

A wooden log slice is used as a background. A ring of approximately 30 lit tea light candles is arranged in a circle around the perimeter of the log. In the center of the log, there are three teardrop-shaped areas painted in different colors: a blue one at the top, a yellow one on the right, and a red one at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the log slice.

International Council
Executive Summary
2016

Who was there?

The **4**th International Council meeting

was held at Adhithana from **1-8** August 2016

it brought together **37** International Council members and **6** guests

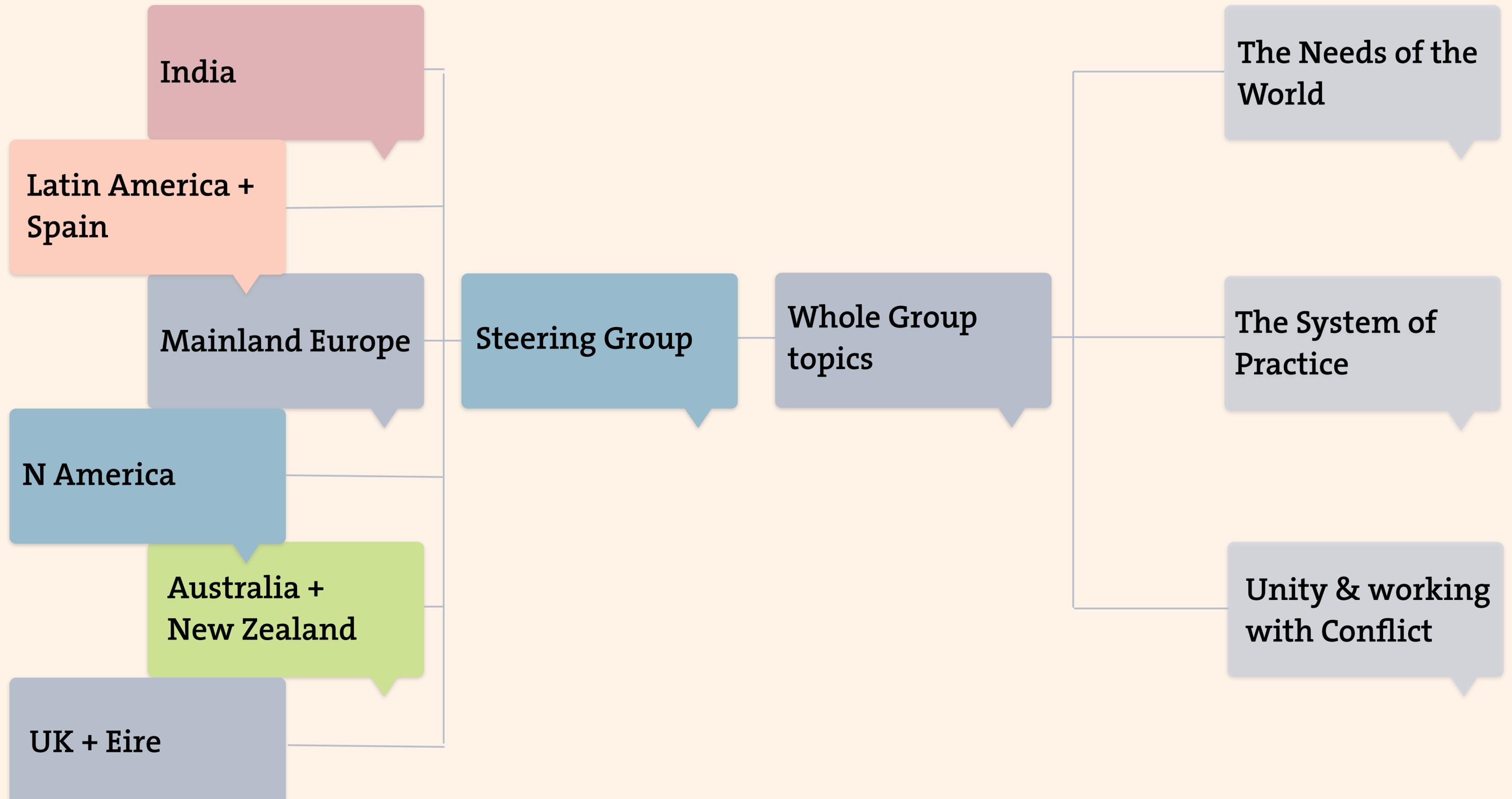
and delegates from **11** countries

representing Triratna's **3** strands: the Preceptors' College, Order and Movement

Who was there?

