

Discussion on forming an Inter Regional Forum (IRF) Delrow Community, UK, 14th June 2013

Present: Movement Core Group: Sabine Otto, Oliver Gordon, Rike Witt, Richard Steel, Michael Motz, Henrik Hammer

With: Ludwig Kraus, Peter Beier, Michael Luxford (notes)

This meeting took place following the summer meeting of the Movement Group at which the impulse to form an Inter Regional Forum (IRF) was described.

Efforts to form such a Forum have been made over many years. Discussions in 2010, Delrow, and 2011, Sylvia-koti, plus a recent meeting in the USA, prepared this meeting.

It is natural that a new international grouping such as an IRF be discussed with the Core Group as the IRF initiative is related to the wider Movement.

A Basis to Move Forward

The Association of Camphill Communities in the United Kingdom and Ireland (AoCC) is well established. The AoCC co-ordinators group meets six times a year, one meeting of which is an AGM with a member community assembly.

The AoCC has a full agenda and takes initiatives in response to regional activities and concerns. It also supports Southern Africa and one of the AoCC co-ordinators is actively engaged with the Camphill Africa Region (CAR) and reports regularly to the AoCC. It can be said that an IRF is already part established in that AoCC meetings involve four regions: England/Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Southern Africa.

The Northern Region and representatives of its Association have met with the AoCC and would like to continue meeting, but on a more formal basis (possibly two times a year and combined with a regular meeting.) This means that without too much effort a grouping of the Associations of five regions could be formed under the umbrella of an IRF. There are enough common interests. It is not the purpose of this document to describe these. This has been done elsewhere. In the discussion it became clear that the North American and Middle European regions have, at this stage, reservations about formally joining the IRF.

Outcome

Following discussion and knowing that the Northern Region would not go ahead without the involvement of the Movement Group, it was agreed that the initiative to begin meeting as five regions i.e. England/Wales, Scotland, Ireland, CAR and the Northern Region, should move forward. The AoCC is happy to facilitate this as it already has experience in working with an inter-regional agenda. In response to the wish of the Northern Region to have Movement Group involvement in an IRF, Henrik Hammer, a Core Group member, will be the link between the IRF and the Movement Group.

This meeting gave support to the forming of an IRF on the above basis and it was asked that a report on progress be presented at the Movement Group summer meeting 2014.