

## Conference theme.

***We can change the world, Re-arrange the world***  
***Moral courage is more difficult to display than physical courage***

The theme of the Conference is leadership. The title of the Conference, *We can change the world, Re-arrange the world*, comes from the Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young song, *Chicago*. The lyrics of the song refer to the Chicago Seven (originally Eight) as there were seven defendants: Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, David Dellinger, Tom Hayden, Rennie Davis, John Froines, and Lee Weiner, charged with conspiracy, inciting to riot, and other charges related to protests that took place in Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Bobby Seale, the eighth man charged, had his trial severed during the proceedings, lowering the number from eight to seven. The final verdict of the trial at which the defendants were found guilty was handed down in 1969, forty years ago.

The trial at the time was controversial as it was seen by many in the United States of America, as a class of generations in a time of crisis involving issues of racism, the Vietnam War and student rights as eighteen year olds had just won the right to vote during the late 1960s. However, in the words of one of the Chicago Seven, Tom Hayden, “when the core demands of mass movement appear to be achieved, people tend to refocus on their everyday lives”<sup>i</sup>, so why use these words as the title for a conference? Hayden goes on to say that, “it is time for a new generation to get angry...before it is too late”<sup>ii</sup>. This is why these words are the title of this Conference, and more importantly, why the theme of this Conference is leadership. An emphasis on how your generation can lead change by being the leaders of change.

The sub-theme of the Conference, *Moral courage is more difficult to display than physical courage*, is reference to next step of change, having the courage to speak out and put yourself into a moral leadership position that can promote change. Do you have the courage to be an agent of change in your school and in the world?

The core focus of the Conference is upon the Round Square pillar of leadership, authentic leadership to bring about change in your school and your world. Other Round Square pillars will provide the framework for the development of an understanding of what leadership is and the development of leadership skills. Besides the development of the leadership skills through guest speakers, questioning leaders about their style of leadership, workshop and baraza discussions, along with leadership in action through service. The Conference outcome will be the Westminster Accords. These Accords will be a series of practical measures, derived from baraza recommendations, to enhance student leadership in Round Square schools, which delegates can take back to their schools to explore with their peers and teacher mentors. (They are not binding, nor do they represent a commitment, but they aim to provide practical outcomes from the Conference, created by the delegates.)

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<sup>i</sup> T. Hayden, R. Sossi and F. Condon, *Voices of the Chicago Eight*, City Lights Books, San Francisco, 2008, P. 17.

<sup>ii</sup> *ibid.* P. 18.