	India	Mainland Europe	Australia + New Zealand	Latin America + Spain	UK + Ireland	N America	Steering Group	Team + Guests
College	Vijaya Yashosagar	Kulanandi Mahamati	Maitripala Purna	Paramachitta Moksananda	Dhammadinna Paramabandhu	Karunadevi Viradhamma	Saddhaloka Ratnadharini Amrutdeep Dhammarati	Maitrisara <i>Facilitator</i> Dhammamegha <i>Staff</i>
Order	Karmavajra Ratnashri	Advayasiddhi Akasasuri	Vidyatara Dharmananda	Jnanadakini Vajranatha	Sucimani Bodhivamsa	Amala Shantinayaka	Parami Lokeshvara	Candradasa <i>TheBuddhistCentreOnline</i> Munisha <i>Liaison Office</i>
Movement	Abhayaraja Nagaketu	Jnanacandra Arthakusalin	Vajrajyoti	Viryakirti	Dassini Jnanadhara	Dharmasuri Viveka	<i>Viveka</i> <i>Jnanacandra</i> <i>Vajrajyoti</i>	Prajnaketu <i>Young Persons' Co-ordinator</i>

Gathering The Topics



Topics from the Areas

Steering Group	Australia + New Zealand	India	Latin America + Spain	Mainland Europe	N America	UK + Ireland
<p>What is a Triratna Centre?</p> <p>Ethical guidelines</p>	<p>Dharma teaching Communicating and exemplifying the radical nature of the dharma in a way that is attractive to men, younger people etc.</p> <p>Ordination process Regionalisation and costs of attending ordination retreats for preceptors and people getting ordained</p>	<p>Dr Ambedkar To celebrate his 125th birthday & 60th anniversary of the mass conversion</p> <p>To include mitra study of Bhante's <i>Ambedkar and Buddhism in the west</i></p>	<p>Order Training Effective and continuous training for Order Members in Latin America by experienced senior Order members on dharma, meditation, KM, chapters, and leading study and ordination training</p> <p>Financial support For Order Members in Latin America to attend courses at Adhithana and other Triratna venues</p>	<p>Meditation Reviewing how we teach it at urban centres and retreat centres</p> <p>Deepening our understanding of kalyana mitrata</p>	<p>Teacher training How, sharing, kalyana mitrata, and impact of technology</p> <p>Growth and development of Triratna Encouraging cultures of cooperation & kalyana mitrata</p>	<p>Climate Change The main issue of the time, dharma contribution and bringing dharma alive to new people</p> <p>Harmony in the Order and movement Looking towards tangible action to be a harmonious sangha into the future</p>



