

# Embracing inclusion

# What do we mean by inclusion ?

Inclusion is defined as effectively meeting student learning needs regardless of gender, socio economic background, culture, language, gender, gifts, ability...

Inclusive education challenges educators and education systems to meet the needs of all learners



# Inclusion

Inclusion is a global process that relates to the whole of society. Whether other cultures take up and implement this process with much less misunderstanding must still be investigated.

“Inclusion is ‘a never-ending process’ in which children and adults with disabilities receive the chance to participate fully in *all* community activities that are also available to people without disabilities.” (UNESCO, at the UNO Committee on Children’s Rights, 6 October 1997, Center for Human Rights, Geneva)

# Inclusive Education in the World

## A priority ?

- The Salamanca Statement in 1994 (UNESCO) promotes the inclusion of ALL students into the inclusive schools.
- In almost every country, inclusive education has emerged as one of the most the dominant topics in education.



# Activity # 1

- Write your own definition of inclusion or draw it creatively.

# Inclusive values

## **Inclusive values**

Beauty, equality, sustainability, compassion, rights, participation, wisdom, honesty, courage, trust, love, community, hope/optimism, the absence of violence, joy, respect for diversity, etc. (see Booth & Ainscow, 2011, p. 21ff),

## **Exclusive values**

Utility, self-interest, hierarchy, productivity, consumption, power, exploitation, image, conformity, discrimination, fatalism, authority, group affiliation, surveillance, reward vs. punishment, monoculture, etc. (see Booth & Ainscow, 2017, p. 44).



# Reflections from school leaders on inclusion

The principal articulated that his philosophy of inclusion clearly linked to Koster et al.'s (2009) four key essentials:

*Inclusion is a journey. It is about valuing and accepting individuals and their uniqueness and providing equitable access to all areas of school life.*

*Difference is an everyday part of life . . . Once people see it is okay to have students with disabilities in the classroom, students who don't speak English yet, it is just part of what we do, they don't stress over it, they just accept it and get on with the core job of educating every child.*

*Acceptance and tolerance grow. (Principal) a strength of the school is tolerance for diversity, which bodes well for inclusion. If you are tolerant you will include people and try to cater for their difference.*

