TREAT OTHERS & THE PLANET AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Kim Polman (Co-founder and Chair)
Jeremy Bradshaw (Treasurer)
Ami Shpiro
Amanda Jenkins
Nik Hartley OBE
Ed Beccle

STAFF
Anthony Bennett, CEO
Catherine Stevens, COO
Rebecca Dove, Programme Director
Holly Everett, Education and Programme Coordinator

REGISTERED OFFICE:
45 Priory Avenue, London, W4 1TZ

🌐 www.rebootthefuture.org
🐦 @FutureReboot
 פייסבוק www.Facebook.com/FutureReboot

The Foundation is a registered charity (No. 1175117) and with a parallel incorporated business (Reboot the Future Ltd, Company No. 10532004) to support trading activities including book sales. 100% of company profits are invested back into the foundation.
REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CHAIR

When I last wrote this report for 2019, I suggested that we had just entered a decade of transformation, and that this era might indeed be a turning point. Little did we know that 2020 would itself be the year of change.

I don’t need to say much about how everything changed. The pandemic has provided a truly global moment in which no one has been untouched.

2020 was Reboot’s third year of operation and our busiest yet. I’m proud to say that Reboot met the crisis head-on, with a full programme of events and discussions aimed at helping us pick our way through the pandemic, and forward into a new future.

As you’ll read, we launched our inaugural programme of Imaginal Conversations, an online forum where a small group of invitees are asked to share reflections on deep time, nature, our deep selves and the Other. Global Dimension, our education platform, was revamped significantly to better serve our community of 15,000 teachers. As a consequence of lockdown, we launched our series of public ‘fishbowl’ type discussions with the Future Food Institute and Franklin University, hosting key speakers as diverse as Yo Yo Ma and Jonathon Porritt. Lastly, we grew our partnership with Franklin University to deliver our 4 day Masterclass on the Golden Rule and nature.

These activities reflect a huge escalation of our work and reach, all underpinned by our own take on an essential truth: to treat others and the planet as you would wish to be treated.

Underpinning these activities has been a new staff structure. I am delighted that Anthony Bennett joined us as CEO in the spring of 2020. Holly Everett joined us as our Education and Programmes Coordinator. I feel deeply thankful to Catherine Stevens, COO, and Rebecca Dove, Programme Director for their dedication in leading and consolidating our work. I give my special thanks to my Board of Trustees for their trust, loyalty, support and guidance.

As we begin to pick our way out of the consequences of 2020, the complexities in front of us seem overwhelming. How can we renew ourselves? We know that there is no return to ‘business as normal’, because what had become ‘normal’ was what got us to the Covid19 and climate tragedies in the first place.

I am struck in all my discussions throughout this year of a willingness to share and care: a feeling that the essential bonds of human nature have, in part, revealed themselves in lockdown, and urge us to action. A growing awareness that we must embrace what binds us together and to the planet. We aim to help as many as we can to go forward with hope and depth.

The Golden Rule exists in nature as a settled rule, a tried-and-tested verity. In seeking a path forward, a true rebooting of the future, we can lean into this simple but powerful truth.

And in the true spirit of the Golden Rule, we want to hear from you; to listen, learn and find our common values; to connect with each other and with the beauty of the world that we share.

Kim Polman
Co-founder & Chair
Any reflection on 2020 is, by its nature, provisional. Just as many who experienced Covid-19 are now suffering from the unknowable symptoms of “long covid”, our global culture is trying to absorb the impacts of a shuddering reversal of fortunes. It is too soon to tell its full impact.

Many with an interest in climate activism have long proclaimed the necessity of a great adjustment or cataclysm to create the change we need. We are reminded to be careful what we wish for.

In any crisis, there are demagogues and opportunists ready to exploit others, “the worst are full of passionate intensity”. Old ways of thinking seem slow-footed, and “in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear”.

Nevertheless, the values of community and reciprocity have been reasserted. We have been reminded of the importance of looking after one another, and reassessed what we truly deem to be important.

“No reboot the Future” was already a pretty good name before the pandemic: now it seems existential. There is an emerging recognition of the necessity for a new way of doing things.

Many of the verities that informed our thinking are now found wanting. But what form should the new world take?