Topics

The topics from the Area Councils were grouped together into three major themes

World needs

The System of Practice

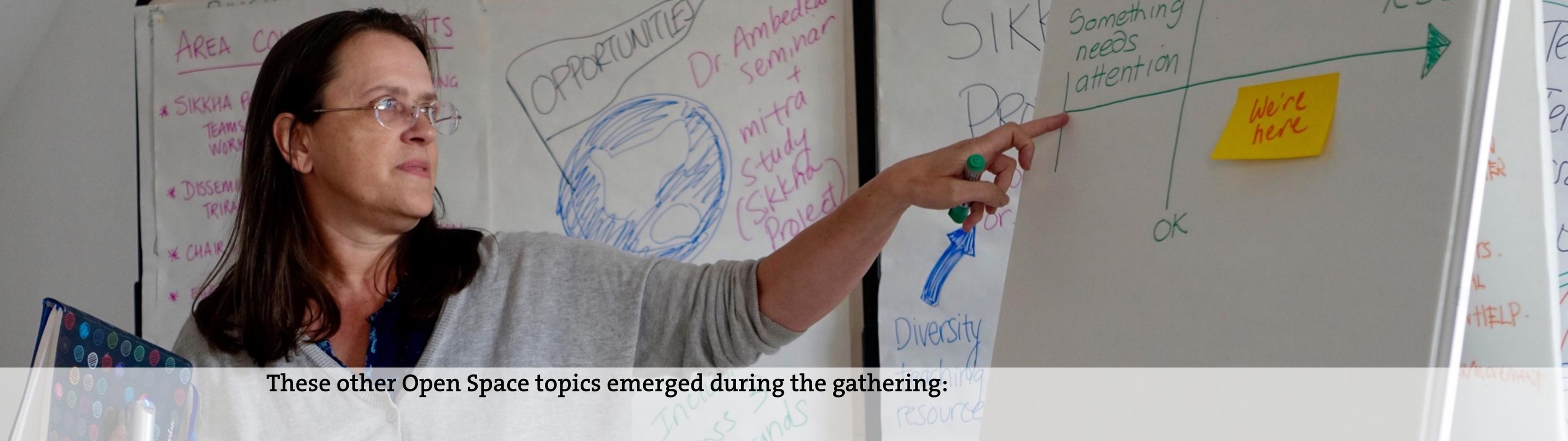
Unity & working with conflict

The Programme



The facilitation team developed the programme for 8 days of discussion, practice and planning. Aside from themed plenaries, the Strands and Areas each met three times. Each day began with meditation and ended with a puja or community practice.

Monday 1st	Welcome and dedication
Tuesday 2nd	Connecting and setting the context
Wednesday 3rd	World needs day
Thursday 4th	The System of Practice day
Friday 5th	Strand and open space day
Saturday 6th	Conflict resolution and Area meetings
Sunday 7th	Envisioning the future and setting priorities
Monday 8th	Planning for action and closing



These other Open Space topics emerged during the gathering:

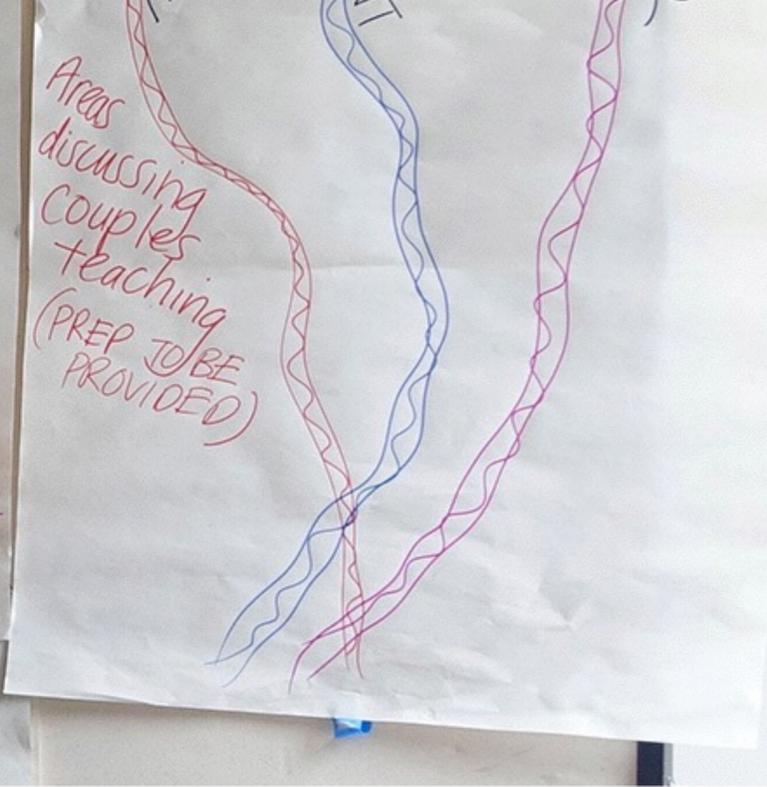
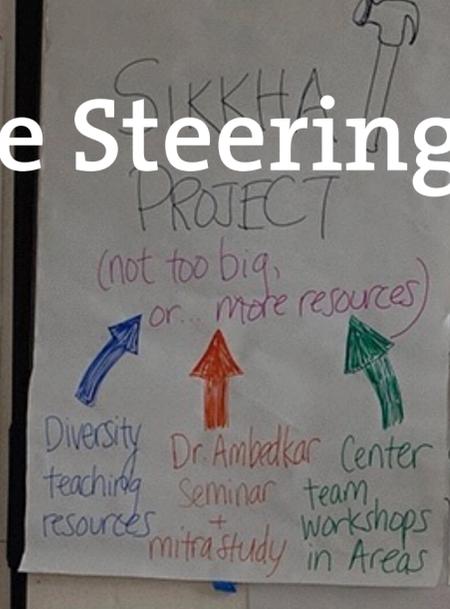
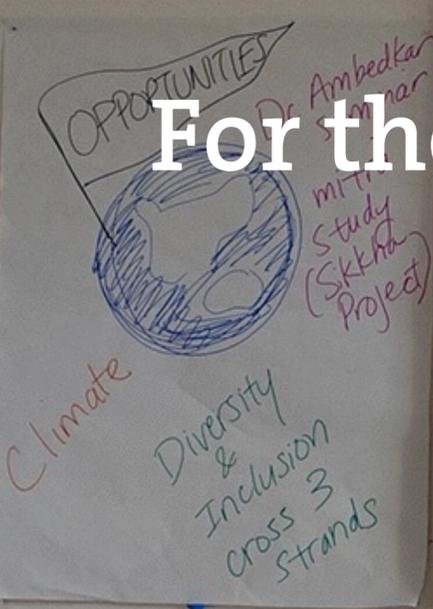
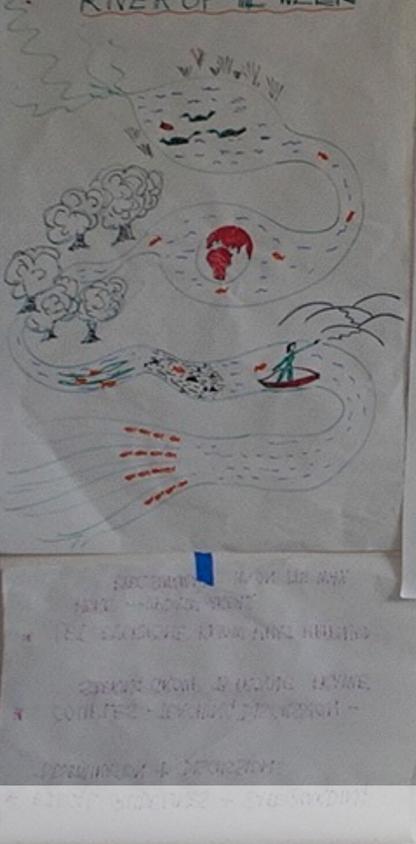
1. Newcomers who aren't new
2. Conflict resolution
3. Star teachers and team teaching
4. Triratna Groups
5. Experimentation v tradition
6. What is a Triratna centre discussion



