

ANNE WALTER is Director, Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion, (DGCEC) Louisville, and a Certified Teacher of Compassion Cultivation Training (CCT) of the Compassion Institute at Stanford University. She has served in interfaith, social justice and peace-focused ministry for over 30 years and is regarded as one of Louisville's highly-revered spiritual directors. She considers herself a student of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and was honored to serve as the Chair of Engaging Compassion, during His Holiness' multi-day visit to Louisville in 2013. She seeks to be a bridge-builder between cultures, religious traditions and communities.

In 2016, in response to escalating Islamophobia in the country, three Muslim leaders wanted to call a meeting of interfaith leaders in the community to brainstorm about the serious issue. They wanted to hold this meeting in a mosque but were not able to secure a venue. Anne Walter stepped forward and graciously offered the DGCEC as our meeting place. The meeting was held on May 1, 2016 and attended by more than one hundred interfaith leaders and peace-and-justice activists. Strong support was expressed for developing collective action, and in the summer of 2016 a number of consultative meetings were held at DGCEC to discuss our future course of action. *The Salaam Network (TSN)* emerged as an outcome of these deliberations.

Anne Walter served as the coordinator of *TSN* during its initial stage when its meetings were held at DGCEC. She co-hosted the *TSN* programs held during Fall 2016 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Though her responsibilities as the Director of DGCEC kept her extremely busy and she was unable to participate in all of *TSN's* subsequent activities, her vital role in getting *TSN* off the ground gives her a special place of honor in *TSN's* history. She remains a Core Member and Facilitator of *TSN*.