



New Acropolis India Spearheads Global Initiative Celebrating 150 Years of Gandhi

199 Events | 130 Cities | 37 Countries

22 collaborations with Indian Embassies and Ambassadors

Drawing inspiration from Gandhi's pursuit of Truth and leadership through personal example, this full-day conference brought together distinguished leaders and change-makers who have been striving to make a better world through various fields of work.



FLAGSHIP EVENT IN MUMBAI

“Can the world be a better place without the aspiration of each individual to be better? Our endeavour is to revive this spirit of daring to be the change, and share the philosophical legacy and example of Gandhi with a global audience.” – Yaron Barzilay, Director of New Acropolis India and Curator of Empowering Real Change

PANELISTS



Anu Aga
CSR & Education



Chetna Gala Sinha
Microfinance



Fernand Schwarz
Anthropology &
Philosophy



Pierre Poulain
Philosophy &
Photography



Ronnie Screwvala
Entrepreneurship &
Philanthropy



Dr. Saamdu Chetri
Gross National
Happiness



Sonam Wangchuk
Education &
Innovation



Dr. Tridip Suhrud
Gandhian Scholar



Dr. Vandana Shiva
Ecology &
Sustainability



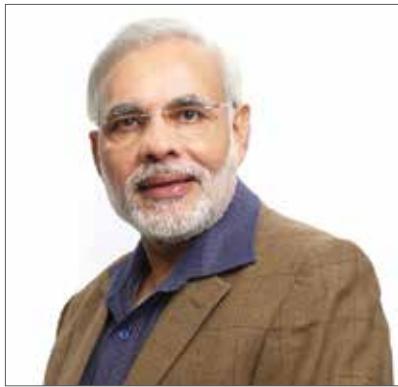
Yaron Barzilay
Philosophy &
Management



The Indian EXPRESS

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

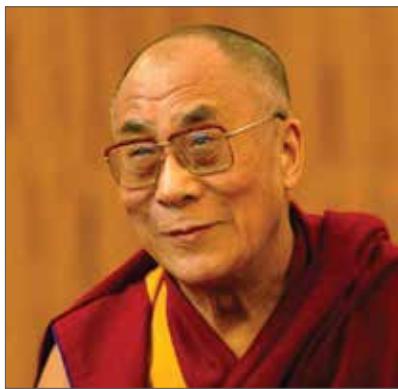
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi



I appreciate the efforts of the New Acropolis Cultural Organization in providing a platform to develop leadership for a better world, inspired by the ideal of Mahatma Gandhi. I am positive that the conference will be instrumental in leveraging the strength of quintessential Indian ideals that Bapu symbolized.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama



I am pleased to know that this conference, “Empowering Real Change: Leadership for a Better World”, is being hosted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth. I am also pleased to learn of the New Acropolis Cultural Organization’s efforts to organize this conference. I am sure that the conference will be a great success.



Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus

I’m delighted to be with you today, and with New Acropolis India, for the celebration of the 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth... Our present civilization follows a greed way of civilization. By approaching it with our creative power, we can undo the greed way, and transform it into a civilization based on human values; with empathy, peace and friendship. And that’s the task. I hope that in our discussions and deliberations we come to feel that we can unleash the creative capacity to make things happen.

TESTIMONIALS FROM ATTENDEES



Sunil Mehta (Founding Trustee, Muktangan):

“We tend to be reflective, we tend to think about how we can be the change, and we try to live our lives according to that. But periodically, the other side of us, the not so good side of us, takes over with the day to day pressures and so on. And today has been a refresher course, shall I say, to remind me of these things, and to know that a lot of change is possible, but it has to start, and always be with me, and then the rest will follow.”



Miti Desai (Classical Indian dancer, designer and educator):

“With the very inspiring speakers and the line up that New Acropolis has for us today, it is and will be very inspirational. But more than this, what I really feel is, when we say empowering real change, I really see that empowering change in the team of Acropolis and the way they put this event together and the way they hold onto their vision. Every time I come to a New Acropolis event there is a certain sense of positivity, there is a certain sense of togetherness, there is a certain sense of somewhere living the philosophy that they are learning, and I think that is empowering real change.”

