



Global Compassion Coalition

The Global Compassion Coalition (GCC) is a worldwide movement to make compassion a civic, cultural, and environmental force.

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Coming Home: The World We Hold in Common

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Hello Dear Community,

We are living through a time when so much of what sustains life — clean air, trustworthy information, public health, even our attention — feels strained, fragmented, or captured by private interests. The systems designed to manage our shared resources often treat them as commodities, and thus impoverish our relationship to them and to each other. The result is the erosion of trust, depleted ecosystems and a growing sense of orphanhood.

An alternative framework has been gaining strength across cultures and continents: the revival of the commons. A commons is not just a resource that everyone can use. It is a social practice: a way of stewarding what we share through mutual care, shared rules, and collective responsibility. From community-managed farms, forests and fisheries to open-source software and neighborhood mutual aid networks, commons-based systems remind us that cooperation is not a naïve ideal. In fact, it is a viable choice that has been historically proven.

At its heart, the commons invites us to shift from extraction to stewardship, and from ownership to belonging. It's a form of cultural reorientation that centers community resilience and rebuilds the social fabric through shared guardianship.

The stories and resources in this issue explore how reclaiming the commons can help us mend what feels broken.

Insight & Inspiration: A Field Guide to Commoning

For decades, writer and commons scholar [David Bollier](#) has helped articulate this vision. He invites us to see the commons not simply as shared resources, but as living social systems shaped by the communities who steward them. In his work, commoning is an active verb — a practice of negotiating shared rules, building trust, resolving conflicts, and honoring ecological limits. Bollier challenges the assumption that markets and centralized states are the only legitimate stewards of collective life, pointing instead to countless grassroots initiatives that effectively govern forests, fisheries, urban spaces, digital platforms, and cultural knowledge through cooperation and mutual accountability.

His recently released [Commoner's Catalog for Changemaking](#), co-created with collaborators across the globe, gathers dozens of such examples into a practical and inspiring compendium. It highlights community land trusts, platform cooperatives, local food networks, open-source collaborations, and other models that demonstrate how shared stewardship can meet real needs while strengthening belonging. It is a veritable field guide for those seeking workable alternatives to extractive systems in a world in need of repair.

If you're new to the commons ecosystem, [these core ideas](#) provide an entry point.

For a deeper dive, the Catalog's companion guide, [Explore the Commonsverse](#), offers a navigable

breakdown of key themes, projects, and organizations shaping this movement.

Let's Practice! Where We Meet



This week, choose one shared resource in your life, something you benefit from but do not solely control. It could be a public park, an online platform, your workplace culture, a family system, or even the mood of a group you belong to.

Pause and ask:

- Who helps sustain this?
- What invisible labor keeps it alive?
- How might I contribute, protect, or strengthen it, even in a small way?

**In Case You Missed It: NeuroEDU2026
in Puerto Rico**



Dr. Rick Hanson, presenting 'Compassion: A New Paradigm?'

What an incredible weekend in Puerto Rico! The GCC was honored to host the [NeuroEDU2026 conference](#), which brought together a vibrant community of educators, scientists, and advocates beneath the Caribbean sun. The energy was electric as we shared space to explore the future of empathy and education, with speakers including Professor Chris Germer, Professor Frankie Maratos, Dr. Claudio Araya and Dr. Mauricio Cornejo. A highlight of the event was GCC Founder Dr. Rick Hanson's moving presentation, "Compassion: A New Paradigm?"

Dr. Hanson took us on a journey through our evolutionary history, reminding us that while our ancestors survived through caring-and-sharing, modern life often traps us in a mode of holding-and-controlling. He challenged us to move beyond baseline compassion to an expansive vision that includes those outside our immediate circles, embraces courage and intensity ("fierce compassion"), and confronts systemic causes of suffering.

Links to replays of the entire conference coming soon!

News You Can Use: Designing AI with Wisdom

A new article in [AI and Ethics](#) proposes a timely shift in how we think about the future of artificial intelligence. Rather than chasing the science-fiction dream of artificial general intelligence, the author argues that we should focus on cultivating AI systems capable of “practical wisdom”: the kind of grounded, context-sensitive judgment that humans rely on in complex, real-world situations. At the heart of this proposal is compassion: the ability to recognize suffering, understand nuance, and respond in ways that genuinely support human well-being.

Drawing on long-standing traditions in virtue ethics, the paper suggests that rigid rules and technical safety guardrails are not enough. What’s needed is a design philosophy that embeds discernment and care into the very architecture of AI systems. The implications are especially significant in high-stakes settings such as healthcare, where sensitivity and moral judgment matter as much as efficiency. In short, [the article](#) makes the case that compassionate, wise AI may be a more realistic (and more humane) goal than the race toward all-purpose superintelligence.

The Growing Edge: Holding the Moment Together



[In a moving piece for The Daily Good](#), Aryae Coopersmith recounts a powerful moment that unfolded during a walk through his neighborhood. As two men began to argue and tensions escalated toward physical violence, he felt the familiar surge of urgency. Instead of reacting impulsively or turning away, he chose to pause. He slowed his breath, grounded himself, and approached with calm presence. A few simple words, offered without aggression — “Are you okay?” — interrupted the momentum of the fight.

What makes this story so compelling is how ordinary the practice is. In moments of tension (whether in our homes, workplaces, or public discourse), the sacred pause can mean the difference between escalation and connection. Sometimes, the most radical contribution we can make is to slow down long enough for compassion to enter the room.

A Question for You

Where in your life are you already participating in a commons, perhaps without naming it as such?

Is there a shared space, a community effort, or a collective project that thrives because of mutual care rather than ownership?

Perhaps the commons begins with a simple question:
“How do we care for this together?”

May that question guide our choices, our systems, and our shared future.

With deep appreciation,
Fabiana,
Editor, *Coming Home*

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