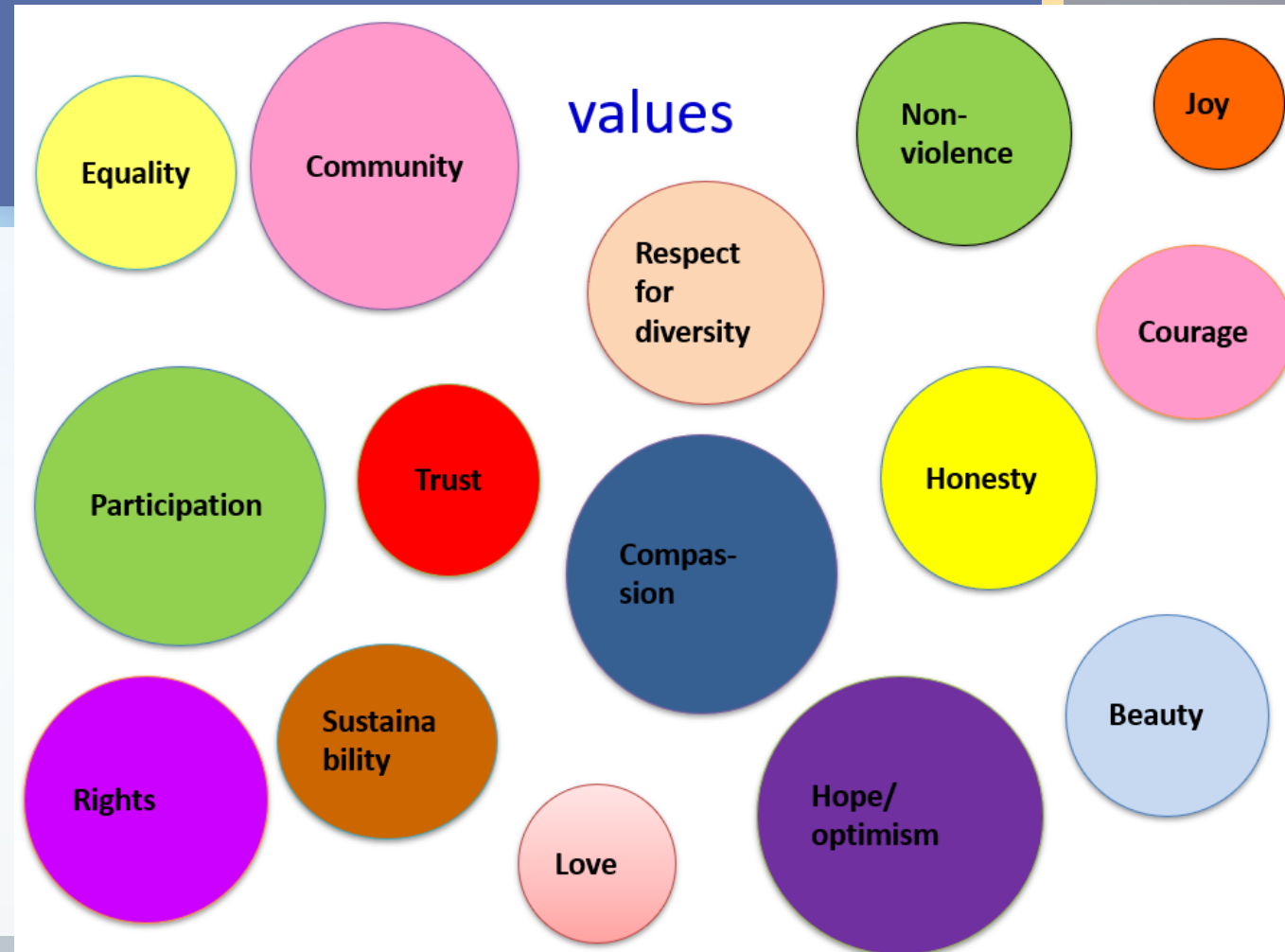
## Activity # 2

- Select one of the values and explain why this value means to you.



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The methodological practices established in Waldorf schools exemplify an education that operates according to a broader principle of equity, including “spaces for becoming”.



## Waldorf Education's Mission

# What is Waldorf Education?



Waldorf Education Inspires lifelong learners.

Developing their full capacities



Love for learning



Independent Thinking



Heartfelt service to the world



# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Waldorf schools define Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as follows:

## *Diversity*

- Creating welcoming environments.

## *Equity*

- Removing the predictability of success or failure.

## *Inclusion*

- Putting diversity into action by creating an environment of involvement, respect, and connection.



# Belonging

- What world would I like to live in?
- Try to remember an incident in your life in which you wanted to be part of a situation or a group but couldn't. Describe this situation in full sentences, with a drawing, with a poem or others, what were your thoughts? Your feelings? Your actions?

## Activity # 3

- Why are Waldorf schools considered inclusive ?



# Human rights and anti-discrimination

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*"The power of the Universal Declaration is the power of ideas to change the world. It inspires us to continue working to ensure all people can gain freedom, equality and dignity."*



Eleanor Roosevelt holding poster of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Lake Success, New York. November 1949.

# Convention of women's rights





# Children's rights

## Children's rights

1. for equal rights, non-discrimination
2. health
3. education
4. free time, recreation, play
5. own opinion and information
6. non-violent education, privacy, peace
7. protection against exploitation
8. protection against war, help if there are in distress especially for those fleeing conflict
9. for family and home
10. care if disabled



# United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

- (m) Recognizing the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty,



# Article 24

- No exclusion from the general education system on the basis of disability
- Access for an inclusive education in the communities in which they live.
- States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities for lifelong learning without discrimination on an equal basis with others.

Article 24 a) The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;



que entienden que unidos somos más fuertes.

## Activity 4

- How are the rights applied in your country? Are children with disabilities aware of their rights? And How?