Becoming the Change
Yaron Barzilay with
Fernand Schwarz & Pierre Poulain



EMPOWERING **REAL** CHANGE
Leadership
for a
Better World



The Indian EXPRESS

Sunday, December 16, 2018

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, DECEMBER 16, 2018

Education a basic necessity, must be handled by state: Sonam Wangchuk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 15

SONAM WANGCHUK, an engineer whose reforms in the education sector has helped bring down the failure percentage of students in Ladakh from 95 per cent to 25 per cent, on Saturday emphasised that education was a basic necessity and that it must be handled by the state.

"Education is a basic necessity and ethics must be a part of it. It must be handled by the state," he said. He was speaking at an event organised by the New Acropolis Cultural Organisation on how to ensure social change through innovative practices and the role of business models in bringing about social reforms. It was organised to observe the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Experts from various fields such as banking, education, social reforms history and philoso-

phy shared their views at the event.

In a panel discussion, Wangchuk emphasised that education needs to be contextual. For him, if children living in Himalayan deserts are taught about agriculture not suitable to local terrain, such education would be out of context. "It will be equality of irrelevance," he said.

Wangchuk along with students has designed a cone-shaped reservoir to keep water frozen during spring for agricultural purposes in Ladakh. It is during spring that we have minimum flow of water, he says, adding that basic physics was used to stock water.

Anu Aga, founder of Teach For India, an organisation that encourages corporates to teach underprivileged students in municipal schools, said these leaders selected to teach students help bridge the inequality gap in education. "Teaching should be an aspirational profession, not

the last resort... our educational institutes are mostly owned by politicians and builders. We need the best teachers because they have the greatest impact on students' lives," Aga said.

The one-day-long conference, titled 'Leadership for a Better World', also saw discussions on Bhutan's gross happiness index and Gandhian philosophy.

Gandhian historian Tridip Suhrid, author and photographer Pierre Poulin, Dr Vandana Shiva from Navdanya, Bhutan-based Dr Saamdu Chetri, author Fernand Schwarz and Yaron Barzilay from the New Acropolis Cultural Organisation also shared their views.

Speaking on having a business model to bring social reforms, Chetna Gala Sinha from Mann Deshi Bank said that the government needs to facilitate licences and permissions to allow women to start their own businesses. Her micro-financing bank has 1.10 lakh account hold-

ers. When she first applied for a licence to open a bank in rural Maharashtra, it was rejected on grounds of having no literate promoting members. "The promoting members, all women, ensured they got literate and we applied again," she said, adding that for five years they sacrificed their dividend to create reserves in the bank.

Producer and philanthropist Ronnie Screwvala said it is not bad to have profit as a component in business. "We have not-for-profit organisation Swades that works with 1,200 schools and at the same time we are running a for-profit education programme for higher studies," he said.

The event, with over 244 participants, also saw musical performance by folk singer Moorala Marwada. The New Acropolis, founded in 1957, is an international philosophical organisation that talks about culture and social nature. Over 40,000 volunteers work with it.

Raju symbolised," said Modi in his letter of support towards this initiative.

Speaking at the Mumbai event, Sunil Mehta, founding trustee of Muktagang, said, "We tend to be reflexive we tend to think about how we can be the change, and we try to live our lives according to that. But periodically, the other side of us, takes over with the day to day pressures and so on. And today has been a refresher course, shall I say, to remind me of these things, and to know that a lot of change is possible."

Classical Indian dancer, designer and educator Mitti Desai had said, "When we say empowering real change, I analyse that empowering change in the team of Acropolis and the way they put these together and hold on to their vision. Every time I come to a New Acropolis event there is a certain sense of positivity, of somehow living the philosophy that they are learning, and I think that is empowering real change."

