

## **A guide to the topics in the *Joining a Global Conversation* survey**

If you want to know what an “affinity circle” is, are uncertain what to choose or can’t find a topic of interest to you, please see the Questions and Answers at the bottom of this list.

### **Arts**

This includes all kinds of artistic endeavour in all media, as well as being a teacher or student of any art.

### **Communications**

This includes working in the fields of journalism, publishing and media (including digital media and social networking), entertainment and hospitality.

### **Confidence for complex challenges**

Regardless of one’s area of work or engagement, how does a practitioner bring their warrior training into whatever is happening in one’s own life or to the complexities of social and organizational challenges.

### **Economics and business**

This includes the fields of finance, marketing, human resource management, a wide range of business activities, consulting, entrepreneurship and more.

### **Education**

This includes all forms of involvement in the field of education, including all levels of teachers and students, and all levels of education.

### **Environmental action**

This includes involvement in ecological and environmental sustainability, “Living Green”, as well as involvement in agriculture, farming and gardening.

### **Family care**

Includes parenting of children and young people, as well as caring for other family members and the elderly.

### **Health care**

This includes all forms of health care, including mental health care and palliative care. It also includes those involved in caring for the health and well being of animals.

**In between**

This includes all those situations where you might be “in between” – a life transition, changing jobs or seeking work, in poor health, going through difficult times, not sure what direction to take in your life – and wanting to talk to others who are also “in between”.

**Inter-faith dialogue and chaplaincy**

This includes collaborating with leaders and members of other faith communities, participating in inter-faith dialogue and serving as chaplains in prisons or other institutions.

**Law and justice**

This includes all aspects of the legal profession, the administration of justice, and human rights protection

**Leadership training**

This includes all forms of conventional or unconventional training and development for leaders in all fields, and the design of systems and programs that develop leadership, management and related life skills.

**Non-profit engagement**

Includes volunteering, helping charities, being a donor or supporter. This includes those involved in international development work or other kinds of service.

**Politics /activism**

This includes a wide range of involvement, from participation in political parties, through to other forms of political activism, including doing one’s best to be well informed about current political events.

**Public service**

This includes a wide range of government service, and service in the military, police, and public safety agencies.

**Shifting culture and global values**

This includes all forms of reflection, analysis, research, discussion and involvement in understanding existing cultural and global values and the contemplation and encouragement of a worldwide cultural paradigm shift.

**Social innovation and systems transformation**

This involves contemplating models, methods and designs for new ways in which societies and systems can nurture greater creativity and human potential to meet the challenges we all face.

**Social work**

This includes clinical social work, caring for people with disabilities and special needs, working in prisons and community building.

**Sports and exercise**

This involves a wide range of participation in sports, including coaching and leading physical fitness programs .

**Youth engagement**

This includes all forms of youth work, organizing, collectives, as well as young people engaged in all forms of conversations and activities.

**Other**

This could be a topic you are interested in, a field of activity, or a conversation you are part of and want to share with others.

## **Questions and Answers**

**Q. What will happen in the affinity groups? (This may influence what I select.)**

**A.** First, you will be introduced to other Shambhalians who selected the same topic, and share your experience with each other. Initial conversations will likely focus on people's efforts to bring Shambhala vision into this particular aspect of their lives. Common areas of interest and experience will likely emerge, leading to various possibilities such as: creating networks of mutual support, establishing networks of people in similar professions, developing projects based on common expertise or aspiration, working on a deeper understanding of the Shambhala teachings in relation to daily life and activity . . . there is no set plan and what you bring to the group yourself will help shape what happens!

**Q. What do I select if I can't find the topic I am most interested in?**

**A.** Please select "Other" and write in a pithy description of the topic that interests you. We will try to link you up with others having the same interest. To get started, however, we may have to suggest you join an affinity group that seems most related to your area of interest.

**Q. What do I select if I want to join an affinity group that is more general than any of these topics?**

**A.** Please select "Other" and write in "General". This will be a group that offers conversation around *The Shambhala Principle* in general.

**Q. What do I select if I have several different areas of activity and interest?**

**A.** Please think of the topic that you feel you might have the most to contribute to, or the topic that you can imagine having a really great conversation about. You get to make two choices in the survey, and once all the affinity groups are launched, you can change groups. This will all evolve, depending on what people wish to do!