Krabi Declaration
on Contemplative Practices, Compassion and Collective Well-Being

2nd United & Present International Gathering

Krabi, Thailand | 14 October 2026

I. Context

The *2nd United & Present International Gathering on Contemplative Practices, Compassion and Collective Well-Being* was convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in partnership with the Bodhigaya Vijjalaya 980 Institute (BGVI) and Dharma Alliance, in Krabi, Thailand, from 12 to 14 October 2026.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 79/137 proclaiming World Meditation Day, which recognizes meditation as a universal practice present across cultures and traditions in all regions of the world, and acknowledges its contribution to health and well-being;

Welcoming the launch of the Global Alliance for Human Rights by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in June 2026, which seeks to bring together diverse actors across regions, sectors and generations to strengthen dialogue, cooperation and collective action for human rights;

Taking note of the 2025 United & Present report, *The Universality of Meditation*, and the forthcoming 2026 report, *Meditation, Compassion and Collective Well-Being*;

Recognizing the diversity of contemplative practices across spiritual, religious, philosophical, Indigenous, cultural and secular contexts, and their potential contributions to individual and collective well-being;

Affirming that the universality of meditation is not a homogeneity, and that its richness as a global human heritage lies in the plurality of traditions through which it is lived, each of which may carry its own philosophical, ethical and communal understanding of contemplative practice;

Acknowledging the knowledge, experience and perspectives of contemplative traditions, Indigenous peoples, researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders;

Emphasizing the importance of compassion, mutual understanding, dialogue and respect for human dignity in the promotion and protection of human rights;

Recognizing the value of continued dialogue, research and cooperation to further explore the contributions of contemplative practices and compassion to individual and collective well-being.

II. Conclusions and Recommendations

Participants in the Gathering put forward the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. **Affirm** the value of World Meditation Day as a common framework for promoting awareness, dialogue and cooperation on meditation and contemplative practices, while respecting the diversity of traditions, approaches and contexts in which they are understood and practised, and recognizing that this diversity is in itself a source of depth and richness in the shared pursuit of understanding.

2. **Encourage** inclusive dialogue among representatives of contemplative and wisdom traditions, Indigenous knowledge holders, researchers, secular practitioners and other stakeholders, recognizing the contributions of different perspectives and experiences to a shared understanding of compassion, human dignity and collective well-being.

3. **Recognize** the potential contribution of contemplative practices and compassion to human rights work, including by supporting capacities for attentive listening, empathy, dialogue, ethical reflection and respect for human dignity.

4. **Encourage** further research and dialogue on the contribution of meditation and contemplative practices to individual and collective well-being, including their potential to foster compassion, strengthen relationships, promote mutual understanding and support more inclusive and peaceful societies, drawing on diverse forms of knowledge, research and lived experience.

5. **Promote** continued cooperation and knowledge exchange among representatives of contemplative traditions, academic and research institutions, human rights practitioners and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to supporting interdisciplinary learning and exploring the practical relevance of different approaches and experiences.

6. **Support** the development of accessible resources and opportunities for practice, including through the United & Present Digital Hub, offering a diversity of approaches that individuals and institutions may explore according to their needs, interests and circumstances.

7. **Encourage** the meaningful participation of diverse communities and perspectives, including Indigenous peoples, young people and representatives of traditions and communities from all regions of the world.

8. **Encourage** continued collaboration through the United & Present initiative, drawing on the discussions in Krabi to inform the 2026 report, future research, partnerships and practical activities exploring the contribution of meditation and compassion to collective well-being and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Participants express their appreciation to OHCHR, BGVI and Dharma Alliance for convening the Gathering, and to all participants for their engagement and contributions to the dialogue.

Krabi, Thailand, 14 October 2026