organization "stands" for:

2.1 Equality

Everyone of us should be aware, that we are all the same. No one is better or worse than anyone else, everyone is being born and everyone dies.

There are no - per definition - good or bad people: they can do good or bad things. Even bad people can do good things, which needs to be encouraged.

Furthermore, everyone will encounter problems and sickness during his/her lifetime. Skinolor, geographical area, religion, race, gender, caste, class, social position and language are not important in the Helping People Network when trying to find help for needing people.

2.2 Freedom

One of the most basic human rights is his/her freedom. Our definition: "Freedom is when someone can freely decide to do and express whatever comes to his or her mind, without the intention of damaging, manipulating or offending other being's freedom by the same definition, taking full responsibility for his or her actions and expressions".

Wow! Well, in simple words, You can do, say or think whatever You want as long as You don't hurt or damage someone else or compromise other people's living environment. Accepting anybody's views does however not mean that You have to share them... everyone has his/her Your own views... that is everyone's freedom!

Of course, Helping People Network fully respects, supports, endorses and lives by all 30 Articles of the United Nations General Assembly's [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

To be very clear: someone not repecting these basic rights, will not be helped!

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2.3 Peace & Security

Helping People Network objects to any kind of violent, criminal, terrorist, military, manipulative "Force" to solve a conflict of interest. Any use of physical and/or mental "weaponry" is rejected and should be removed from the scene and visibly destroyed. Weapons and their munition will only create and cause new and bigger problems and are therefore inefficient. For that kind of problems published public opinion and in some cases also civil disobedience are a better solution.

Shining a light on people doing/saying negative things will often be enough to make them stop.

Although most people intend to live in peace, still numerous conflicts of various, some very worrisome, scales exist in the world. One might even come to the conclusion, that the number and scale of conflicts is growing in these times of globalization.

Conflicts are to be solved **before** the stage of escalation is reached. Wars cause casualties, people being harmed or even killed, often enough because they "were just at the wrong place and time".

Helping People Network explicitly supports efforts and will mediate in conflicts to restore peace for and between all people worldwide, because structural improvement of people's circumstances can only be achieved in a peaceful environment. Security and mutual trust are established through understanding, by getting to know each other, knowing "who" they are, what they think, believe, do, intend and wish to achieve.

Many fears only exist because people are afraid of the unknown, not knowing basic things about their neighbour and his/her friends. Helping People Network explicitly promotes the "Concept of Know-Your-neighbours-and-they-know-You". The absence of those fears causes people to feel more secure, which also takes away the need to provide for means of defense. Helping People Network will actively seek solutions and ways to raise understanding between people.

2.4 Friendship

Through understanding between people, friendships evolve, which increases the chance that people are willing to help each other. Helping People Network intends to promote and create friendships among the people being helped. The Network explicitly takes up the role of friendship-"catalyser". Especially friendships between neighbours are key to create worldwide peace. Therefore, the Network will actively promote and explain the importance and advantages of this kind of friendship.

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2.5 Happiness

One of the principal activities of people is trying to reach the state of happiness. Well, when would You say You're happy? Although one cannot define "units of happiness", it is necessary to define it.

Therefor we wish to define happiness as "the state, in which we can live freely, peacefully, free from difficult problems, in optimal health and fitness, with enough resources like food, water, comfortable housing and living conditions, proper possibilities and access for self-realization, having a job, feeling useful with a good perspective for personal growth, together with a beloved family, friends and neighbours". That is a mouthful! Yes, but isn't this what we are all more or less aiming for?

2.6 Unconditional help

From a state of happiness and surrounded by friends, people will be more willing to help each other. Helping People Network stands for the principle of unconditionally (within human rights framework) helping other people on a non-profit basis, using the hands, knowledge, experience and all available resources of it's members and supporters. If one of us doesn't know how to help out, the others from the Network will come into play.

This IS the basic philosophy of the Helping People Network.

2.7 Responsibility for other living beings and Earth

Although we, humans, tend to think we "own" the Earth and everything that lives and grows on it, we must realize that Nature itself tries to maintain a balance on this planet. The six billion of us are using a lot of resources and unfortunately, we do not always treat the other living beings, like animals and plants, with the necessary respect and dignity.

Earth resources are limited and sincere pollution can be seen everywhere. Unless we start doing something about it soon, new problems will arise. You and we and everybody else KNOW that that is true. Although humanity tends to think these are far-away-problems, Helping People Network actively promotes respectful and careful use of Earth resources, wishes to maintain a clean environment and raises awareness, when deploying helping activities around the globe.

Also the existence of a balanced eco-system, shared with all the others, animals and plants, is necessary to keep this planet "liveable" and to reach and/or maintain the previously mentioned happiness.

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3 Priorities

To avoid problems and discussions in urgent situations, having to choose which people to help first, the following priority list is used as a guidance:

1. Life endangering situations & conflicts
2. Nutrition and medical care
3. Housing
4. (Self-)Employment
5. Education
6. Environmental improvements
7. Social Contacts & Help

(Where problems/needs of type 1 are handled before those of type 2, etc)

4 Activities since last newsletter

4.1 Setup/Design of Network Logo & Website

People who are in the business will be able to confirm that setting up and maintaining the contents of a Website is a lot of work. For the technical part, we have several people that help us installing the necessary "stuff" to make this a success from the beginning.

Also for the Design, look-and-feel, structure, style and Logo for documents as well as the Website someone is helping is out. The diagram on the Website is the first visible result.

4.2 Making plans...

Of course, we would like to start our activities right away... but, we need to do a lot of preparations before being able to efficiently help other people. The more people help us with these activities, the sooner that will happen. We appreciate any time and help You can give us. Please contact us if You feel like lendig us a helping hand...

We are brainstorming about informative material for presentations to interested people, schools, universities and associations and would appreciate more participants in this process. Interested? ([Yes](#))

We also intend a special focus on young-minded, experienced, active retired people, who form a tremendous base of knowledge and experience within society. We hope to be able to "tap" into this "treasure"...

_____ End of Newsletter _____