Priorities

following the practice of previous years
the International Council will prioritise
more depth & better follow-through
on a few priorities
under the three main themes

For the Steering Group



1 World needs

Highlight the need for diversity, access and inclusion across the three Strands

Support the development of Triratna responses to climate change

Work with the Sikkha project to develop tools and training for diversity at Centres

2 The System of Practice

Provide oversight so that the Sikkha project is focused and uses International Council resources well

Develop diversity teaching resources

Initiate a Dr Ambedkar mitra-study module

Sikkha centre team workshops

3 Unity & working with conflict

Proposal for procedures for dealing with disharmony and conflict

Tools and skills building for conflict resolution

Steering Group to provide kalyana mitrata in situations of conflict between areas

Experiments in offering support

Order Priorities

Consultations

Discussions about future patterns of conventions

Consult to recruit new Order convenor after Parami's retirement

Increase Order dana

Communication

Review Shabda and other means of Order communication

Contact private preceptors to find out who is out of contact with the Order

Coordinate the 50th anniversary of the Order celebrations in 2018

Order survey 2017

Kalyana mitrata

Relaunch regular metta waves

Promote diversity in the Order

Resource and provide skills for Order members to work with conflict

Movement Priorities



Movement strand organising

Develop a world-wide movement strand infrastructure pilot project

One or more people to have a mythic world tour, offering workshops on the international movement, sharing toolkits on diversity and young people, enquiring about centre and Area needs, initiating consultations & building confidence

Groups

Develop guidelines for the establishment and working of groups in Triratna

Liaise with the ECA Groups' Board

Work to develop resources and kalyana mitrata for group leaders

Communications with centres

Share topics and resources from the International Council meeting

Support the 50th anniversary of the movement celebrations in April 2017

Start consultations and communication on chairs' terms, *What is a Triratna Centre* and ethical guidelines

College Priorities

Present a summary of the College of Preceptors' discussions about Sadhana

Support for review and development of the system of training

Initiate discussions about presidents' roles

Support for Area Councils after *What is a Triratna Centre* document

For Area Councils



Communication and Consultation

Disseminate and discuss model Ethical Guidelines and safeguarding policies

Communicate what happened on the International Council meeting & circulate Executive Summary

