

# why dialogue, *why now*

what great minds are saying about dialogue

The language of pluralism is that of dialogue and encounter, give and take, criticism and self-criticism. Dialogue means both speaking and listening, and that process reveals both common understandings and real differences. Dialogue does not mean everyone at the 'table' will agree with one another. Pluralism involves the commitment to being at the table – with one's commitments.

DIANA ECK

The most important aspect of freedom of speech is freedom to learn.

All education is a continuous dialogue - questions and answers that pursue every problem on the horizon. That is the essence of academic freedom.

WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

Recourse to arms and violence has not only led to incalculable material damage, but also fomented hatred and increased the causes of tension. The arrogance of power must be countered with reason, force with dialogue, pointed weapons with outstretched hands, evil with good.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don't believe is right.

JANE GOODALL

Believe in the power of dialogue among yourselves.... It requires courage, patience and determination. It requires mutual respect. The way of dialogue is the most mature, human way – the most effective way for producing solutions.

BISHOP CAROLOS FILIPE XIMINES BELO

How we understand our differences, how we engage them, and how we transform our conflicts and struggles over our differences into crucibles for learning from each other... that's a big conversation, and I think that it is the conversation for the 21st century. How can we bring ourselves together and really hear each other across these divides?

DIANA CHAPMAN WALSH

...Research and interreligious and intercultural dialogue are not an option but a vital necessity for our time.... In light of our religious traditions and our respective wisdom [we must] discern the values capable of enlightening the men and women of all nations on earth, regardless of their culture and religion. In this way, we will be able to advance in interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respectful of differences, courageous, patient and persevering...

POPE BENEDICT XVI

In true dialogue, both sides are willing to change.

THICH NHAT HANH

...it is now connection that is the key. A well-connected citizenry is made up of men and women who discuss and debate ideas and issues among themselves and who constantly test the validity of the information and impressions they receive from one another – as well as the ones they receive from their government.

AL GORE