

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands



Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands is social entrepreneur, writer, strategist and dialogue facilitator. Her work revolves around social innovation and intergenerational dialogue on sustainability as well as socio-economic issues. She is a passionate advocate of systemic change through human-designed solutions and emancipation of 'unexpected experts'. In 2004, she started the Reading & Writing Foundation, which has developed over time into a team of 100 professionals working to prevent and reduce illiteracy. In 2009, she founded Missing Chapter Foundation, which facilitates dialogue between children and leaders (originating from the notion that decisions are more durable and valuable if they take into account the sharp insights, questions and solutions from children and teenagers) and engages in advocacy about the practical implementation of Art. 12 of the UN Convention of the Right of the Child. In 2017 she founded Number 5 Foundation, whose mission is connecting for impact on complex societal issues. Princess Laurentien holds a range of honorary functions in the fields of literacy, European culture and conservation, one of them being UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development (since 2009). She also wrote several (children's) books, including the Mr Finney-series.