



From: "Templeton Prize Staff" <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Subject: **2017 TEMPLETON PRIZE NOMINATION FORM**
Date: May 30, 2016 5:06:57 PM PDT
To: tomherz@sbcglobal.net

This notice is to confirm that your nomination submitted electronically to the Templeton Prize nomination website has been received. A copy of the nomination is included with this notice.

2017 TEMPLETON PRIZE NOMINATION FORM

Nominator's Name *	Mr. Thomas Herz
Nominator's Organizational Affiliation *	University of California, Office of the President
Nominator's Address *	 333 Addison Street San Francisco, CA 94131 United States
Nominator's phone number, including country code. *	01-415-334-1045
Nominator's Email *	tomherz@sbcglobal.net
Nominee's Name *	Riane Eisler JD
Nominee's Organizational Affiliation *	Center for Partnership Studies
Nominee's Gender *	Female
Nominee Address	 25700 Shafter Way Carmel, CA 93923 United States

Nominee's phone number, 01-831-624-8337 including country code.

New Insights or Discoveries regarding Ultimate Reality or Divine Purpose – How has the individual made exceptional contributions to increasing our knowledge of the Divine, whether through insight, discovery or practical works? Describe the impact of the individual's work and ideas on the theory or practice of spiritual dimensions, such as love, forgiveness, gratitude, creativity, infinity, ultimate reality and purpose in the cosmos?

Love is the ultimate reality that shines through Riane Eisler's work. She calls on us to put love into action. This is the message of her groundbreaking cultural transformation theory, introduced in *The Chalice and the Blade*, and of her many other inspiring works.

Eisler's analysis of religion and spirituality was called a "profound service to humanity" by theologian Walter Wink. Episcopalian bishop John Shelby Spong wrote that "this world will welcome it."

Prof. Linda George of Duke University assessed the insights and discoveries of Riane Eisler's work in the words that follow.

"In a world that is increasingly fragmented and, it seems, hostile, Dr. Eisler's work is critically important. . . . Given the tensions and divisions on 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 religions for all of recorded history. She strips away the illusion of separation from God and each other, and calls us to a higher purpose . . . 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 . . . 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.”

Eisler grounds the message of religions that humanity is made in the image of the divine in evolution. She shows that love, empathy, and creativity are just as grounded in evolution as the commonly emphasized elements of selfishness and violence, in fact, more so. Her recognition that the human striving for oneness with the divine can imbue us with the “spiritual courage” to stand up for a just, and caring way of life has inspired women and men worldwide.

Ashley Montagu in a blind review of *The Chalice and the Blade* for the University of California Press, which wanted to acquire it, stated that in sixty-five years of reading related kinds of books, he knew of none that approached this one, for no one, to his knowledge had “so brilliantly stated what needs to be done, literally in order to save the world . . . I regard this book as one of the most important of the 20th century, and for that matter of any century. Apart from Darwin's *Origin of Species* no book has impressed me as profoundly as *The Chalice and the Blade*.”

Entrepreneur of the Spirit – Does the individual capture the full meaning of being an "entrepreneur of the spirit" – someone who has contributed to "spiritual progress" by disseminating the results of scientific, philosophical or theological discoveries, by being a key influencer or exemplar, or by multiplying our understanding of the Divine.

Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams called Riane Eisler “an entrepreneur of the spirit, when she wrote the following describing her work:

“Her innovative research makes it possible to better understand the root causes of violence and injustice and her books and projects help us bring the core spiritual teachings of love into practice. The combination of her research in the human sciences with a superior level of scholarship in philosophy and other areas of the humanities have enabled Dr. Eisler to create both a new school of thought as well as organizations that edify and inspire those who study her work and apply the principles she has so generously shared and modeled in her life's calling. Through her research, writing, teaching, commentary, speaking, and her Center for Partnership Studies, she has been an ‘entrepreneur of the spirit’ devoted to ‘expanding our vision of human purpose and ultimate reality’ – to use the words of

the late Sir John Templeton.”