So far, nearly 200 events in 37 countries have been organised in 22 collaborations with Indian embassies and ambassadors. Prominent among those are the events titled 'Gandhi and the Philosophy of Peace' in partnership with Embassy of India, Brasilia, Brazil; and 'Gandhi, the Strength of the Roots' with the Embassy of India, Oeiras, Portugal. New Acropolis France spearheaded a national festival with 17 events across nine cities with the patronage of Embassy of India while New Acropolis Ukraine celebrates Gandhi with over 30 events across 10 cities.

Talking about the impact of the Mumbai programme, which was held over a year ago, Trishya Screwvala of New Acropolis, says, "It brought together a forum of distinguished change-makers and leaders, who in the spirit of Gandhi, demonstrated the ability to lead by example." In the year that followed, approximately 200 international events explored themes that were established in the Mumbai event such as the pursuit of truth as an essential foundation for leadership; the need to change ourselves in order to forge sustainable change in our surroundings; and the inspiration of Gandhi as a peaceful warrior.

The special full-day conference held in Mumbai, which had 260 attendees from various fields including corporates, NGOs, government institutions and students, received messages of support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 14th Dalai Lama, Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus and Ratan Tata among others. I appreciate the efforts of the New Acropolis Cultural Organisation in providing a platform to develop leadership for a better world, inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. I am positive that the conference will be instrumental in leveraging the strength of regular courses at different levels for its members.

Gandhi's Message

In a year-long initiative, New Acropolis Cultural Organisation celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's legacy



(From left) Ronnie Screwvala, Chetna Gala Sinha and Harianti Mehta at the event; Yaron Barzilay (below)

EXPRESS FEATURES SERVICE

THE INDIAN wing of New Acropolis Cultural Organisation, an international organisation with nearly 500 centres in over 60 countries, has been nurturing the aspiration to share India's rich artistic, philosophical and scientific heritage worldwide. The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was a perfect occasion to showcase this as well as share the Indian leader's philosophical legacy with a global audience through a series of curated events.

Guided by Gandhi's life and actions that exemplified the principle that sustainable change is possible only when we are able to become the change we wish to see. Yaron Barzilay, director of New Acropolis India, curated a special programme, 'Empowering Real Change: Leadership for a Better World'.

"Our endeavour is to revive this spirit of daring to be the change, and share the philosophical legacy and example of Gandhi with a global audience," Barzilay said.

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The Indian EXPRESS

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Day-long conference on 'leadership for a better world' today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 14

Over 240 distinguished speakers will be a part of the 'Leadership for a Better World' conference organised by the New Acropolis Cultural Organisation on Saturday. The day-long conference will entail a series of panel discussions drawing from the experience of speakers from various fields.

From discussions on the concept of a just society in the light of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy to musical performances, speakers at the event include Padma Shri and National Award winner Arun Mehta, Arun Aga, Ronnie Screwvala, Dr Tridip Suhrid, author and photographer Pierre Poulin, Chetna Gala Sinha and Harianti Mehta.

The conference aims to draw out a resonance of Gandhi's legacy in the lives of people from various fields.

CONFERENCE AIMS TO DRAW OUT A RESONANCE OF GANDHI'S LEGACY IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS FIELDS.

New Acropolis was founded in 1957 in Geneva, Switzerland, and now has 500 centres in 60 countries. The day-long conference will entail a series of panel discussions drawing from the experience of speakers from various fields.

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ठाणेकैभव

चांगले नेतृत्व चांगले जग घडवून आणु शकेल

जून ठिकाऱ्यात राजीवांग आणि विजय ठिकाऱ्यात राजीवांग आणि विजय

प्राणीं आणि विजयांनी आणि विजयांनी

प्राणीं आणि विजयांनी

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SHARING GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHICAL LEGACY WITH A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

Empowering Real Change: Leadership for a Better World spearheaded a global celebration of Gandhi's iconic leadership by calling upon our affiliate associations comprising over 500 centres across 60 countries, to celebrate his philosophical legacy through cultural activities, conferences, and exhibitions.



