

Dignity Now Amman Group

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Founded by Dr. Walid Sarhan, in cooperation with Dr. Evelin Lindner

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1. What is the organisation of Dignity

Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies (HumanDHS, humiliationstudies.org) is both a transdisciplinary academic field and a global community. It is a community of like-minded scholars, researchers, educators, practitioners, creative artists, and others, who wish to collaborate in a spirit of mutual support to increase dignity in the world. HumanDHS has around 1,000 personally invited members from all continents, with more than 8,000 friends on the address list. The nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015, 2016, and 2017 gave all members great courage. See humiliationstudies.org/whoweare/evelin/142.php.

2. When was it established and where?

Evelin Lindner is a medical doctor and psychologist who hails from a family that has been traumatised by war and displacement. In 2001, she defended her doctoral dissertation on the psychology of humiliation and with that dissertation, she created a new academic field, namely, Humiliation Studies. Many people encouraged her to found an organization that would harness it. She was encouraged by many to convene conferences, and the first conferences took place in 2003, both in Paris and in New York. Since then, the organization has grown organically, led by Evelin Lindner together with relational psychologist Linda Hartling, who wrote her doctoral dissertation on the psychology of humiliation prior to Evelin Lindner, in 1995.

There is no fixed date of establishment, and the organization is global. To emphasise its global character, we do not have a headquarters. Evelin Lindner is the global ambassador for the organization, her laptop could be seen as the globally mobile headquarters, and every member's location is part of the headquarters. This is one of the ways, in which the organization manifests dignity in its organizational practices. It affiliates with existing institutions as much as necessary and as little as possible to open space for change.

The history of the organization is described on <https://humiliationstudies.org/whoweare/history.php>.

3. What is the purpose of this organisation?

We wish to stimulate systemic change, globally and locally, to open space for dignity, mutual respect, and esteem to take root and grow. Our goal is ending systemic humiliation and humiliating practices, preventing new ones from arising, and opening space for feelings of humiliation to nurture constructive social change, so that we all can join in healing the cycles of humiliation throughout the world. We do our best to cultivate a relational climate characterized by dignity, by walking our talk, and by mutual personal growth.

We emphasise a psychology of care, which traditionally has been relegated to women in the private sphere. We de-emphasise the traditional practice of competition for domination that has ruled the public sphere for the past millennia all over the world and that is dysfunctional in an interconnected world that overstretches its carrying capacity. The work of HumanDHS and WDUi is therefore designed as a labour of love and maintained entirely by volunteers who give their time and energy as a gift. All efforts are pro bono and not-for-profit endeavours.

4. What do you expect to give to the world?

We live in times of serious crises. The ecological basis for human life on Earth is in danger, and the

social relationship in our communities are fracturing, both locally and globally. We need a world where every new-born finds space and is nurtured to unfold their highest and best, embedded in a social context of loving appreciation and connection, where the carrying capacity of the planet guides the ways in which basic needs are met.

Through our academic work, we inspire new thoughts as to how global dignity may be achieved. Through our global community building, we sow the seed for a future global dignity community. We work to make people aware of the fact that the human species is one single family, and that for its survival, dignity needs to be manifested in their relationships both with each other and with our habitat, planet Earth.

For that goal, we organize two conferences per year, one in New York, at Columbia University, and the other each year in another place (since 2003 in Paris, Berlin, Oslo, Dubrovnik, Costa Rica, China, Hawai'i, Turkey, Egypt, New Zealand, South Africa, Rwanda, Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand, Indore in Central India, and the Amazon in Brazil).

In 2011, we launched the World Dignity University initiative (WDUi, worlddignityuniversity.org) at the University of Oslo in Norway, and the publishing house Dignity Press (dignitypress.org) that has published many books since.

5. What is the role of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan Bin Talal in the organisation?

His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan contacted Evelin Lindner on the occasion of an article she wrote in 2020 at the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic. In this article, she expressed the hope that this pandemic would be a wake-up call for humanity to manifest global solidarity.

In her work, Evelin Lindner speaks of *ecocide* and *sociocide* (the 'killing' of our eco- and sociospheres), and His Royal Highness made an important intellectual contribution by pointing out that both are facilitated by *cogitocide*, the killing of our sphere of thinking. Lindner includes this insight into all her work since then, integrating his work into hers. In turn, His Royal Highness integrates Lindner's thinking into his work. As a sign of his support, he invited the 37th Dignity Conference to be held at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies under his patronage this September. A list of past and future conferences is on humiliationstudies.org/whowear/annualmeetings.php.