Many others have also recognized that Riane Eisler has made original contributions of profound significance in advancing our understanding of God, our spiritual task on earth, and how we act this out in our daily lives. To within her lifetime have her work compared to Darwin’s in importance, and be identified with Toynbee, deChardin, Khaldun, moral theorist Pitrim Sorokin, and even Saint Augustine by Johann Galtung and Sohail Inayatullah in *Macrohistory and Macrohistorians* as one of the world’s 20 most important macrohistorians, is a rare achievement. To write an international bestseller, published in practically every language in Europe, Central and South America, and Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew and Urdu, is an extraordinary accomplishment itself. To follow this with a series of other works – including *Sacred Pleasure*, *Tomorrow’s Children* and *The Real Wealth of Nations* – that deepen and expand our understanding of the major problems confronting humanity and help us find dimensions of the sacred in our lives and relationships signifies brilliance combined with dedication. And to do all this as a woman pioneering both in science and in spiritual understanding in what is still overwhelmingly the “man’s world” of scholarship, elevates her far beyond the exceptional to the truly unique.

Nobel Peace laureate, Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta cited Sir John’s words in his assessment of Dr. Eisler’s accomplishments:

“Riane Eisler’s pioneering work helps revive an ancient uplifting message that has been suppressed for millennia. To these questions posed by Sir John Templeton, “Can new information from science research on basic spiritual truths and realities reduce conflict between religions? Can religious conflict vanish if people come to recognize from science research spiritual information that is universal to all people?” her contributions certainly provide a resounding and affirmative response.”

In understanding the current state of the world and the extreme violence that Templeton Prize honoree Charles Taylor addressed in his writings, tremendous insight and awareness of its roots and nature can be found in Eisler’s work. In addition, Dr. Eisler illuminates the spiritual foundations of humanity’s capacity for love and caring.

Advancing Human Flourishing – How has the individual's work transformed the material and spiritual lives of those who have benefitted from their discoveries or practical works? Whether the nominee is an academic, a thought leader or a humanitarian describe the spiritual dimension of their work and the impact their work has had on improving the human condition.

In recognition of the spiritual impact and global importance of her contributions to science and spirituality, Riane Eisler has been awarded numerous honors, including being named a commissioner on the World Commission on Global Consciousness and Spirituality (other commissioners include the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu) and receiving the 2009 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

With Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams, Dr. Eisler co-founded the Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence (SAIV) which offers resources for caring and connected parenting, and highlights “the need to change traditions of violence in our primary parent-child and man-woman relations – where people first learn what is and is not normal, possible and moral – since this is foundational to creating cultures of peace.” Many internationally known leaders, including Archbishop Tutu, advisors to the Dalai Lama, Jane Goodall, Queen Noor, and Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, as well as representatives of other major faiths, have been or are on the SAIV council (www.saiv.org)

Prof. Linda George observed that:

“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 the highest moral and ethical standards and principles.”

The Center's Caring Economy Campaign bridges theory and practice through its public policy, webinar trainings, and other projects aimed at changing economic indicators, policies, and practices in ways that will support both our material and spiritual needs (<http://partnershipway.org>)

In her book, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics*, Eisler shows the urgent need for an economic system that gives visibility and value to the most essential human work: caring for people and for nature. Archbishop Desmond Tutu powerfully expresses the overarching spiritual dimension that Eisler illuminates in his words of praise:

"The Real Wealth of Nations gives us a template for the better world that we have been so urgently seeking. As practical as it is hopeful, this brilliant book shows how we can build economic systems that meet both our material and spiritual needs. It illuminates the way to a bold and exciting new future."

Rev. Liberato Bautista, former Assistant General Secretary for United Nations and General Affairs, a United Nations NGO, has noted that

"Dr. Eisler's research provides a new conceptual framework that enables us to see social configurations that are not visible through the lenses of old social categories. Her groundbreaking scholarship combined with her unique capacity to engage both our hearts and minds has led people all around the world to take action and work to improve the lot of their neighbors and themselves in both the physical and spiritual dimensions. This added component of inspiring 'action in the world' is one of the things that distinguishes Riane Eisler's gift from that of many other scholars whose contributions tend to remain in the theoretical realm."