199 Events across 130 Cities in 37 Countries have been executed so far, with 22 collaborations with Indian Embassies and Ambassadors.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES



France

New Acropolis France Spearheads National Festival with 17 Events

With Patronage of Embassy of India

Sharing Gandhi's universal message through nation-wide initiative

Celebrating India's Heritage with 30 events across 10 Cities

Lectures and workshops celebrating India's philosophical, cultural, artistic heritage

Events highlighting Gandhi's philosophy of Non Violence



Ukraine



Spain

New Acropolis Spain Celebrates Gandhi's Philosophical Legacy with over 15 events across Country

Events include lectures, performances, exhibitions, film screenings to explore Gandhi's philosophy of peace and leadership by example

Publication of Special Edition magazine *Sphynx* dedicated to exploring the life and principles of Gandhi

HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES



Guatemala

New Acropolis Guatemala honours Gandhi with 22 Events across 5 Cities

Lectures, conferences, film-screenings, exhibitions highlighting the philosophy of Gandhi and India's cultural contribution to world

Celebrating Gandhi's Ideals and India's Tradition with 15 Events across Country

15 events across 6 cities

Course in Sanskrit language and literature of India at Grão Vasco Museum

Launch of Special Edition Magazine *Pandava: Wisdom of India*



Portugal



Russia

New Acropolis Russia Honours Gandhi with Events across 8 Cities

Exploring Gandhi's principles of Ahimsa (Non Violence) and Satyagraha (Power of Truth) and their relevance in our times

Events highlighted the example of Gandhi and the need for inner-change to bring about change in our world

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Brazilia, Brazil

Gandhi and the Philosophy of Peace

In Partnership with Embassy of India

400 attendees

Lecture also held in Rio de Janeiro and Cuiaba

Gandhi and the Strength of Roots

Supported by the City Council and the National Commission of UNESCO

Ambassador of India in Portugal spoke on the ethical foundation of Gandhi as a source of his strength



Oeiras, Portugal



Croatia

New Acropolis Croatia Launches Magazine Edition Highlighting India's Tradition

Articles featuring life story and ideals of Gandhi, Tagore and principles from The Mahabharata

Events in 8 cities across the country honouring Gandhi

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Empowering Real Change

Commemorated Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on the occasion of World Philosophy Day in Melbourne

Leaders from fields of philosophy, sociology, astrophysics, ecology and CSR discussed the need to become better human beings in order to forge a better world

Honouring 150 Years of Gandhi

Explored Gandhi's concept of Swaraj as well as the relationship between Gandhi and Cartier-Bresson philosophies

Olive tree planted as a "tree of peace" in honour of Gandhi with the patronage of the Embassy of India

Attended by 97 people

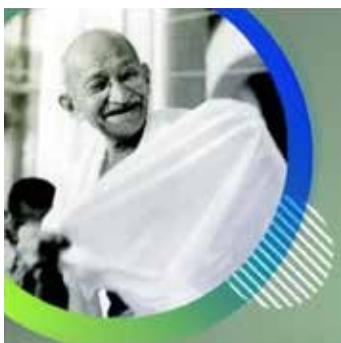


Course in Sanskrit Language and Literature of India at the Grão Vasco Museum

50-hour course investigating India's linguistic and cultural heritage

Introduction to Sanskrit grammar and classification

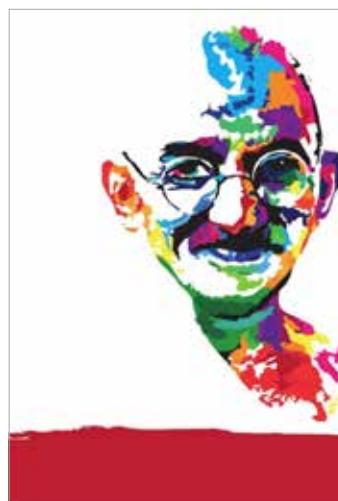
Exploration of key Hindu concepts from ancient Indian literature



