

## Welcome to the 2021 Workshop by Evelin Lindner

Dear participant in this Dignity Workshop! A very warm welcome!

My name is Evelin Lindner, and I am the founding president of the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies network, or fellowship, or community, or movement, or family, we have many names. First, I would like to thank Linda Hartling, our director, and the entire Digni-Organizing team, for making this wonderful workshop possible! And I would like to thank the Morton Deutsch International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution at Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City for hosting this workshop series so lovingly every year since 2003! The coronavirus has opened new opportunities to welcome participants who could not travel to New York in the past! 155 friends have registered for this workshop from all continents. In Oregon, where Linda is based, it is morning now, in other places it is evening, and in New Zealand it is already the next day!

It is wonderful to have Danielle Coon with us, the associate director of the Morton Deutsch Center! On December 11, 2009, almost to the day 12 years ago, our dear Morton Deutsch received our Lifetime Commitment Award, and we are so happy that Peter Coleman, the current director of the Morton Deutsch Center, has accepted our Lifetime Commitment Award last year, in 2020!

Dear friend, please know that this workshop is part of a lifelong project rather than a single event. Our overall aim is to build what we call a *global dignity family*. Also, we invite all educators and learners who wish to bring more dignity into the world to nurture the educational initiative that we launched in 2011, the World Dignity University initiative.

Dear friend, please know that there is never enough time to say what needs to be said during the workshop. Please try to stay with us during this workshop as much as you can, preferably throughout the entire three days, so that you can get to know each other and stay in touch also after the workshop. We have planned many small groups during this workshop, we call them *connection and reflection* groups, where you can get to know each other personally and exchange email addresses. We also have a WhatsApp group, and if you wish to be part, just alert the Digni-Planners and Digni-Welcomers to include you.

Finally, let me share that our work is a labor of love, we work with a budget that is close to zero. Everyone gives according to their ability whatever they can — their time, their energy, their creativity — all as a gift of love. This means that there is no paid technical staff in the background to help with technical questions. We do this work simply by holding hands. We therefore depend on you to solve any technical problem that might arise on your side as best as you can! Thank you so much for your loving understanding!

I have no words to express my gratitude to all who make possible not only this workshop but our entire global dignity work! My particular gratitude goes again to Linda Hartling who has worked up to 17 hours a day throughout the past months and moved mountains to make this workshop possible!

A very warm welcome to all of you to the coming three wonderful days!