Ecology of Care charter

CHARTER FOR AN ECOLOGY OF CARE NETWOK

The *Ecology of Care* puts Caring at the heart of our existence and includes ourselves, others and the planet.
Care is a product of everyday experience. It develops over time as consciously aware responses that impact on our self, on others (including objects) and on the worlds we inhabit.

> *The Ecology of Care holds as its first principle that, by every individual considering their own actions through the lens of Care, we all are brought back to our undeniable responsibility for everything we do in relation to our self, others and the world we share.*

ECOLOGY OF CARE NETWORK (CIC)

The *Ecology of Care Network* is a Community Interest Company (CIC); a company that generates surpluses to be spent on its core purpose.
It was established in the United Kingdom in April 2017.

Its primary purpose is to foster human Care and Caring activities in many forms, establishing Care as a guiding principle for individual actions and responsibility. Through its network of networks it facilitates sustainable community responses designed to nurture individuals, their family and friends, the worlds within which each person lives and the global ecology that supports all of humanity.

The aims of an *Ecology of Care Network* are to:

Facilitate awareness of individual Care and how we translate this into responsibility for the one world we share.

Encourage awareness of collective care, including within organisations, and how this translates into the responsibility for the one world which we share.

AREAS FOR INFLUENCE

The Ecology of Care Network will focus on Care activities within the following ecologies:

Education (A home for minds - Self)
In the realm of education and training, the Ecology of Care Network will develop new theoretical approaches and practical applications of Care.

Organisation (The management of home - Others)
Working with organisations, the Ecology of Care Network will promote the principles of Care as a basis for managing change towards a better global ecology. In this way the Ecology of Care Network will orientate organisations towards socially, environmentally and financially sustainable and responsible actions.

Policy (The governance of home - World)
In terms of policy, the Ecology of Care Network will assist decision makers to construct and apply policies and structures, which will enable the wider communities they serve to better Care for themselves, others and our common home.

Principle activities

The core activities of the Ecology of Care Network are as follows:

- To act as a leadership organisation promoting an Ecology of Care.

- To communicate an Ecology of Care in compelling ways including publications, public events and social media.

- To develop guidelines for and highlight good examples of Care.

- To facilitate research and studies that enhance an Ecology of Care.

- To develop a worldwide network of Caring individuals, organisations and governance bodies while always retaining its operational independence.

- To monitor progress towards an Ecology of Care.

The Ecology of Care Network
www.ecologyofcare.net

CHARTER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines were developed in consultation with numerous representatives from academia and industry at multiple events in Denmark in 2015 and 2016. They represent the cumulative thinking and collaborative expressions of what an Ecology of Care is, what it represents and currently intends to accomplish.

These charter guidelines contain both a mandate for action from this group and a manual to support activities across a broad field of application. These guidelines are not to be considered complete and any conflicts should always consult the Ecology of Care's "first principle" for resolution.

1.0 Purpose of an Ecology of Care

1.1 Network of networks
The Ecology of Care provides the framework upon which a network of networks can be built. It brings the collective knowledge of like-minded communities together to provide new perspectives on Care directed at common problems. It promotes a positive, sharing connection among people, places and activities designed to make a better world.

1.2 Guidance
The Ecology of Care offers guidance with tools and strategies for holistic ecological thinking towards a socially just and ecologically sound way of helping society, communities, organisations, families and individuals to help themselves. It is an alliance seeking to coalesce and consolidate thinking, research and advocacy about Care and its role in articulating and realising a better world.

1.3 Processes
The Ecology of Care provides a checklist for sustainable healthy systems whether in the home or in the world. A healthy generative system that is built upon reciprocity and feedback measures of progress.

1.4 Sense-making
An Ecology of Care will help leadership function in increasingly complex professional and institutional scenarios of change through better understanding issues from a caring perspective.

2.0 Ethos within an Ecology of Care

2.1 Benefits

The Ecology of Care Network will benefit a broad spectrum of people and situations. It is about increasing connection, communal linkages and aggregating common efforts directed at common good (including social justice & environmental injustice). It brings to the foreground the essence of why we do what we do providing motivation, knowledge and opportunity for people who wish to contribute.

2.2 Responsibilities

A key aspect of Care lies in responsibility. An Ecology of Care enables people to recognise that responsibility comes with all of their actions, to do what is right for them and at the same time, to take ownership of the form that their Care takes. Care means making an effort to take time, to listen, to observe and to be aware of the impact of my actions on my *self*, others and the world. Care in an Ecology of Care Network helps each person to see their role as part of a whole.

2.3 Supporting

An Ecology of Care Network provides purposeful support for the kind of mindful, complex thinking and behaviour that is required in the 21st century if we are to survive and thrive in long term sustainability. It promotes socially just and ecologically sound ways of being, doing and organising at a personal, political and planetary level. It encourages equality and diversity through positive relationships, ethically responsible, useful and contextually relevant actions that do not disenfranchise nor support superiority over others (people, animal or environment).

3.0 Actions for the Ecology of Care Network

3.1 Embrace others

The Ecology of Care Network embraces a community of people who Care. It is comprised of people from diverse fields of interest who wish to share knowledge, collaborations and learning; building on what has been accomplished about and though Care and to move this agenda forward together. It embraces and fosters diversity through activities that encourage integration across fields and disciplines so as to understand better why and how people should want to become a part of this movement.

3.2 Ideas for change

The Ecology of Care Network represents an opportunity to make integrative and transformative change in economics, health, education, governance and other fields effecting social and ecological capital. It will encourage the growth of systems of positive reward that focuses on satisfying higher level human needs and desires through community cooperation and nurturing programmes. It is imperative that these systems blend harmoniously, are generative and take a long-view of global systems.

3.3 Networking

The Ecology of Care Network provides a home for Caring. By joining interrelated networks, connecting people who care about different but related goals, it provides a platform where people can share their ideas and project experiences. It creates a space that makes it easier for people to Care and share productive ways of Caring.

3.4 Practical solutions

An Ecology of Care Network will foster the dissemination of practical solutions to a broad array of problems through examples, pilot projects, tools and practice guidelines. Care can be valuable as a measure of progress, a set of guidelines or principles in developing businesses, projects and programs which help to balance communities and empower people. The Ecology of Care *Model of Care* and other design tools can be used to integrate thinking as a way of ordering tasks; as a disposition towards tasks already under way and as a measure of success in achieving levels of Care.

3.5 Critical leadership

An essential role of the Ecology of Care Network is to increase consciousness of Care both at a conceptual level and at the level of personal understanding. This will help people to understand that Care is a fundamental part of who we are and how we can recognise Care in our everyday actions. An Ecology of Care will also help people to critically recognise and understand the state of their own personal Care by looking closely at how they enact their form of Care in the relationships they have with their self, others and the world. The Ecology of Care Network will confront the difficult questions of our times by making evident the existence or lack of Care across many aspects of life (political, economic, social, and environmental) and by promoting what people (and not things) really Care about. It will champion what really matters to people

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