



## ***The future of the Triratna Community: A Vision and Strategy 2015***

This document details a **Vision and Strategy** for the **Triratna Buddhist Community** developed collaboratively, throughout 2014, by the **European Chairs Assembly**, the **College of Public Preceptors**, and **Order Office** representatives. It was agreed at the January 2015 ECA meeting and has the support of the College and Order Convenors.

The ECA conducted a visioning exercise at the July 2014 meeting, with a number of Public Preceptors present, and a visioning exercise was also conducted at the College meeting in November 2015. A 'working group', with representatives from the College, the ECA and the Order office, was tasked to collate the results and refine a collaborative and unified vision and strategy for the Triratna Community.

For practical reasons this at present focuses mostly on the movement in Europe, though in time engagement with the international council and the movement worldwide is very important and a priority.

The vision and strategy has been structured around the **Four Verses of Acceptance** taken at the time of Ordination. The vision statement is expanded into strategic areas and possible projects that could fulfil that vision and strategy have been identified. Some of these projects are quite specific and others are more of the nature of intentions and much more work needs to be done on this level to clarify and identify potential projects. The ECA and College consider some of these potential projects to be priorities but this will evolve with consultation, time and circumstance. In the course of 2015 this vision and strategy will shape a major and exciting fundraising campaign to raise the resources to bring projects in to being.

The 'Working group' has now been tasked with taking this forward and the development of clarity and identification of projects, fundraising priorities, the decision making process for awarding grants, and resources and procedures required to develop this vision and strategy. This will be done in ongoing consultation with the College, ECA and Order Convenors. To date the working group has involved Mokshini and Jnavaca from the ECA, Saddhaloka, Paramabandhu, Dhammadinna and Ratnadarini from the College, Lokeshvara from the Order Office, and Nandavajra and Amalavajra from the Development Team.

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## **Vision**

***Triratna is an International Buddhist community loyal to Sangharakshita's vision, working in harmony and sustained by spiritual friendship; dedicated to the attainment of Enlightenment for the benefit of all beings.***

## **Strategic areas**

### ***With loyalty to teachers and in harmony with friends and brethren***

- Develop unity, confidence, clarity and coherence around Bhante's system of practice and vision of a complete Dharma life, and the core principles, teachings and practices of the Triratna Community
- Develop effective leadership and decision making in a way that allows autonomy and initiative.

### ***For the attainment of Enlightenment***

- Emphasise a total Dharma life with a clear 'pathway' of practice and unfolding, leading to spiritual death, spiritual rebirth and Bodhi, from first point of contact through to Ordination and beyond
- Recognise and promote the vital importance of kalyana mitrata, personal communication and collective living and working situations as providing intensity and depth

### ***For the benefit of all beings***

- Exemplify and communicate the vision of a New Society and the Dharma as a radical, exciting, transformative force which responds to the needs of the world and issues in society (e.g. sustainability) and influences local, national and international debates
- Triratna as a community with excellent Centres and thriving Sanghas, developing and expanding in to new places and cultures, and continually attracting new people

## **Projects**

### ***With loyalty to teachers and in harmony with friends and brethren***

- Resource College – support for lead members (e.g. Saddhaloka and Dhammarati), secretariat and other preceptors **[Priority]**
- Greater capacity at Adhithana for larger gatherings **[Priority]**
- Resourcing and developing the International Council as co-ordinating, unifying and decision facilitating body **[Priority]**
- Adhithana as focus for college, leadership and training
- Translations
- Study of the papers
- Maintaining Dharmic perspective / context for secular mindfulness, Direct Pointing and other ‘new’ stuff (? College)
- Secretariats for the three strands
- Effective internal communication including online

### ***For the attainment of Enlightenment***

- Training at all levels – a curriculum – in spirit of KM **[Priority]**
- Promote TBRL and community living e.g. seed fund and profit making retreat Centres
- Developing Viharas
- Promoting retreats as a means to experiencing depth and inspiration
- Promoting western Buddhist art e.g. artists in residence

### ***For the benefit of all beings***

- Encouraging young people e.g. intensive study programme **[Priority]**
- Money Team (including Buddhist Bank and fundraising) including promoting the dana economy with backstop guarantee for projects **[Priority]**
- Training for teachers (quality) and promoting best practice and excellence at Centres **[Priority]**
- Online Dharma and external communication **[Priority]**
- Support for pioneers – support (‘seed’) fund (for 2 years?) and training **[Priority]**
- Looking after elders and sick (e.g. sheltered housing)
- Mindfulness TBRL and projects helping those in pain or suffering from depression etc
- Enhanced BAM
- Promoting simplicity and ethical (vegetarian and vegan) and sustainable living
- Promoting India work in Centres
- Spiritual care for the dying