Relevant Work 1

"The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics"

More background information on this book can be found at:

<http://centerforpartnership.org/book-reviews/>

Relevant Work 2

"The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future"

More background information on this book can be found at:

<http://centerforpartnership.org/book-reviews/>

Relevant Work 3

"Sacred Pleasure: Sex, Myth, and the Politics of the Body; New Paths to Power and Love"

More background information on this book can be found at:

<http://centerforpartnership.org/book-reviews/>

Relevant Work 4

The Center for Partnership Studies was co-founded by and spearheaded by its president, Riane Eisler.

For information about the center's mission, history and many projects, visit the website at:

<http://www.centerforpartnership.org>

Relevant Work 5

Riane Eisler's recent article, "Stopping the International Pandemic of Intimate Violence" appeared in Tikkun Magazine in January 2016. The link below takes one to the article, however one must subscribe to the magazine to gain access.

<http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/protecting-the-majority-of-humanity-stopping-the-international-pandemic-of-intimate-violence>

Since the nomination website is unable to accept document attachments, the Templeton Prize office is being sent a copy of the article in Word format for distribution to those who have not gained access to the Tikkun article on-line.

Reference 1 Name *

Prof. Rita Suessmuth Ph.D.

Reference 1 EMAIL ADDRESS * rita.suessmuth.ma01@bundestag.de

Reference 2 Name * Prof. Edward Hundert MD

Reference 2 EMAIL ADDRESS * edward_hundert@hms.harvard.edu

Reference 3 Name * Prof. Teddie Potter Ph.D.

Reference 3 EMAIL ADDRESS * tmpotter@umn.edu

Reference 4 Name Nontombi Naomi Tutu M.A.

Reference 4 EMAIL ADDRESS tutun@bellsouth.net

Reference 5 Name Karen Hessel M.Div.

Reference 5 EMAIL ADDRESS karen4saiv@aol.com

How did you learn about the Templeton Prize? Check one.
* Familiar with the Prize

Thank you. Your nomination has been received.

Nominators are strongly advised to contact the list of References submitted and alert them regarding your submission of their name as a Reference.

Letters of reference must be received or postmarked by August 5, 2016.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT MOVE FORWARD TO THE NEXT STAGE OF TEMPLETON PRIZE REVIEW IF THE CANDIDATE DOES NOT HAVE AT LEAST THREE LETTERS OF REFERENCE RECEIVED.



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Edward M. Hundert, M.D.
Dean for Medical Education
Daniel D. Federman, M.D. Professor in Residence of
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T: 617.432.6250
Edward_Hundert@hms.harvard.edu

June 29, 2016

To the Templeton Prize Judges:

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to highly recommend Riane Eisler for the 2017 Templeton Prize. I first met Riane in 2005, when as President of Case Western Reserve University I had the pleasure of honoring her with our degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, in recognition of the lasting importance of her great contributions as a scholar, teacher, and advocate for a more caring and compassionate world.

As our university Provost said at the commencement festivities, “Few people on earth embody the values of integrity and respect, mentorship and diversity, and partnership and social responsibility more completely than Riane Eisler... Through her books, creative research, and untiring ability to take action, she serves as a leader and inspiration to all who believe that life should be based on harmony with nature, nonviolence, and equality.”

Eisler’s life demonstrates the power of the human spirit not only to overcome adversity but to transcend it through deep insight and compassionate service. As we often see in the lives of those who make great contributions to humanity, her passionate commitment to scholarship, education, and action – an inspiration that brings out our highest potential – has its roots in her painful early experiences as a child Holocaust survivor who barely escaped Nazi Europe.

