



INSTITUTE OF  
Sathya Sai Education - USA

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## Concept Paper on International Conference on Strengthening Values Education - Barbados--October 12-14, 2023.

The Caribbean region reported an increase in violence during the pandemic and in the aftermath. These reports include incidences in schools, a reflection of a broader trend in homes and communities. Schools offer an important entry point to turn around this trend.

Over the past fifty years, Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) has been implemented in over 120 countries worldwide and is achieving significant success in transforming individuals, families, schools, workplaces, and communities. **The program is a human values-centered program of character development.** It is designed to draw out, accentuate, and nurture positive qualities and capabilities. It is based on the philosophy of educare which means to draw out that which is already within. It has received international awards for its efficacy and proven holistic effectiveness. The program is flexible and readily adaptable to all cultures and conditions.

Following discussions with the Barbados Ministry of Education in late 2022, the Sai Institute of Education West Indies (SIEWI) agreed to host an **International Conference<sup>1</sup> on Strengthening Values Education on October 12-14th, 2023, in Barbados, West Indies.** The Conference will embrace seventeen countries comprising the entire Caribbean Community<sup>2</sup> as well as Curacao, N.A. and St. Maarten. All Institutes of Sathya Sai Education are invited to attend.

### **Target Audience**

The Conference will directly engage Ministers of Education, Permanent Secretaries, and principals/teachers, as well as stakeholders from civil society over a three-day period. **The goal is to initiate a plan of action which will provide each country with the opportunity to embed human values into their educational system as well as programmes in the community-at-large (including civil society).** Partnership with University of the West Indies (UWI) for the use of **UWI TV** is also part of the broader engagement in promoting human values as a core dimension of awareness, education, and training.

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<sup>1</sup> The focus of this Conference is for fifteen Caricom countries plus Curacao and St. Maarten.

<sup>2</sup> Caricom countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat (a British overseas territory in the Leeward Islands), Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Conference will be held in association with our sister Institutes in USA and Canada (under the auspices of the Education Committee of the Sathya Sai International Organisation) which provides guidelines for the 28 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSEs and SIEWI) and 39 Sai Schools.

**The Sai Institute of Education West Indies (SIEWI)** seeks to partner with the UN and CARICOM to facilitate the strengthening of values education in the Caribbean to **support national policies aimed at implementing sustainable solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals** for the Region by 2030, **particularly Goal 4 Targets<sup>3</sup>.**

#### **About the Organisation:**

The SIEWI is a non-profit organisation whose overriding goal is to inspire and facilitate all-round human goodness/excellence through the practice of the human values and their aspects in all situations, with oneself in the home, school, workplace and in the community. Our program is based on five universal human values of Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love, Nonviolence, and their companion values aspects such as confidence, compassion, courage, respect, integrity, kindness, tolerance, social justice, and environmental responsibility. The practical life application of human values and their aspects is critical to the realization of human goodness/excellence.

SIEWI is a sister Institute to the other 28 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education internationally.

#### **Experiential Emphasis**

**The Mission** of Institutes of Sathya Sai Education is to enhance and extend an applied understanding of universal human values. The Institute models best practices in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on the experiential learning of human value. We also sponsor and engage in professional activities that encourage state and local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and community agencies to promote and implement human values education, along with their existing programme curriculum.

#### **No Fees charged for services.**

The Sathya Sai Institute of Education's efforts, courses, training, and technical resources globally, are offered in a spirit of selflessness without seeking any compensation or gratitude other than the satisfaction of achieving, in collaboration with our local partners, the opportunity to provide the information and tools for the transformation in the behaviour and conduct of those served through the SSEHV programme.

#### **Opportunity to foster sustainable solutions for United Nations' sovereign constituents.**

United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has been engaged and invited by the Sai Institute of Education West Indies to consider supporting those officials responsible, from 16 Caribbean countries apart from Barbados, for representing and influencing decision making in national Curriculum Policy, to attend this Conference

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<sup>3</sup> *'To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.'*

in person. This is restricted to persons at the level of Ministers of Education, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Education Officers as well as representatives from Teachers' Unions in the public and private schools, from kindergarten to secondary level, as well as Teacher Training Institutions in terms of travel, accommodation, and subsistence. This is limited to countries under their direct mandate and responsibility and linked to facilitating sovereign nations to be enabled to enhance their efforts to fulfil Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, in particular, Goal #4 -Education.

**Global prospects, Regional Pilot**

Respectfully, it is our heartfelt view that the opportunity to collaborate on this International Conference on Strengthening Values Education with the Sai Institute of Education West Indies and its sister Institutes of Sathya Sai Education from USA and Canada, will positively support the UN's mandate with respect to SDG's for 2030 with respect to Education, and enable the UN to consider this as a pilot project that can potentially be extended at a global level over time.

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