

# Creating a Space for Dialogue and peace building

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*"If the world is to be built, it must be built in hearts first."*

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The world is entering a time where self-interest dominates. Nations are rearming, international agreements are losing their binding power, and humanity is increasingly divided into "good" and "bad," into allies and enemies. What is urgently needed is not another strategy of power, but a reform of the spirit—a return to humility, trust, and peace.

Only when leaders place the common good above narrow self-interest, when they choose to build bridges instead of walls, and when forgiveness and dialogue replace division and mistrust, can a stable and hopeful future be secured.

This conviction is the reason for a new gathering alongside the World Economic Forum in Davos: a call for a fresh Moral Re-Armament. It seeks to bring together those who long for true transformation of the world. Real change will not come through sharper divisions or greater force, but through a renewal of spirit—through humility, forgiveness, and the courage to put higher values above personal or national advantage.

We have seen this before. In 1946, in Caux, Switzerland, the Moral Re-Armament movement laid a foundation for reconciliation in a devastated Europe. Survivors and former enemies met, forgave, and began to rebuild trust. It was the spirit of Christianity that united people across their wounds and opened a new path toward peace.

That same spirit is urgently relevant today. Leadership that heals requires humility, courage, and recognition that all are fallible. We believe the time has come to revive and refresh the Spirit of Caux once again.

## History of Caux



In 1946, in the ruins of post-war Europe, Swiss diplomat Philippe Mottu and a group of citizens purchased the abandoned Caux Palace above Montreux. Their vision was to create a place where former enemies could meet as human beings, reconcile, and build trust. This became the heart of the Moral Re-Armament (MRA) movement, founded by American evangelist Frank Buchman, who believed that the true crisis of the world was not political or

economic, but moral. His conviction was simple yet profound: selfishness and hatred cause wars, and only moral and spiritual renewal can secure lasting peace.

At Caux, the “Four Absolutes”—Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness, and Love—became the foundation for reconciliation. Survivors of concentration camps sat alongside former resistance fighters and future statesmen.

Forgiveness and personal responsibility replaced hatred and blame. Between 1948 and 1952, more than 3,000 Germans attended conferences in Caux, helping prepare the way for the Schuman Plan and the European Coal and Steel Community, precursors of today’s European Union. Leaders such as Konrad Adenauer and Robert Schuman found inspiration there, and both French and German governments later honored Frank Buchman for his role in healing Europe.

The Spirit of Caux extended far beyond Europe. Turks and Greeks, Israelis and Palestinians, Cambodians scarred by genocide—all came to this mountain to listen, to reflect, and to seek reconciliation.

The principle was always the same: peace begins with a change of heart. As Buchman expressed it, “First a new heart.” Before treaties or institutions can succeed, individuals must embrace humility, forgiveness, and a higher moral law.

Today, in a world where nations are rearming, trust between peoples is breaking down, and societies are divided into “good” and “bad,” the Spirit of Caux speaks with renewed urgency. If leaders can rediscover humility, build trust, and place the common good above self-interest, then once again reconciliation can open the door to peace.

## **References**

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