Her work is imbued with the spiritual values of caring and compassion. Her scholarship brings together many disciplines in unique and illuminating ways that affirm the fundamental values at the core of all religions: empathy, nonviolence, and, above all, love. In an age when the pressure has been to look at our world through the lenses of disconnected disciplines, her intellectual courage and determination forged a new method of inquiry that reveals connections we must understand if we are to express our enormous human capacities for empathy, caring, and creativity, rather than for insensitivity, cruelty, and destructiveness.

Eisler’s teaching has nurtured this understanding in students of many ages, and, like her influential books, has helped them find a higher purpose in their lives. Her advocacy work has creatively addressed underlying conditions that stand in the way of the spiritual health of our planet.

Her speaking is truly inspirational. When she spoke at Case Western Reserve some years ago, I was moved to write to her afterward: "When you gave that inspirational keynote address to our deans, vice presidents, and senior faculty, your talk sent more reverberations through our community than any speaker we'd ever had. You spoke from the heart, but also with such a depth and breadth of research data and sophisticated analysis at your finger tips, gently prodding us all to do better and better."

Indeed, one of Eisler's most enduring contributions is that she makes it possible for us to do better and better, showing it is within our power to awaken in each of us sparks of the divine. As others have no doubt noted, Riane Eisler's life and work encompass research in the human sciences, scholarship in philosophy and other areas of the humanities, as well as practice through creation of organizations that edify and inspire, all while contributing commentary on matters of character formation and the flourishing of the human spirit.

I would be hard pressed to name a living person who has accomplished more in terms of making profound contributions to affirming life's spiritual dimension while simultaneously devoting her talents to expanding our vision of human purpose and ultimate reality than Riane Eisler. She brilliantly epitomizes the qualities and contributions that the Templeton Prize seeks to recognize and honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward Hundert".

Edward M. Hundert, M.D.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c.mult. Rita Süßmuth
Präsidentin des Deutschen Bundestages a. D

Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth - Platz der Republik 1 - 11011 Berlin

John Templeton Foundation
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Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth
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Berlin, July 2016

Dear Templeton Prize Judges:

I am writing this letter in support of a most worthy nomination – that of Riane Eisler for the 2017 Templeton Prize. I am very familiar with Dr. Eisler's pioneering work that has helped resurrect for us the partnership model of social relations that had been lost or devalued for much of our history. As a result of my exposure to her contributions, when I was President of the German Bundestag (or Parliament), I invited her to speak at a conference in Bonn where we both introduced her thinking about the partnership model. I subsequently got to know her personally and worked with friends in the International Partnership Initiative of the then-Chairman of Volkswagen International, Daniel Goedavert (who wrote the forward to the German edition of Eisler's *The Chalice and the Blade*), to spread the partnership message in Europe and the world.

Her seminal work, *The Chalice and the Blade* (*Kelch und Schwert* in German) is a milestone in spirituality elevating our vision of how to relate to one another from the micro to the macro level of society. Eisler is an innovative cross-cultural systems thinker, writer, and speaker, whose work is both timeless and current. I will re-state here what I have stated publicly before about Riane Eisler's work: "You have given me fresh impetus both personally and in my political work, and at a time of widespread public disenchantment and deepening economic crisis you give cause for new hope."

The kind of society and the values that we promote in our social policy are of utmost importance for guaranteeing a future that is more humane, equitable, and nurturing. Riane Eisler's groundbreaking work shows us not only that we have precedents and models in our

prehistoric tradition on which to draw, but that these very elements are what are needed so desperately today to renew and revive the spiritual, social, and political malaise and the divisiveness that has held us back from realizing our full potential as creatures of God, created in the divine image and as stewards of the earth.

The impact of Eisler's cultural transformation theory is felt in numerous fields, including: peace studies, evolutionary theory, human rights, economics and politics, spirituality and religion, environment and population, business and organizational development, education and leadership, and the arts, literature, and mass media. Of major consequence is Dr. Eisler's development of the partnership/domination orientation paradigm. Of particular interest to me is the application of the partnership orientation paradigm to child development and education, in that the paradigm enables creating a foundation for building a more humane and sustainable future in both the public and private spheres of life.

