

# THE DECLARATION OF DIGNITY

By Dr. Donna Hicks

Why is there so much conflict in the world—between nations, in our communities, at work—even in our personal lives?

I believe that so many of these struggles are about dignity; about losing sight of the fact that we were all born worthy.

Imagine what the world would be like if we treated each other as if we mattered—if we all valued each other's dignity?

If we did, we would have to believe that we are all worthy of:

...having our *identity accepted*, no matter who we are

...*recognition of our unique qualities and ways of life*

...*acknowledgement*—to be seen, heard, and responded to

...*belonging and feeling included*

...*freedom and independence* and a life of hope and possibility

...*being safe and secure*

...*being treated in a fair and evenhanded way*

...*being given the benefit of the doubt*

...*being understood*

...an *apology* when someone does us harm

In recognition of the importance of dignity, please join me in embracing this *Declaration*. We might not change the world, but we can create a more respectful way of being in it together.