

Preamble

We have inherited a fragile world in great peril, yet with endless opportunity. We are simultaneously our own worst enemy and the only solution. To progress past the challenges we face as the peoples of Earth, it is imperative we take action as a united body of global citizens. The decisions we make now will determine the future state of humanity and the environment which supports us. It is time to declare our devotion to the restoration of our planet. If we live with love, hope, justice and compassion the solution will become clear.

Mission Statement

To thrive in a world of justice and peace as one, the people of Earth.

We have an opportunity to achieve this through education of the values of a global citizen.

To create an equal opportunity by removing the systematic barrier of inequality, so that education is accessible for all communities.

Global Citizenship Values

We recognise that all humans are a part of an interconnected global community. We see the values held by an individual in this global community as one who is conscious of their interconnectedness with the environment, our finite planet and our fellow global citizens. Global citizens retain their own cultural and national identities whilst embracing our diverse planet. As global citizens, we must strive to uphold values of love, hope, justice and compassion. These values allow us to make educated collaborative decisions to create a just and sustainable society. Action taken by a global citizen reflects these values to benefit humanity as a whole.

Goals

We aim to see the further development of widespread educational support of the developing concept of global citizenship, which relates to issues surrounding our environment, economy, diverse cultural atmosphere, social situation and global community.

-Diversity

The education of different cultural values and cultural customs is essential to the betterment of our global society. It is extremely important that we do not just call the global community diverse but instead we constantly endorse the education of difference. This is so that no majority or minority party feels alienated or isolated and we share and grow as one people, the citizens of Earth.

-Accessibility

We aim to make global citizenship education essential in both formal and informal education practices around the world. Facilitators and recipients of global citizenship education will be a diverse range of people across our planet. Global citizenship education and activism will take from and feed back into a diverse array of perspectives and ways of life. Any form of education surrounding global citizenship should provide the means for further tangible actions, understandings and incentives. Therefore, to move forward, we must create equal opportunity for all communities so that anyone, anywhere, can contribute to this global interconnected community.

-Personal

Global citizenship education will impact every person inhabiting our planet. Through varying forms of educational outreach, we aim to see the values of global citizenship actively promoted. This will in turn have positive effects on the emotional, spiritual, physical, and social well-being of individuals, the environment, communities and ultimately our wider world (Te Whare Tapa Whā¹). Education would strive to inform, upskill and empower people, which would support and advance the personal development and leadership skills of the world.

-Global

Global citizenship has positive effects for social, environmental, economic and cultural sustainability. Actions taken by global citizens will promote and create a more peaceful, compassionate, just and interconnected world. For this to happen, the relationships between nation states must change, because state interests cannot be met without acknowledging the planetary interest. This will involve countries placing less importance upon self interest and instead making concessions during negotiations and other forms of communication. This is the key difference between being international and global and will help us to solve the world's issues.

Methods to achieve the goals

Political Awareness and Action

Political action is often a critical way of influencing wide-spread change at local, nation-wide and global levels, so it is important that education includes awareness of this. Political action within already established systems includes voting, communication with people in power, legislative action within political parties, and on a global scale, international agreements like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Paris Agreement. Other political action outside of governing systems is protest and can be used to make great change and give voice to the masses. This can be done on a local or global scale through boycotts, strikes, marches, open

¹ Ministry Of Health. *Te Whare Tapa Whā*.

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/maori-health-models/maori-health-models-te-whare-tapa-wha>

letters and civil disobedience in general. It is important to remember that governance is vital for integrating policy and action whilst also incorporating the values of global citizenship.

The actual form of governance is less relevant given that people from all different nations with all different governing bodies need to be able to be involved in global citizenship, despite and because of their governments. Nations' form of government are not necessarily under the control of individual citizens.

Intergenerational Participation

It is important to recognise that intergenerational participation has formed a critical part in advancing many key areas of development and has been an important aspect of most successful movements related to advancing and achieving an ultimately global community. Especially involving all ages in political decisions is fundamental, so that our ruling bodies can become increasingly global and act with shared universal values. This can occur through open, inclusive forums, education and organisations.

Local Action

In order for our global community to flourish, there needs to be local grassroots action that seeks to connect people, empower communities and create solutions that work better for everyone. Often these methods can be cheap, provide income, share ecological wisdom, and connect people across cultures and backgrounds. Not only does this help local communities to flourish, successful grassroots action can be shared all over the world as realistic solutions for the global good.

Our Perspectives on the Current Education System

Possible intro: We are all high school students from New Zealand, who have been through over 11 years of formal education. 124 million young people are out of school worldwide (according to the World Economic Forum)² so we recognise how lucky we are to have had these privileges, although we wish they were globally shared.

Ariana, 17, Auckland:

I absolutely loved the freedom, play and creativity of primary school, but have found high school far less engaging or beneficial.

