

## Welcome

### **Cameron Taylor, Executive Director Inspire Dialogue Foundation**

The Inspire Dialogue Foundation has been established as a creative forum to help shift perceptions of ourselves as a human community. The time has come to view ourselves as global citizens, and this is one way to start.

The overarching theme during these two days of discussion is Universal Responsibility. This concept is critical as we evolve to our next stage as a human society. In developing this event, many people have asked about outcomes. What are we hoping to get out of this? Why should people want to take two days from their busy schedules to sit and talk?

We created the format of this event following the vision of an inclusive dialogue emerging from presence. As mentor and host, Lord Rowan Williams has been integral to every part of our work preparing for the event. When His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Cambridge in 2013, he asked to come back for dialogue, not simply talks. This is our answer to his request.

It will be a privilege to witness and share the conversation between Lord Williams, His Holiness and the whole group. We really don't know what is going to happen; we are taking a risk. Although we may have a diversity of views, I hope that we may leave with a sense of common purpose.

During our time together, I hope many of us will become friends and collaborate together in ways we may not have thought of before. We hope to create a presence, meetings, conversations and connections across disciplines and age groups that will continue beyond this event.

This is our inaugural event. We hope you enjoy and value these two days.

*Cameron Taylor*