

# We Shall Have to Begin With The Children

“If we are to reach real peace in this world..., we shall have to begin with children and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won’t have the struggle, we won’t have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering.”

~M. K. Gandhi,

“Speech at Montessori Training College” in *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*

As citizens of the world, witnessing the events of the last decade, we have often felt helpless in the face of injustice, both visible and invisible. We’ve seen acts of physical and emotional violence go unchecked, watched as short-term gains are prioritized over long-term well-being, and endured an increasingly unequal distribution of resources and opportunities.

On a personal level, we spend our daily lives just making sure that we have what we need, putting up with situations where we feel powerless to effect change. Whether we want it or not, we can feel that we are simply part of the system that perpetuates itself and drags us along, choiceless and powerless.

With all the things going on in the world today, many of us realize that, with a few exceptions, the leadership we are witnessing does not match our needs. What are the qualities we dream of seeing? What do we want for the young people who are growing up under our care? How do we imagine their future? Can we dream of Leaders that can support us and channel our energy in direction that would make our lives and theirs more meaningful, harmonious and joyful?

How can we contribute in any way to making this a reality? What can we contribute to the coming generations? What can we, as parents, teachers, mentors and role models do? How can we support tomorrow’s leaders to live fully and choicefully?

In his book, “The Heart of Social Change”, Dr. Marshall Rosenberg explores the historical and cultural reasons behind current thinking regarding concepts such as power, choice and duty. He explores the role of education in perpetuating the systems that are in place, and offers us a way to free ourselves, become aware of our values and make choices that are in harmony with our needs and those of others.

Most of us have been raised and educated to analyze and judge, and think in terms of duty and obligation. We are not truly aware of our choices and power. These concepts are deeply rooted in our consciousness, and we often act on them out of habit.

**NonViolent Communication offers us a new paradigm, a different way of seeing the world and human beings.** It calls on us to see the world, not as a set of opposing evaluations and judgements, but rather in terms of the needs behind our actions. As we learn and become aware of this backdrop, we change the way we see the world. And as we live these values, we communicate and transmit these concepts to others.

Those of us who live and work with children and adolescents have a unique opportunity to share these values with people who are just learning about the world and relationships. That way we can share ideas about awareness and the real possibility of a different way to perceive the world. We can bring consciousness to our power to make mindful choices and live our values with integrity and a sense of purpose.

Children grow into the societal norms of those around them, either submitting to them or rebelling against them. NVC-based needs consciousness can help them realize that there are other options available to them that take into consideration values that we all profess. This newly launched program uniquely offered for the Indian sub-continent “**Raising Tomorrow’s Leaders**” is based on a 9-months program that late certified trainer Inbal Kashtan launched for North America back in 2006. The training has been offered ever since by certified trainers Ingrid Bauer and Stephanie Bachmann Mattei. In the last few years, new versions of the original program have been offered in other countries around the world. Now Raising Tomorrow’s Leaders brings the richness and wisdom of this program to the Indian sub-continent, making the teachings relevant for those cultures, and offering materials that support our ability to understand our own thinking, reasoning and reactions, affecting the messages we willingly and unwittingly convey to our children due to our societal conditioning. It provides materials to support sharing the concepts behind the NVC practice with other adults and with children. Exploring basic brain science, the program helps us understand the reasons why children act and react, their fundamental needs, and some choiceful strategies to respond to these needs.

By listening and welcoming feelings and needs, we show children that their feelings and needs are not only natural, they are valued. This focus on *needs awareness* empowers us to stay connected to our own and one another’s humanity, even to the ones with whom we think we have little in common. We learn how to connect and identify universal needs that we all share. By speaking clearly of our needs and naming our values, we see the human-ness in others and develop greater consciousness about them. By demonstrating that we take responsibility for our feelings, needs and actions, we teach them to take responsibility for theirs. These soft skills will be increasingly important when sharing our values and making connections with others in tomorrow’s world.

We wholeheartedly invite you to join us on this meaningful journey, as we work together to empower and support the leaders of tomorrow. Your involvement can make a lasting impact—and together, we can shape a brighter, more inspired future.

You can find more information [here](#). Preview calls are planned on:

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 6:30-7:45 pm IST**

Register [HERE](#) in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 6:30-7:45 pm IST**

Register [HERE](#) in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:30-7:45 pm IST**

Register [HERE](#) in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We'd be thrilled to have you join us.

Shera Lyn Parpia, CNVC Certified Trainer based in Rome, Italy

Participant, PPLP 2017-2018, Assistant PPLP 2018-2021, Trainer, PPLP Italian Edition 2024  
([www.pplpitalia.it](http://www.pplpitalia.it))