It seems we are striving for perfection and results, rather than learning and discovery. The moment things became about the grades rather than the learning experience, much of the magic and enjoyment was lost for me.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya8wtPgrzgo>

However I believe there is a better way. Creativity, problem-solving and global awareness are among the most vital things we could be learning at school, through education that asks us to think of solutions to global problems. Incorporating the idea that we can make a difference into our curriculum, as well as providing us with challenges, simulated situations, and real action projects to address local and global issues, could grow us to be global citizens as well as report-writers and “passers” of exams.

Scarlett, 16, Auckland

In many ways the education I have experienced, especially in high school, only caters to specific types of learners. People who learn by hearing or reading do well, and people who learn by doing or discussing can struggle as often there is not a lot of scope for creativity in lesson plans with such an assessment-driven school system (and I think these issues increase first when arriving at high school, and then again when starting NCEA). There are many ways in which schools are failing people who don't have the expected skills, or who have talents that don't manifest themselves in the 'typical' way. This may not seem relevant, but I think that in order for education systems to teach global citizenship, they first need to be accessible to all types of learners. What can an education system do to change the world if it is only engaging and accessible to a select group of people? If there is not wider community involvement, how can we ever hope to teach *global* citizenship?

Education systems should be focussed on teaching skills, (as opposed to content) which people need to function in this world - critical thinking, communication, and empathy. Ideally, this would be presented through a variety of media including lectures, films, class discussions, student-led projects and interactive activities that would engage as many people as possible. My experience has been that there is an effort made to do this in some of the more energetic teachers, but sometimes it is overshadowed by the wider pressure of assessments.

Sharing Global Citizenship

All of us have the potential to be global citizens. To help people realise their identity as a global citizen it is important to share this understanding with others.

Any method of sharing, learning and embodying global citizenship can be education. Therefore education in our modern day is not limited to the classroom; it includes areas such as social media, youth forums, community action and is ever expanding.

Below are suggestions of the ways we can use traditional and nontraditional education to create a world guided by our shared values.

Traditional School Systems

School systems and the various education systems around the world can use this concept in curriculums and integrated support networks to directly engage and encourage young people

and students to think globally. Implementing aspects of global citizenship into traditional school systems, such as linking all learning to our global connectedness, would include many more people in this awareness.

Social Media and Communication

Education through various methods of communication (emailing, texting, video conferences) can link people from across the world to each other so they are able to share ideas that are important in our world. Social media is one of the most widespread methods of sharing global ideas and can be done by anyone. This allows a diverse range of opinions to be shared, creating a more democratic platform of ideas.

Traditional Media Institutions

We acknowledge that traditional media could promote global understanding more than they currently do

And established media institutions such as print newspaper, literature, film, television, and radio could all play a big part in making our modern world more globally minded. The widespread reach of mainstream media cannot be underestimated. The more these media raise awareness of global connectedness, the more they can bring together diverse peoples over common goals and values, if used in positive ways that stimulate healthy growth.

Creative Expression/Art

Art and creative expression has an intrinsic power; the subversive way it can communicate ideas and inspire people to question the way our world works. Everyone can create art to share the idea of global citizenship, through mediums such as visual art, performing art, music, media, poetry, creative writing etcetera.

Community/Youth Forums

Community, youth forums and conferences are an effective way to engage diverse youth in global citizenship education. By connecting with others in a non-traditional educational format, ideas and concepts regarding global citizenship can lead to empowering, supported action. This breaks down barriers and preconceived notions between different groups of people and encourages global collaboration. It also ensures that future generations will uphold the virtues of Global Citizenship.

Youth Groups/Organisations

Youth groups and organizations (e.g. Youth Councils, youth-led activism groups, volunteer organizations like Youthline, and global youth groups like MUN and CISV) can bring communities together locally and globally, as well as empowering youth to make a difference and giving them a sense of belonging through spreading awareness. Connecting these globally through communication, social media, and travel/exchange is fundamental to strengthening the global youth community.

Organisations

Organisations including businesses, nonprofits, and NGOs have important relationships with young people especially, and are major influencers in an emerging global society. These organisations can provide systematic, structured support to the common goal, and encourage communities and collective groups alike to rethink what it means to be an active global citizenship, particularly through the provision of resources and open dialogue and conversations.

Sport

The practice of social and competitive sporting collaboration breaks down barriers between opposing countries through fun interaction. This encourages interaction between cultures and societies in order to recognise and celebrate one another's similarities and differences. We aim to see the endorsement of internationally collaborative/mixed sporting teams in order to promote the inclusive nature of the emerging concept of global citizenship.

Conclusion

A new outlook is beginning to emerge. The shift is underway from traditional economic thought, such as mass consumerism, exponential growth and financial self-interest, to a mindset of ethical economics. At the core of this is the concept of compassion; compassion for our fellow humans and compassion for our planet which so lovingly supports us.

Through the ratification and consideration of this document, we can see that education forms the basis of free-thinking individuals, with clear goals in mind and aspirations to advance a global community for the benefit of all humanity. Education does not have to be complex; in fact, the more accessible and open it is, the more people can engage in global citizenship.