**New Acropolis Guatemala
Honours Gandhi with 22 Events
Across 4 Cities (Guatemala)**



**Gandhi: The Search for Truth
(San Lorenzo, Paraguay)**



**Gandhi and the Philosophy for
Peace in Partnership with the
Embassy of India (Brasilia,
Brazil)**



**Mahatma Gandhi: 5 Rules of
Life (St. Petersburg, Russia)**



**Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi
across 2 Cities in Santa Fe,
Argentina (Rosario and Casilda,
Argentina)**



**World Philosophy Day 2019:
Empowering Real Change
(Melbourne, Australia)**



**The Mahabharata (Madrid,
Spain) – 24th Oct 2019**



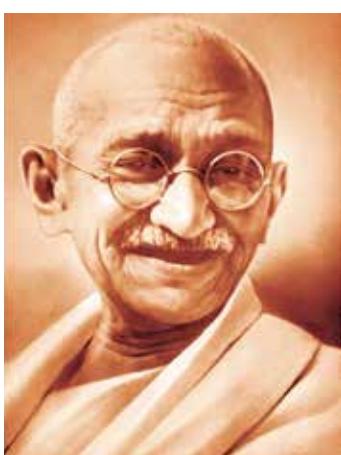
**World Philosophy Day 2019:
Empowering Real Change
(Melbourne, Australia)**



**New Acropolis Germany
Honours Gandhi Across 3 Cities
(Germany)**



**The Mahabharata (Madrid,
Spain) – 24th Oct 2019**



**Exhibition on Gandhi: Think,
Feel, Build Peace (Madrid,
Spain)**



**World Philosophy Day 2019:
Gandhi, The Strength of the
Roots with Ambassador of India
(Oeiras, Portugal)**



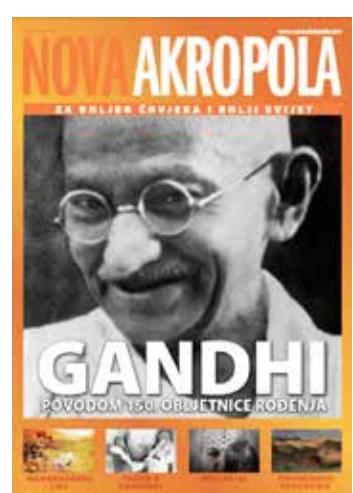
**Teachings from "The Bhagavad
Gita" for Modern Society
(Yokohama, Japan) – 26th Oct
2019**



**Great Teachings of India
(Madrid, Spain) – 17th Oct 2019**



**Gandhi and Non-Violence
(Valencia, Spain)**



**New Acropolis Croatia
Launches Magazine Edition
Honouring 150 Years of Gandhi
(Croatia)**



Commemorating 150 Years of Gandhi (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

MAHATMA GANDHI

SPOTKANIE Z OKAZJĄ 150 ROCZNICY URODZIN
NIEDZIELA 27.10.2019
WSTĘP DARMOWY GODZINA 15:00

Jeden z największych duchowych przywódców Indii, promujący filozofię czynnego, ale pokojowego oporu. Mahatma Gandhi 15 sierpnia 1947r. ostatecznie doprowadził Indie do niepodległości.

Przez całe życie starał się rozwijać dążenie do prawdy.