As an example, one of Dr. Eisler's many books, *Tomorrow's Children: A Blueprint for Partnership Education in the 21st Century* (I wrote the Foreword of its German edition), provides "a compelling framework for developing lessons that speak to the urgency of the environmental and social challenges facing us in the next century. Inviting readers to think outside conventional boxes of educational reform, this is an ambitious, imaginative, and practical guide to a better educational future." (Quote from the book's review in *Publishers' Weekly* magazine).

Eisler's most recent book – *The Real Wealth of Nations* – is a roadmap for a more equitable, caring, sustainable economic system that puts the most important spiritual value, love, into practice.

Dr. Eisler's ongoing efforts to educate both us and future generations about how we can flourish as human beings and her contributions, most notably demonstrated by her books, mark achievements of towering importance and enduring worth. She richly deserves the major recognition of the Templeton Prize for the multi-faceted vision she has provided and for elevating the level of discourse in both the spiritual and practical dimensions of our lives. I wholeheartedly recommend that your committee bestow on Riane Eisler this most esteemed award for her inspirational work.

Sincerely,


Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c.mult. Rita Süßmuth
Präsidentin des Deutschen Bundestages a. D.

Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth - Platz der Republik 1 - 11011 Berlin

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Sincerely,


Prof. Dr. Rita Süssmuth

Ms. Joanna Almond, CMP
Director, Special Meetings
John Templeton Foundation
300 Conshohocken State Road, Suite 500
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

July 10, 2016

Dear distinguished Templeton Prize panel members,

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Dr. Riane Eisler for the 2017 Templeton Prize. Dr. Eisler embodies the Templeton Foundation's core values of humility, open-mindedness, and a willingness to examine life's big questions. She is an outstanding theorist and scholar and her extensive body of work moves humanity forward by addressing Sir Templeton's questions: "What is the best way to live?" and "How can we be helpful?"

The Templeton Foundation's motto, "How little we know, how eager to learn," could also be Dr. Eisler's guiding principle. Witnessing the destructive power of Nazi arrogance and closed-mindedness inspired Eisler from an early age to dedicate her life to the big questions: "Why do some cultures harm and oppress one another while others care and nurture one another?" and "Is it possible to transform cultures?" These big questions can only be answered through humble acknowledgement of complexity and a steadfast commitment to system-wide solutions. Dr. Eisler has been undaunted by this challenge, exhibiting a deep eagerness to learn and uncover heretofore unrecognized possibilities for humanity.

Dr. Eisler exhibits a rare intellect that can simultaneously grasp both the minutiae of specialties and macro-level patterns across disciplines and fields of inquiry. Her scholarship explores the intersection of knowledge from history, archeology, religion, law, psychology, economics, leadership, business and organizational development, gender studies, peace studies, evolutionary theory, politics, human rights, education, environmental studies, and healthcare revealing insights that would otherwise not have been noted within a single discipline.

Systems and macro-historical thinking led Dr. Eisler to create Cultural Transformation Theory (CTT) and Caring Economics. Both theories can transform any institution or human organization where they are applied.

For example, Cultural Transformation Theory is a core principle of the Doctor of Nursing Practice in Health Innovation and Leadership (HIL) in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota. HIL alumni are using CTT to transform health care culture and organizations across the nation. In fact the University of Minnesota health care system recently decided to use partnership-based health care (Eisler & Potter, 2014) as its professional practice model for nursing. Transforming healthcare with partnership is simply one example demonstrating the impact of CTT. Dr. Eisler's work has also transformed education, business, and economics by offering a positive cultural alternative for the future.

Eisler's work reveals that cultural transformation is possible when we commit to partnership with one another. The recent creation of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies*, an open-access, peer-reviewed journal ensures a sustainable path for global exploration of the science and art of Eisler's partnership path for humanity.