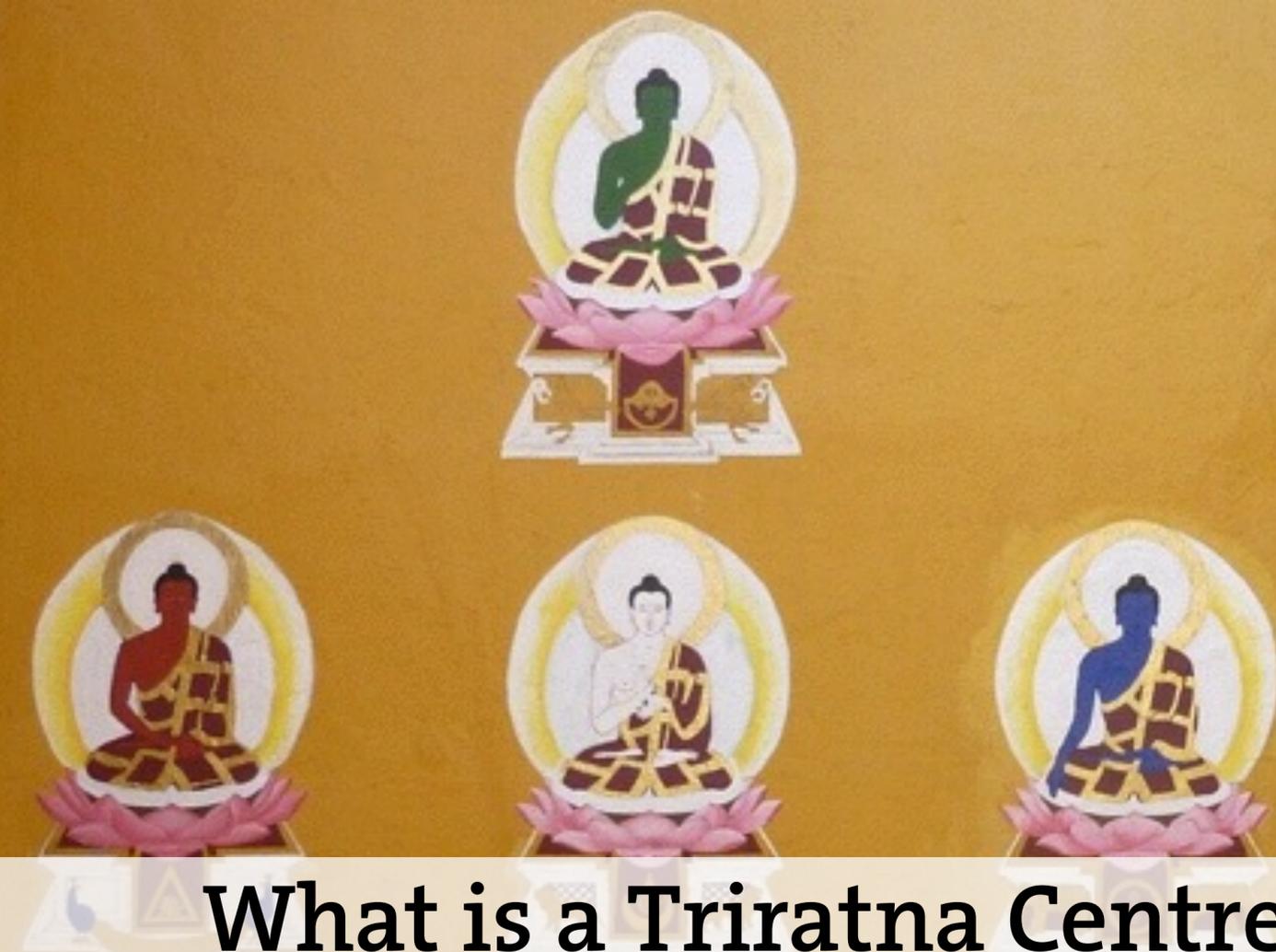
The Sikkha Project

Centre Teaching Teams to take part in workshops

What is a Triratna Centre?

Disseminate the *What is a Triratna Centre?* paper

Chair's 10 year term consultation



What is a Triratna Centre?

The 2014 meeting raised the question of what makes a bona fide Triratana centre. Principles and practice were collated into a document titled *What is a Triratna Centre?* There was widespread consultation through chairs and Area Councils across the world. The August 2016 meeting unanimously gave its full blessing to the final document. This is the first time we have agreed on the principles of our lineage of responsibility. It's the fullest and most successful consultation the movement has conducted.

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/internationalcouncil/what-triratna-centre>

For links to documents and media coverage from the 2016 meeting:

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/tags/international-council-2016>

For more on the work of the International Council:

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/internationalcouncil?display=latest>