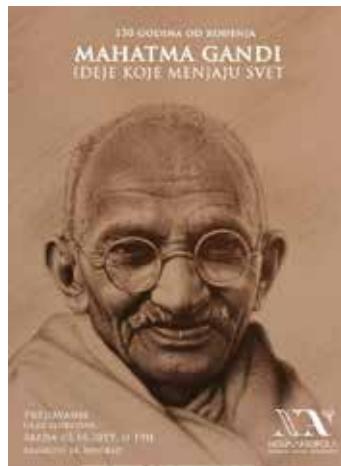
BLOKI TEMATYCZNE:
15:00 Autoportret. Poszukiwanie prawdy i ruch biernego oporu.
16:00 Wartość wolności.
17:00 Filozofia milczenia i prostoty
Miejsce spotkania:
Siedziba Stowarzyszenia "NOWA AKROPOŁIS"
ul. Głogowska 30, 27 października 2019 r. o godz. 15:00

XX NOWA AKROPOŁIS
www.nowa-akropolis.pl

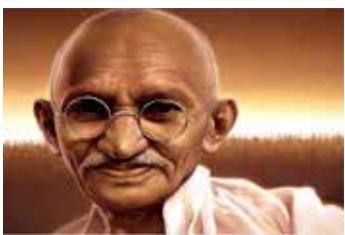
Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi (Warsaw, Poland) - 27th Oct 2019



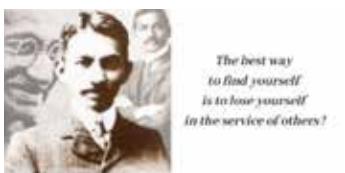
Exhibition: Gandhi and the Philosophy of Peace (Málaga, Spain) - 19th Sep 2019 - 30th Nov 2019



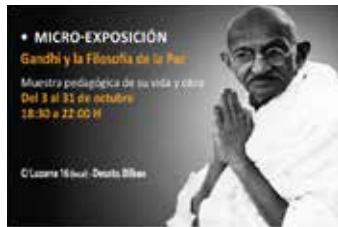
Mahatma Gandhi: Ideas that Change the World (Belgrade, Serbia Republic)



Let's Talk About Gandhi (Granada, Spain) - 25th Oct 2019



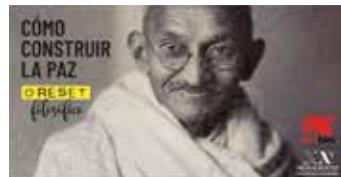
Gandhi: Dare to be the Change (Toronto, Canada)



Exhibition: Gandhi and the Philosophy of Peace (Bilbao, Spain) - 3rd Oct - 31st Oct 2019



Gandhi: A Yogi against the British Empire (Bilbao, Spain)



How to Build Peace (Castellón, Spain) - 26th Oct 2019



Photography Competition Honouring 150 Years of Gandhi (Honduras)



Gandhi and his Experiments with Truth (Innsbruck, Austria) - 24th Oct 2019



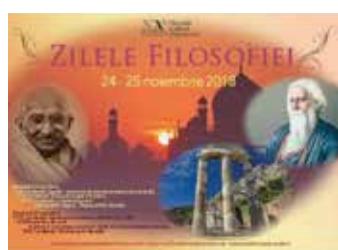
The Power of Nonviolence (Taipei, Taiwan)



Myths and Symbols of India (Madrid, Spain)



The Pursuit of Truth: Gandhiji's Inspiration (Mumbai, India)



New Acropolis Bucharest Honours Gandhi on World Philosophy Day (Bucharest, Romania)



Gandhi: An Exemplary Life (Madrid, Spain) - 19th Oct 2019



Seminar and Film Screening of "Gandhi" (Málaga, Spain)



„Cu aceea Filosofia Valoarea Bunei și
-INCURAJAREA ADEVĂRATEI SCHIMBĂRII:
LEADERSHIP PENTRU O LUME MAI BUNĂ”.

