

**RE: letter to teachers**

**From:** Bert Franzen <bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au>  
**To:** pmc@REDACTED, Swami Haribodhananda <haribodhananda@REDACTED>, Ahimsadhara Saraswati <ahimsadhara@REDACTED>, Sarah Tetlow <sarahjtetlow@REDACTED>  
**Cc:** Suryamitra <suryamitra@satyananda.net>, Atmamuktananda Saraswati <yogarock@satyananda.net>  
**Date:** Wed, 26 Mar 2014 09:05:02 +1100  
**Attachments:** teacher letter\_draft\_PM edit.docx (46.8 kB)

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Hi Everyone

Please find my modifications added to Poornamurti's changes.

I like it, reads well, sets the right tone and is an honest reflection.

Kind regards




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Bert Franzen

**electAssociates** | HR Consulting Specialists | Building 8 Level 2 | 49 Frenchs Forest Road | Frenchs Forest NSW2086

T: 9454 7736 | M: REDACTED | F: 02 8088 6725 | 

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**From:** Phil Connor [mailto:pmc@REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 March 2014 6:00 AM  
**To:** 'Swami Haribodhananda'; 'Ahimsadhara Saraswati'  
**Cc:** 'Suryamitra'; 'Atmamuktananda Saraswati'; 'Bert Franzen'  
**Subject:** RE: letter to teachers

Hari Om

It seems to me that Ahimsa is the most suitable chairperson.

I have attached my edit.

Actually it is heavily edited as I have tried to remove all the 'seeds of doubt' approach and focus solely on the positive experience of yoga. There is no need to water such seeds. I have also tried to reduce the reliance on any other side links – like Rikhia & Gurus mission etc. I have left one reference to Niranjana, but I would rather not.

The thing is, this has nothing to do with our Gurus: it has everything to do with an Australian mis-management group of 30 years ago, and especially its leader.

Where we refer to the Apology: It is clear what is being apologised for, but it is not clear on whose behalf we are apologising.

This needs to be well established in our minds in drafting this and the actual apology.

Note also that I have included psychological abuse in the aims: this is not to be ignored (bullying by a local despot can still arise).

So I put this back to you for further editing – I am not yet happy with it.

The early bit about 'in the context of' is awkward and throws the reader into confusion right at the start. It would be good to use straight English. We are not talking to lawyers.

I was having a good day until dealing with this!

Oms from Lonavala

Pm

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**From:** Swami Haribodhananda [mailto:haribodhananda@REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 March 2014 10:08 PM  
**To:** Ahimsadhara Saraswati  
**Cc:** Suryamitra; Atmamuktananda Saraswati; Bert Franzen; Poornamurti (Phil) Connor  
**Subject:** Re: letter to teachers

There will be plenty of support for you Ahimsadhara, Bert has laid out some planning points and I have chaired several boards.

The most important thing is that the Chair is seen as being in a position to be as objective as possible and of the remaining members you are it, lucky you.

It is also important to formalise the group ASAP and be seen to follow due process eg the letter should not go out until we have a majority of sign off on it.

With PM currently 5.5 hours behind us, hopefully he can contribute his edit through today for our comments and we can sign off tomorrow.

We should start a minutes file and elect Ahimsadhara as Chair. As we have not met, I can't really nominate or second her nomination but happy to vote in favour.

Om  
Hb

I am also interested in any feedback on my previous email re non involvement of SYTA and MY on the task force and if this should be addressed in the letter.

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Mar 2014, at 4:59 pm, Ahimsadhara Saraswati <[ahimsadhara@satyananda.net](mailto:ahimsadhara@satyananda.net)> wrote:

Hari Om,  
thanks for feedback so far. Do I take it from Bert's comment that he thinks we shouldn't have an email address? I agree that we need to make phone calls but it may be limiting access to not have an email address. It can be much easier for someone to make first contact in this way. There is already an example of that which came through Mangrove's reception - an abuse victim who had never told anyone before and was not part of the group of permanent resident children. Atma and I have responded to her by email, with offers to talk. She has appreciated our communications but doesn't want further involvement now as it's too raw. She wrote in after the Mary Smith email - that triggered her.