For Reboot, the Golden Rule exists as the base code for human survival. Common to all cultures, both secular and sacred, it is the sine qua non of a civilised, sustainable existence. It remains the default operating system to which we revert in systems failure.

“To treat others as we would treat ourselves” is its core wisdom. Our extension of this precept, “To treat others, and the planet…”, invites us to think of our place in the biosphere, where kindness and empathy are embedded in nature.

The key to our survival is our connectedness. The pandemic has encouraged integration, where digital platforms allow us to talk, trade, forge relationships. International internet traffic soared by 48% in the last year. We even learned to attend funerals and weddings in Zoom.

But this doesn’t mean that we are not lonely. We saw in 2020 heightened isolation, the deterioration of mental health, a growth of listlessness and inertia.

We believe in the worst of each other. While we rush headlong into conspiracy theories and paranoia, the capacity to empathise - to listen and to understand if only for a moment, what it is like to feel and think in common- is at the root of what we must do. Reboot is proud to be part of a movement which encourages trust over suspicion; kindness over greed.

We cannot forecast with any certainty what the outcomes of 2021 will be. But, to paraphrase Kurt Vonnegut, we will help each other get through this thing together, whatever it is.

Anthony Bennett
CEO
OUR IMPACT

Reboot the Future is working with young people and leaders to build a compassionate and sustainable future.

All underpinned by our own take on an essential truth: to treat others and the planet as you would wish to be treated.

In the year of the pandemic we engaged thousands of people to ask: how do we reboot the future?

EDUCATION

216,000 educators used our Global Dimension platform, where we curate 1000s of resources from +250 top publishers on global issues.

15,000 teachers were supported to bring global connection, conversation and compassion to their classrooms and remote learning.

5,000 classrooms received our free global learning wall-planner, focused this year on values for a connected world.

1,500 people across 10 countries participated in our #RebootingEducation campaign to explore how Covid-19 is changing our ideas about education.

LEADERS

Over 200 thought-leaders took part in our online discussions #GoodAfterCovid19.

Over 6,000 individuals attended our events, talks and public appearances.

60 leaders took part in an Imaginal Conversation hosted by Reboot.

18 students participated in our pilot Leadership & Nature Masterclass.
Our new and improved Global Dimension platform went live in December.

Global Dimension is the leading platform for Global Learning in the UK, supporting a community of 15,000 teachers to bring global connection, conversation and compassion into the classroom.

With a design informed by teachers throughout 2020, the new Global Dimension platform now includes personalised content, teacher recommendations, and ‘In Focus’ topics to help teachers react to global affairs. We secured a pro-bono partnership with Disqus, worth £6,000 annually, which has allowed us to introduce discussion forums onto Global Dimension.

In January 2021, as part of UNESCO’s #LearningPlanet Festival (online) for UN International Day of Education, Reboot the Future hosted a teacher event to celebrate the launch of Global Dimension with globally renowned Climate Scientist Johan Rockstrom.

In July 2020, we launched our Global Learning Wall Planner focused on the theme ‘Values for a Connected World’. The Wall Planner helps students to expand their understanding of key global days and to learn the importance of values in creating a more compassionate, sustainable future. We commissioned a series of illustrations to give the Wall Planner a unique identity and distributed 5,000 copies for the start of the academic year in September 2020, and will look to increase the print volume in 2021/22.
In May 2020 we launched #RebootingEducation, an open conversation to capture what we have learnt about education during the pandemic, and to explore a new vision of education, one that nurtures our ability to connect with each other and the rich ecosystems that support us.

Through a live-streamed discussion, interviews and surveys, we engaged over 1,500 people from education, business, government, civil society and young people, across 10 countries.

What emerged is a set of themes that will underpin a series of actions, activities and resources through our teacher platform, Global Dimension, and we hope will offer ideas to other organisations who are also thinking about how to reboot the future through education.

As schools went back in autumn, we extended the campaign further through a collaboration with Development Education Centre South Yorkshire (DECSY), Global Learning London and the Our Shared World coalition on a video bringing together parents, teachers and children to ask some big questions about the future of education.