Confereție a cărui scop este de a promova viața Mahatma Ghandi

15 Noiembrie, 2019

Str. Tighina, nr. 48, et. II, Chișinău

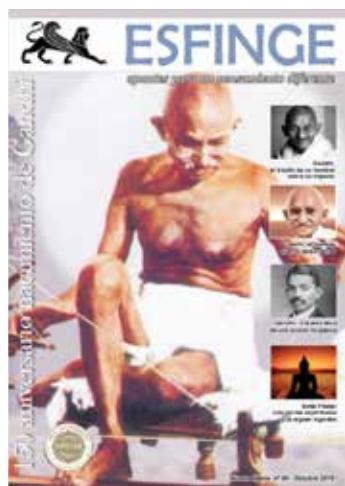
**Empowering Real Change:
Leadership for a Better World
(Chișinău, Moldova) – 15th Nov
2019**



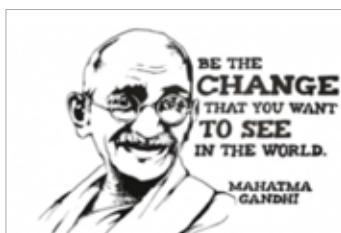
**Mahatma Gandhi: Life in Search
of Truth (Moscow, Russia)**



**Gandhi Conference, Vandana
Shiva, The Peaceful Warriors
(Marseille, France)**



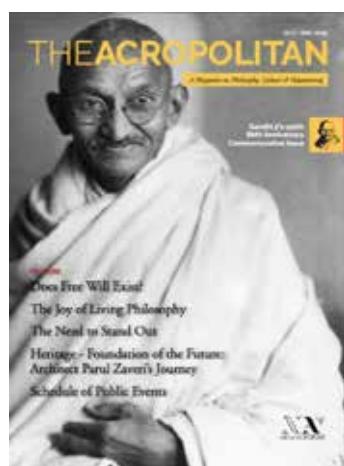
**New Acropolis Spain's Sphinx
Magazine Special Edition as
Tribute for Gandhi's 150th
Anniversary (Spain)**



**150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi:
Change by Example (Vienna,
Austria)**



**Honouring Mahatma Gandhi
across 8 Cities (Croatia)**



**New Acropolis India's The
Acropolitan Magazine
Highlights the Global Tribute
for 150 Years of Gandhi
(Mumbai, India)**



**Gandhi: Warrior of Peace
(Constanța, Romania)**



**Mahatma Gandhi and the
Philosophy of Non Violence
(Sarajevo, Bosnia and
Herzegovina)**



**Gandhi: Cinema Forum (Bilbao,
Spain)**



**ABC of Philosophy (Villach,
Austria)**



**Gandhi, Be a Warrior of Peace
Today. In the Basque Country,
and Everywhere in the World
(Biarritz, France)**



**Socratic Dialogue: "If I were
Gandhi" (Madrid, Spain) - 31st
Oct 2019**



**New Acropolis Ukraine
organises 3 Events in Honour of
Mahatma Gandhi – Oct 2019
(Zaporizhia, Ukraine)**



**New Acropolis Czech Republic
Celebrates Gandhi's Birth
Anniversary across 9 Cities
(Czech Republic)**



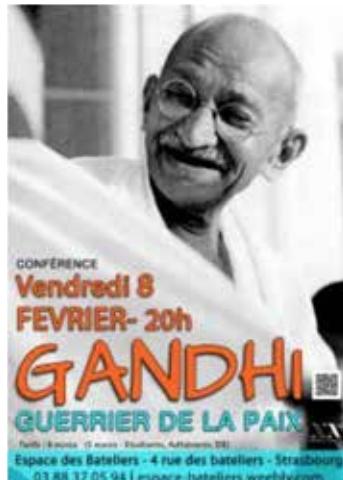
**Conference on Mahatma
Gandhi (Bratislava, Slovakia)**



**New Acropolis Costa Rica
Honours 150 Years of Gandhi
with 5 Events across the
Country (Costa Rica)**



Gandhi's Teachings (Santa Catarina, Brazil)



Gandhi - Warrior of Peace: A Philosophy (Strasbourg, France)



Mahatma Gandhi: Life in Search of Truth (Ekaterinburg, Russia)