Also, a letter has just come by registered post to Kriyatma, Dayasagar and Rishis H and V from one of the women who was posting on FB. It is a good letter, polite and concerned. It highlights the need to restart the dialogue with that group as they now feel that the gestures made so far were perhaps tokenistic, including holding ceremony on Thursday. I think we have to hold it Sunday and let them know the apology will be made public.

We also need to inform other SY officials that the group exists and what it is doing so that if they get any correspondence they can refer. I don't know the SY structure - can someone advise of who needs informing in this way.

I feel a little daunted by the idea of chairing the group but will do whatever is necessary. If you want me to, I would ask to be guided by Bert as it's not a role I've really had before; although I managed the yoga centre I never headed the committee.

Om,  
Ahimsa

On Tue, Mar 25, 2014 at 4:44 PM, Swami Haribodhananda <[haribodhananda@satyananda.net](mailto:haribodhananda@satyananda.net)> wrote:  
Hi

I guess my only concern is that in naming the task force, it is obvious there is no SYTA or Manly Yoga representation and we are sending it predominately to their members.

Politically it may be wise to include something about this.

Perhaps ask Krsnadhara and Amarnath what they think personally about this??

Om  
Hb

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**From:** Suryamitra [mailto:[suryamitra@satyananda.net](mailto:suryamitra@satyananda.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 March 2014 2:17 PM  
**To:** Ahimsadhara Saraswati; Atmamuktananda Saraswati; Bert Franzen; Swami Haribodhananda; Poornamurti (Phil) Connor  
**Cc:** Yogasandhan; Gurubhatka

**Subject:** Re: letter to teachers

Hari Om

I think it reads beautifully. I have made a couple of edits for typos - in red in the attached. I added a bit about the timeframe over which Mangrove has been updating its processes so that it wouldn't look like it was just in response to this (although the list of things done would imply that so you can leave it out if you don't think it reads well).

All else good and agreed with.

Om and prem  
Swami Suryamitra  
Mangrove Yoga Ashram  
300 Mangrove Creek Road  
Mangrove Creek  
NSW 2250  
Australia  
Tel [+61 \(0\)2 4377 1171](tel:+61(0)243771171)  
<http://www.mangroveyoga.com.au>  
[suryamitra@satyananda.net](mailto:suryamitra@satyananda.net)

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**From:** Ahimsadhara Saraswati [<mailto:ahimsadhara@satyananda.net>] REDACTED  
**To:** Atma [<mailto:yogarock@satyananda.net>], Bert Franzen [<mailto:bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au>],  
haribodhananda@REDACTED [<mailto:haribodhananda@satyananda.net>], Poornamurti [<mailto:pmc@satyananda.net>] Sarah Tetlow  
[<mailto:sarahjitel@satyananda.net>] REDACTED Suryamitra [<mailto:suryamitra@satyananda.net>]  
**Cc:** Yogasandhan [<mailto:yogasandhan@satyananda.net>], Gurubhatka [<mailto:gurubhatka@satyananda.net>]  
**Sent:** Tue, 25 Mar 2014 13:27:08 +1100  
**Subject:** letter to teachers

Hari Om,  
attached is a drafted letter to teachers who received the emails. As per Haribodh's suggestion, it incorporates content from his email to Atma Vidya.

Please make whatever comments come to mind. Also, please say if you like or not the title for the group - Working Together Task Force, and if you agree with the strategy of an email address under that name, which would be managed by me and Atma, accessible to all of you. This email address would be akin to a hotline ie it is not for our business use. I have also offered the Rocklyn ph number for those wanting to call.

Once we are agreed on this letter I will forward it to Amarnath as per his request.

Ahimsa

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