Through the live discussion, in-depth interviews, and a survey, four themes emerged as central to #rebootingeducation:

- **VALUES**
- **CONNECTION**
- **LEARNER’S VOICE**
- **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

The insights from #RebootingEducation can be viewed on our web page, including our report. This work will underpin Reboot’s education strategy, and we hope will offer ideas to other organisations who are also interested in this agenda.
As lockdown began to bite in earlier Spring 2020 many new initiatives bubbled into life as responses to Covid19.

GoodAfterCovid was our unique response, developed closely with Carlo Giardinetti of Franklin University & Sara Roversi of the Future Food Institute. These live-streamed discussions explored what GoodAfterCovid looks like. Bringing together leading voices, along with members of the public, GoodAfterCovid provided a laboratory to ask the question: how we can build a more compassionate, equitable and sustainable future as we emerge from the pandemic.

Each event was on a different theme, but always had at its heart the question- what do we want the world to look like after this? And how do we get there?

We engaged over 200 speakers across our 9 events

With over 5,000 viewers in total

Discussions were deliberately ambitious, progressive and optimistic with a unique ‘fishbowl’ format including provocation statements by select thought leaders, quick-fire responses from carefully curated subject experts, culminating in an open source discussion to admit multiple and diverse voices.

Speakers have included an array of global experts and innovators including renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Paul Polman (IMAGINE), Peter Blom (Triodos Bank), Jonathon Porritt (Forum for the Future), Jude Kelly (WOW - Women on the World) and Francois Taddei (Center for Research and Interdisciplinary) and Joysy John (Nesta).

GoodAfterCovid has established itself as a rich source of ideas as to how we are going to reshape our world. The discussions are all available on the #GoodAfterCovid19 YouTube channel and website, and we are now working towards a plenary session in March 2021 to celebrate and synthesize the insights from this year.
“THERE’S GROWING CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE DEPENDENCY OF OUR LIVELIHOODS ON NATURE....WE ARE LEARNING FROM COVID-19 THAT WE NEED MORE HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS AND NOT PROBLEM-SOLVING ACTIONS THAT CREATE MORE PROBLEMS.”

Peter Blom, CEO Triodos Bank

Previous Good After COVID19 discussions:

First edition
Science and spirituality for the future

Towards the tipping point
How should schools reboot the future?

The first millennial edition
How can values reboot our financial systems?

Inequalities from farm to fork: where do we start?
How can the arts reboot the future?

“THERE’S SO MANY PEOPLE IN NEED AND ARTISTS PROVIDE SOME KIND OF HOPE WITHOUT WHICH NONE OF US CAN EXIST.”

Yo-Yo Ma, International Cellist, Arts Fishbowl
CAN CONVERSATIONS REBOOT THE FUTURE?

Imaginal Conversations enable participants to connect more meaningfully to themselves, others and the planet, to live the Golden Rule more fully.

When we set out to create Imaginal Conversations in early 2020, we said we wanted to create space for the conversations normal times don’t allow for, but that we need to have. Our aim was to rekindle, rebuild and strengthen our broken connection with the planet and each other. A broken connection which, we believe, is stopping us from feeling deeply enough to care and act at scale.

We wanted to test whether, through conversation, we could build resilient leaders, individuals and communities committed to making the bold changes towards a sustainable and compassionate world.

What are Imaginal Conversations?

Conversations are personal, intimate, facilitated experiences, typically 3 to 4 hours in length with small to medium groups of participants. We developed four related themes for exploration and we decided to call them Imaginal Conversations. Our themes were:

1. Exploring the Golden Rule in relation to ‘self’ – understanding how to live a good life, all the way to the very end, through a conversation on ‘Living a Life of Meaning and Dying Wise’.

2. Connecting the Golden Rule to ‘our planet’ - awakening our connection with life and discovering that we can actually love the natural world, very fiercely.

3. Connecting with ‘the other’ and awakening our innate capacity for empathy, in order to create new possibilities for living – whilst being different and holding profound disagreements.

4. Our relationship with ‘deep time’ - understanding where we sit in the continuum of time and applying the Golden Rule to our past (ancestors) and our future (generations to come).

Whilst each in the series is unique, each conversation creates spaces for listening, reconsidering and contemplating the seemingly impossible: a sustainable, loving world.

In 2020 our four themes have been developed, tested and revised, working closely with our partner Leaders Quest.