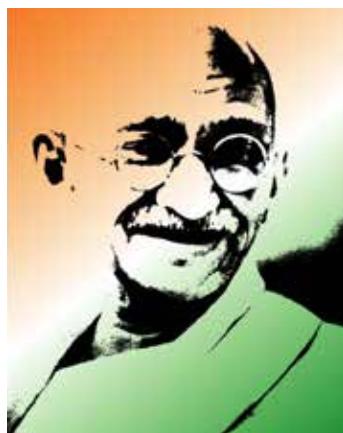
Gandhi: Warrior of Peace (Bordeaux, France)



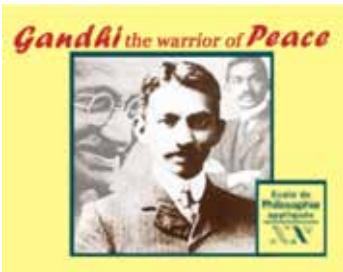
New Acropolis International Assembly Resolutions include Empowering Real Change



How Serving Truth Can Change the World (Volgograd, Russia)



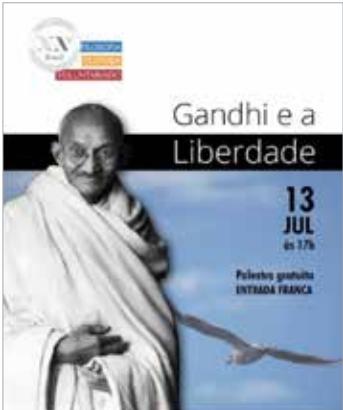
Mahatma Gandhi: My Life is my Message (Copenhagen, Denmark)



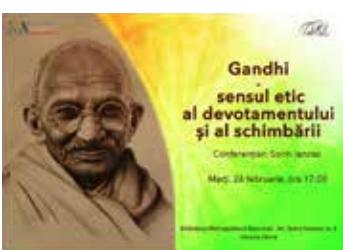
Gandhi: The Warrior of Peace (Montreal, Canada) - 1st Nov 2019



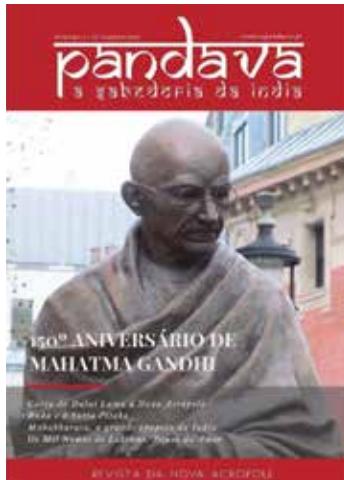
Better Together Challenge (PyeongChang, South Korea): 3rd - 5th Oct, 2019



Gandhi and Freedom (Bahia, Brazil)



Gandhi: The Ethical Meaning of Devotion and Change (Bucharest, Romania)



pandava
a sabedoria da Índia
150º ANIVERSÁRIO DE MAHATMA GANDHI
Revista da Índia Acropolis



Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (Tegucigalpa, Honduras)



Gandhi's Philosophy: The Bhagavad Gita (Toulouse, France) - Oct 3rd 2019



Celebrating the Life of Gandhi: Peace Abbey Tour (Boston, U.S.A.)



International Philosophy Day 2018 (Tel Aviv, Israel)

New Acropolis Cultural Organization is an independent member of an International non-profit association (IONA), represented in over 60 countries across the world.

IONA promotes an ideal of timeless values to contribute to individual and collective evolution. Its associative structure guarantees respect for the diversity, autonomy and initiative of each of its member associations. Its operational structure enables it to act independently of all political, religious or financial interests.

We have always tried to understand the expression of all cultures, past and present, to discover the roots of their works of art, scientific advances, religious experiences and social and human projects through Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. With inspiration from the timeless principles of the Indian tradition, New Acropolis India, works with a specific focus to rediscover India's rich artistic, scientific and human heritage and offer it as a vital contribution to collective human progress relevant to our times today.

