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June 26, 2002

To the judges of the Templeton Prize:

With this letter and accompanying documents, I am reactivating my nomination of Dr. Riane Eisler for the Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities.

The Templeton Prize office already has the nomination binder I submitted last year containing the data sheet, citation, nominee's curriculum vita, the nominating essay, a list of prominent supporters of her nomination plus letters from each of them, in addition to reviews of her works. The purpose of this supplementary material is to update my nomination with:

- some new perspectives on the merit of Dr. Eisler's work in terms of the Templeton Prize, and
- letter(s) of support from scholar(s) professionally involved with the endeavors of the Templeton Foundation and highly qualified to assess her worthiness for such an award.

There are several additional perspectives that I would like to cite here as the basis for making the case for Dr. Eisler's eminent suitability for the Templeton Prize.

Because of the accessibility to both laypeople and scholars of the human science research (in anthropology and archaeology) which Dr. Eisler has used to formulate the dominator and partnership models that describe societal, communal, familial and spiritual dynamics, we have the potential of obtaining effective practical benefits in a short period of time on the local grassroots level as well as a more systematic transformation for the long term.

An outgrowth of Eisler's work has generated a steadily growing movement in educational theory and practice in various communities that is being incorporated into classrooms from kindergarten through high school and is beginning to make its impact on succeeding generations of young people – our greatest hope for the future.

Since September 11, the eruption of global terror and violence due to religious fundamentalist fanaticism based on extreme manifestations of the dominator ethos, demonstrates in as compelling a way as possible the prescience and clarity of Dr. Eisler's analysis of social and spiritual systems. At the same time, it illustrates the urgency of reclaiming significantly more of our partnership legacy and incorporating it into all levels of our societies.

Through the reasons and examples given above, as well as in my nominating essay, and in the many letters of support, it seems abundantly clear that Dr. Eisler has exhibited a freshness, creativity, innovation and effectiveness in creating new structures of understanding the relationship of the Creator to His ongoing creation of the universe and to the human sciences while simultaneously releasing new and vital impulses into old religious structures and forms of many faiths.

Sincerely,

Tom Herz

cc: Dr. John M. Templeton Jr.

RECENT SUPPORTER OF RIANE EISLER'S NOMINATION

Dr. Linda K. George

Professor of Sociology, Psychology, and Psychiatry at Duke University. Associate Director of the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and of the Duke University Center for the Study of Religion, Aging and Health. Dr. George is the Past president of the Gerontological Society of America and is the author of seven books, and nearly 200 journal articles and chapters. Her research interests include spirituality and health, as well as the effects of stress and social support on health. She is also on the advisory board of Research News & Opportunities in Science and Theology and a member of the Templeton Foundation Advisory Board.

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To the Judges of the Templeton Prize:

I am writing to express my strong and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Dr. Riane Eisler for the Templeton Prize. I cannot imagine a better candidate for this prestigious award.

In a world that is increasingly fragmented and, it seems, hostile, Dr. Eisler's work is critically important. Her rigorous scholarship would merit the highest awards under any circumstances. Given the tensions and divisions of the planet, her work is a beacon that demonstrates the underlying unity and purpose of human life. She carefully and meticulously demonstrates that principles of partnership, community, and love have been part of all formal religions for all of recorded history. She strips away the illusions of separation from God and each other and calls us to a higher purpose – a purpose that transcends religions, governments, and cultural specificities.

Dr. Eisler's work is illuminated with truth and spirit. But she is not an ivory tower intellectual. Through her Center for Partnership Studies and her wide-ranging worldwide involvement with religious, intellectual, and political leaders, Dr. Eisler is at the hub of an ever-expanding network dedicated to transforming the planetary culture to one of highest moral and ethical standards and principles. The world has long given lip service to the principles of partnership and community, but been driven by an ethos of domination and control – an ethos that stifles and lessens the human spirit. Dr. Eisler, her worldwide collaborators, and persons of spiritual principle everywhere are in the process of transforming the guiding principles that have brought us so far from what we can and should be.

I want to emphasize that Dr. Eisler is first and foremost a scholar. Her work is rigorous, of the highest scientific standards, and incredibly integrative across disciplines and cultures. While most scientists concentrate on “manageable” research questions, Dr. Eisler tackles the big questions – questions often viewed as so unmanageable as to lie outside the scope of science. Through her pioneering analysis of anthropological and archaeological research, she not only tackles those questions, but also brings clarity and understanding to them. This is a common characteristic of that small cadre of scientists who truly transform our understanding. Albert Einstein is said to have stated that the purpose of his science was to understand how God thinks. Dr. Eisler is showing us how God loves.

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I truly believe that Dr. Riane Eisler is the sociohistorical equivalent of Albert Einstein and that her contributions will have equivalent impact on how we come to think about life and its purpose. I cannot imagine a better candidate for the Templeton Prize.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda K. George".

Linda K. George, Ph.D.
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Psychology: Health & Social,
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Study of Aging and Human
Development