- 60 individuals engaged in a series of intimate online conversations ranging from 2 to 4 hours
- 17 conversations hosted engaging individuals from a diverse range of sectors and countries
- Outstanding feedback received: “novel, important, authentic, heart-opening”
- 75% of attendees felt a deeper connection to self/others/nature as a result

We will be bringing Imaginal Conversations to the world in 2021. Our aim is that Imaginal Conversations becomes a core part of the Reboot offer - enabling participants to connect more meaningfully to themselves, others and the planet, to live the Golden Rule more fully.

“The concept about doing things now for the benefit of ‘those unborn’ is so powerful, and yet so unpractised within our society. I have already started to bring this principle into my work, and how our decisions now might affect those who live in 200 years or more.”

Becky Burchell, Arts Producer and Curator
A MASTERCLASS IN LEADERSHIP AND NATURE

What would it look like if those in leadership adopted the Golden Rule?

How would our professional lives change if we were truly re-connected to nature? And how would business change if we brought our “whole selves” to work?

These were some of the questions we sought to explore in the 4 day Masterclass in Leadership & Nature delivered at Franklin University in October 2020, as part of the MSc in International Management (Responsible Management and Climate Action). The Masterclass was developed in partnership with the University following our successful pilot in 2019.

Across the four days, 20 sessions were delivered by 11 speakers, both in-person and remotely, including Darja Dubravcic (Biomimicry Switzerland), Chief Economist, Author and Activist, John Perkins, and Paul Polman.

85% of students rated the workshop positively and students most enjoyed the learning that took place in nature, the diversity of the speakers, the interactive sessions, and the practical elements of the workshop that relate to the workplace. The workshop successfully encouraged self-exploration, with students reflecting deeply on their own leadership and how the Golden Rule can support this.

“I LEARNED THAT RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP DOES NOT SIMPLY START WITH AWARENESS AND END WITH ACTION. VISION, IMAGINATION AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY MUST ALL BE INCORPORATED AND ADDRESSED IF WE ARE TO MAKE A GENUINE, LASTING DIFFERENCE.

I LEARNED MY CORE LEADERSHIP VALUE IS VULNERABILITY AND I LOVED THAT THIS WORKSHOP EMBRACED THIS IN ME.”

Student
FINANCES

INCOME

TOTAL INCOME: £356,678

- Core funding: £189,972
- Trusts & Foundations: £78,073
- Individual donors: £58,000
- Gift aid: £15,000
- Sales: £7,549

EXPENDITURE

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £347,176

- Core operating costs: £128,860
- Events & programmes: £109,400
- Global Dimension & Education: £80,993
- Communications & publications: £18,199
- Legal & professional fees: £9,725
THANKS TO…

Thank you to all who help amplify our messages and promote a return to The Golden Rule as a unifying principle for our future.

THE FOUNDER IMAGINALS:

Al Gore  
Jonathon Porritt  
Lord Mark Malloch-Brown  
Paul Polman  
Prof. Muhammed Yunus  
Jane Corbett  
Dr. Thomas Lovejoy  
William McDonough  
Craig Kielburger  
Dr. David Fleming  
Pauline Tangiora  
Prof. Johan Rockström  
John Perkins  
Stella Wheeldon  
Peter Bakker  
Antony Jenkins  
Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim  
Dov Seidman  
Tom Szaky  
Steve Waygood  
Claire Nuovian  
Bishop Marcello Sánchez Sorondo

Laura Giadorou Koch,  
CEO of Dolium Wines  
Mike Hoffman,  
Chairman of Changing our World  
Raj Joshi, Founder,  
Bridging Ventures  
Shelley Zalis, CEO,  
The Female Quotient

SUPPORTERS:

Thank you to the many individuals and organisations who, in 2020, have contributed ideas, in-kind and financial support to the foundation. In particular:

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
Development Education Centre  
South Yorkshire  
Disqus  
Franklin University Switzerland  
Future Food Institute  
Global Learning London  
Leaders Quest  
#LearningPlanet Festival  
Real Leaders Magazine  
Said Business School  
And our Board of Trustees who collectively underwrite the core costs of the foundation.

OUR AMBASSADORS:

Stephen Vasconcellos-Sharpe  
(Co-founder)  
Barbara Bulc,  
Founder & President, Global Development