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*Initiatives of Change*

## **INVITATION** for a workshop on

# **Honest Conversation in a Diverse World**

Centre of Initiatives of Change, Amaliastraat 10, Den Haag  
**Saturday, 5 November 2011**, 11.00 – 18.00 h  
Registration, coffee and tea from 10.30 h

The workshop explores honest conversation and trustbuilding as an essential capacity for effective living in our increasingly diverse and multicultural world.

It provides tools to deal with conflict in communities divided by race, ethnicity, class, or religion, where there is a history of mistrust and a need for open, courageous dialogue and partnership. The workshop explores the personal qualities needed to restore trust when it has been broken and to sustain a movement for honest conversation and constructive change.

Through case studies, discussion, and interactive learning methods, participants will increase their understanding and skills to 1) engage people of polarized views, 2) to acknowledge difficult history, and understand the power of story and group identity, and 3) to build diverse teams and networks beyond traditional boundaries.

Rob Corcoran will draw from his book *Trustbuilding* that describes two decades of sustained work in Richmond, Virginia, which has produced a nationally and internationally recognized model for honest conversation with people of all backgrounds and sectors.

**ROB CORCORAN** is the National Director of Initiatives of Change, a global network dedicated to building trust across divides of race, class, religion and culture. In 1990 he founded its U.S. flagship program, Hope in the Cities, in Richmond VA. Hope in the Cities works for just and inclusive communities through honest conversation among people of different socio-economic backgrounds and it provides training for other communities locally and internationally. Rob has extensive experience in dialogue design and facilitation and in building diverse teams and networks in different cultural contexts. He has chaired numerous national and international conferences and forums and has conducted workshops throughout the U.S. and in Europe, Australia, India, South Africa, and Brazil. His commentaries appear in several international publications. He participated in the creation of a guide for racial dialogue for President Clinton's Initiative on Race.

His book *Trustbuilding: an honest conversation on race, reconciliation, and responsibility* was published by University of Virginia Press in 2010 with a foreword by Gov. Tim Kaine. Kaine says Hope in the Cities has "moved what looked like an immovable barricade and has provided a map for the future." Rob and his wife Susan have lived in Richmond since 1980. They have three sons. Rob grew up in Scotland and is the son of a lifelong activist in the international labor movement. The book will be on sale during the workshop.

**Cost:** € 50,-, including lunch. There is a reduced rate for those for whom the costs are an obstacle.

**Registration:** no later than 31 October with Tessa Calkhoven at [tessa.calkhoven@iofc.nl](mailto:tessa.calkhoven@iofc.nl). After having received confirmation of your participation, you may transfer the fee to bank account 158481 of Nederlandse Stichting Initiatives of Change, designation "workshop". You can also pay on the day itself.

**The workshop will be in English**

**Maximum number of participants: thirty**