As both a former student and current colleague I want to briefly reflect on Dr. Eisler's humility. It is common for people of her renowned stature to be focused on developing relationships with people who hold political and/or financial power. However, I have witnessed countless times when Dr. Eisler has taken time to recognize the deep needs of those without power including severely marginalized or underrepresented groups. She uses her influence to acknowledge and actualize the work of others at every turn. Dr. Eisler never focuses on how she will personally benefit from her work but instead is keenly dedicated to doing work that benefits all of humanity in lasting and transformative ways.

Dr. Eisler eagerly addresses life's big questions. She is open to and applies knowledge from diverse cultures, wide-ranging disciplines, and from individuals and groups that are often invisible in the academy and institutions where political power is exercised. Despite her significant lifelong impact and her recognition as a global thought leader she uses all her influence and stature to humbly lead others to reach their full potential. For all of these reasons I truly believe Dr. Eisler has "made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension."

Thank you for your consideration of Dr. Eisler for the 2017 Templeton Prize. She is indeed a living "entrepreneur of the spirit."

Most sincerely,

Teddie M Potter PhD, RN, FAAN
Clinical Associate Professor, Coordinator of the Doctor of Nursing Practice in
Health Innovation and Leadership, Director of Diversity and Inclusivity
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308 Harvard Street, Weaver-Densford Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55455
tmpotter@umn.edu
612-626-2881

Reference:

Eisler, R., & Potter, T. (2014). *Transforming interprofessional partnerships: A new framework for nursing and partnership-based health care*. Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International.

Dear Templeton Prize Committee:

I am writing to recommend that you award the 2017 Templeton Prize to Riane Eisler for her enormous contributions. I first met Riane over ten years ago in Washington DC at a conference on ending the sexual abuse of children, where I was also speaking. She had just flown in from Europe, ill with the flu and running a 102-degree temperature, but this did not stop her from delivering an impassioned and inspiring speech on the moral and spiritual imperative of ending this terrible human rights violation.

I have had the privilege of knowing many important spiritual leaders, including my father, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who wrote of Eisler's book *The Real Wealth of Nations* that it is a "template for the better world we have been so urgently seeking," that "shows how we can ... meet both our material and spiritual needs." But I think Riane Eisler brings a unique blend of vision, compassion, knowledge, and determination to helping us build a more truly spiritual world where, as she often puts it, we put love into action.

I am not alone in my assessment of this remarkable woman, who out of her traumatic childhood experiences as a refugee from the Holocaust, fashioned a new approach to imbuing our lives and institutions with the caring teachings at the core of our major religious traditions. If you go to her website at www.rianeeisler.com, you will find how her books and other writings, her speeches, and the practical applications of her pioneering insights, have influenced scholars, religious leaders, social activists, and women and men in all walks of life from all over our planet.

As a member of the Board of the Center for Partnership Studies as well as a member of the executive committee of the Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence, a CPS project co-founded by Riane and Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams, I have had the opportunity to get to know Riane and her work in some depth, and assess her tremendous contribution. I have just completed ~~my~~ Masters of Divinity degree at Vanderbilt University, so I say this as a woman deeply committed to religious leadership as well as creating and sustaining organizations that embody and inspire examples of spiritual progress and developing new schools of thought, which is one of the goals of the Templeton Foundation, and which Riane Eisler has most certainly achieved.

It gives me great pleasure to add my voice to those who support the nomination of Riane Eisler for the Templeton Prize. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor. Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter of recommendation.

Sincerely,

Naomi Tutu

July 30, 2016

Dear Templeton Prize Committee,

I strongly support the award of the 2017 Templeton Prize to Riane Eisler for her enormous contributions through her research, writings, and leadership to bring together people and ideas for spiritual and social renewal across disciplines and around the world.

Riane Eisler is known, admired, and loved across the globe. She has a unique capacity to bridge gaps among religious, spiritual, and secular leaders by initiating dialogue that affirms a shared vision of a healthy future for humankind and the planet.

For example, the eminent Buddhist scholar, Prof. Robert Thurman wrote that Eisler's "spiritual and scientific insight...provides real hope for humanity, currently caught up in seemingly hopeless struggles against nature itself and between mutually alienated 'civilizations,' that create scenarios of doomsday that could well become self-fulfilling prophecies. And she has not only made her perspective widely known through her writings and tireless travels and speeches, she has spread her spiritual and historical insight through other fields of knowledge."

