

## **Welcome and Greetings**

### **Honouring our hosts, collaborators, supporters, and guests**

37th Annual Conference of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies  
'From United Nations to United People: From the Brink of Disaster to a Future of Dignity'  
in Amman, Jordan, and online  
5th – 7th September 2022

<https://humiliationstudies.org/whoweare/annualmeeting/37.php#participants>

**Renée Hattar:**

**Evelin Lindner is the founding president of a global dignity movement, a global movement of people who wish to bring more dignity into the world. Please, Evelin, you have the floor.**

Thank you so very much, dear Renée! The idea for this dignity movement was born in 2001 and it came into true being in 2003, when Linda Hartling, a relational psychologist, joined me in leading it. Linda would have liked to be with us but has to stay with her aged father. She sends us all her love from Portland, Oregon, where it is midnight now!

Our movement has been growing for the past twenty years, and we are very proud of that. Ten years ago, we founded the World Dignity University initiative, as an invitation to all learners and educators around the world who wish dignity to be at the heart of the creation of knowledge.

Each year, we convene two conferences, the first one each December at Columbia University in New York City, and the second conference at a different location around the world. So far, we have had conferences on all continents, from China to Thailand, India, and the Amazon in Brazil, to South Africa, Rwanda, Turkey, and Egypt. What we have now here, is our 37th conference, and we have no words to thank His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal for inviting us, and Renée Hattar and Sandy Qaqish of the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies for their amazing care. During this conference, you will meet some wonderful members of our global community in person, those who travelled from afar and are now with us here, while others will be with us on Zoom.

Dignity is at the core of the human condition. As the world faces accumulating crises, it becomes ever more important to focus on dignity as an essential quality in all our relationships, with people and the planet. Humiliation is the violation of dignity, and in my work, I speak of feelings of humiliation as the 'nuclear bomb of the emotions'. Feelings of humiliation are at the root of unprecedented violence and cruelty in the world today. Yet, these feelings can also be the source of world-saving social change that follows in the footsteps of visionary leaders such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Mahatma Gandhi, or Nelson Mandela.

His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal is a towering intellectual, who belongs among this group of visionaries. He is a shining beacon of dignity in the world, and I feel extremely blessed that he became aware of our work. I do not know any other thinker in the world who has a similar global overview as His Royal Highness. We have many 'bubbles' of thinking on this planet, for example, there is the big anglo-saxon 'bubble'. His Royal Highness bridges all these local spheres of thinking, he contributes to creating a globally dignifying cogitosphere — he himself coined this phrase — a global sphere of thinking, where we all can come together. Every time I listen to him, I feel profoundly inspired by his encyclopaedic take on the world, and each time, I feel vastly enriched and deeply touched by his extraordinary intellect and how he combines it with his deep love for humanity. His message is crucially important, particularly in our times of crises, and, according to my view, his voice must be heard much louder in the world!

Without further ado, I give the floor to HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Chairman of the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies, to give the inspirational speech of this conference.