

# Conscious spirituality in search of truth...



## CONSCIOUS ELDERS NETWORK, CEN: A REFERENCE FOR LIFE

*Conscious Elders Network, CEN, is a progressive American grassroots community of older highly motivated persons. Their primary objective is to collectively advocate on a wide variety of issues impacting on American society today. These issues include racism, social justice, ageism, environmental issues, and especially climate change.*

*CEN members actively discuss, formulate policy, arrange strategies including democratic protests in response to above societal inequities. Meetings are held locally and nationally based on consensus of available resources to meet above actions.*

*Of significant importance to CEN members are the contributions towards formulating a values based organisation. CEN is a perfect example for many positive and productive older persons of what can be achieved when passion, spirit of commitment is available. In CENs “Meta Values-Reference For Life” document these values are expressed, and extract follows below.*

*–Philip Crouch, Tasmania, 2020*

## CONSCIOUS ELDERS NETWORK META VALUE: REFERENCE FOR LIFE

‘As conscious elders, we acknowledge our own fundamental wholeness, in relationship with all living beings joined in the web of life. This understanding and experience allows conflict to be resolved, non-violence to be practiced, reconciliation to succeed, and peace to be restored. **These organizational values and principles guide our living and hold us accountable:**’

- (1). **INCLUSIVITY** We include and welcome authentic relationships with diverse individuals in all generations, learning from and integrating a full variety of leadership capacities to collaboratively address the urgent issues we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- (2). **COMMUNITY** Embracing the genius of community and the rich potential for inspired co-creation, we value the way right relationships can provide guidance beyond what any one individual can access.
- (3). **INTEGRITY** We model integrity, committing ourselves to speak and act in alignment with our values and principles, in order to bring our best selves forward.
- (4). **PRESENCE** We strive to be present and responsive in the moment, to approach life with flexible minds and whole hearts, and to become increasingly able to navigate uncertainty, ambiguity, and paradox with contentment.

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- (5). **DEEP DIALOGUE** Through deep dialogue, including non-judgmental listening, we willingly open to the unknown and the unexpected, inviting our minds and hearts to explore subtle meaning and to gain new depths of understanding.
- (6). **INNOVATION** Using our imaginations and creativity to broaden perspective and replace outdated paradigms with new ones, we innovate freely, weaving ancient wisdom and modern knowledge together.
- (7). **JUSTICE** We choose holistic justice as our priority, pledging to uphold the rights of all without discrimination, to help foster a social and natural environment that supports fairness and dignity for all living beings.
- (8). **SUSTAINABILITY** The challenge of developing a sustainable world calls us to discover and to live the best possible legacy to serve current needs without violating the welfare of future generations.
- (9). **COMPASSIONATE CARING** Our choice to be compassionately caring means that we cultivate empathy for all beings and strive to relieve suffering with loving kindness, forgiveness and reconciliation, honoring all of us unconditionally in the web of life



**Suggested resources:**

Conscious Elders Network resources, action plans, developments and more -

<https://eldersaction.org/events>

<https://eldersaction.org/history/>

**CEN Turning Point Journal.**

<https://eldersaction.org/turning-point-journal/>

Earth Charter Values:

<http://earthcharter.org/discover/the-earth-charter/>