My own relationship with Riane Eisler is as Director of the Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence saiiv.org that she co-founded with Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams. I come to this challenging and important assignment (in my "retirement") as former Program Director for Justice for Women at the National Council of Churches.

Through SAIV we collaborate to connect faith leaders seeking to create cultures of peace in teaching and preaching, while at the same time providing and fostering scholarship that builds on decades of our collective leadership and expertise in preventing and responding to intimate violence. We emphasize how this longstanding and pernicious phenomenon (of intimate violence) is, as Eisler writes, "a training for using violence to impose one's will on others – be it in intimate or international relations."

Through SAIV, we work with key faith leaders who represent long-standing and parallel initiatives inside major faith communities and institutions. Much of this work is ecumenical and interfaith, with emphasis on ending violence through spiritual, social, political, and academic leadership, often in partnership with non-faith based organizations with shared values.

Eisler's notable books, articles, webinars, keynote speeches, and other presentations, focus on a future that draws on the insights of various spiritual and religious understandings. The significance of *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future*, focusing on the power to give, nurture, and illuminate life and now in 26 foreign editions, cannot be overemphasized. Her books, including *The Real Wealth of Nations*, have inspired many individuals and organizations across a broad spectrum of religious and social-spiritual constituencies around the world.

Her ideas cross boundaries, infusing a conversation among global scholars and leaders serving the cause of partnership and peace. Her humane and effective approach nurtures spirituality and partnership to enable individuals and cultures to move from patterns of domination to partnership relations. The vast and diverse network of leadership Eisler has nurtured over decades brings

together practical, visionary people dedicated to caring economic and social eco systems seeking to meet spiritual and physical needs with integrity.

Through the Center for Partnership Studies, which she co-founded, she has initiated other practical projects and substantive programs in addition to SAIV. Her initiative of the Caring Economy Campaign has attracted talented and imaginative people in a wide range of professions and specialties. The development of the Social Wealth Economic Indicators has led to wider discussion of the significance of a core element of spirituality and care, in economic and social analysis and planning. The recently launched *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies*, inspired by Eisler's work, provides an opportunity for fresh dialogue with a diverse and important constituency across significant academic and social boundaries.

I am grateful and honored to offer this recommendation for Riane Eisler to be lifted up for her unique and outstanding life's work. It occurred to me that it would have been a delight to share this special moment with a friend from many years ago, Ann "Dudley" Templeton. We both lived in Cleveland and became special friends while she was in medical school at Case Western Reserve. I remember when Dudley shared with me the news of her Dad's plan for what was to become the Templeton Prize. How pleased and proud she was but I was not to tell anyone, yet. Later, we both moved away only in touch through mutual friends. This is a bittersweet moment, sad she died so young, missing the chance to reconnect in this wonderful coincidence.

I think Dudley would have genuinely appreciated Eisler's work, including her extensive knowledge of academic disciplines (anthropology, economics, sociology, history, philosophy of religion) as well as her accessible writings and the programs she has initiated and inspired worldwide. Riane and Dudley would have enjoyed connecting over their shared deep concern for the health and well being of those living in places where partnership values, spiritual health and caring for people and nature are being threatened.

Eisler offers hands on practical resources to make a positive difference across the globe and in communities. Eisler gives us scholarly and practical leadership that brings together a unique landscape of social, spiritual, political, and academic communities to work together for a better future for us all. Her strategic teaching and deep international network is dedicated to transforming the planetary culture to one of the highest moral and ethical standards.

For all these reasons, I believe that Riane Eisler richly deserves the unique visibility and recognition of the 2017 Templeton Prize. I genuinely can think of no one more deserving to receive the Templeton Prize for her signature far reaching contributions connecting mature spirituality with economic and social leadership to improve the lives of so many over decades of dedication and commitment. If you require any further information, I will be happy to provide it. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

Sincerely,

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