



International ROTARY Assembly Children for World Peace



TEACHING RESILIENCE ONE CONNECTION AT A TIME..



*The International ROTARY Assembly “Children for World Peace”
Sofia, Bulgaria, 10 - 17th of August 2019*

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The world in the 21st century needs more than ever, better understanding between people and countries.

We need friendship, love and compassion, the best weapons we can use to help promote PEACE in the world.

This all begins from childhood when children through proper upbringing and education could become better human beings and good friends instead of becoming bitter enemies and successful fighters. They need to avoid conflicts, hostilities and wars in the future.

Up to 1989 in Sofia, which is the capital of Bulgaria, **four International Children's Assemblies "Banner of Peace"** (a festival of children's art under the auspices of UNESCO) had taken place. More than 4,000 children from around the world participated. The last Assembly achieved the outstanding record of welcoming participants from 138 countries.

The Assembly "Banner of Peace" had been declared by The United Nations in 1987, as 'THE MESSENGER OF PEACE' due to its great success.

Watch a video of this event on the you tube link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv_F1kz1lvE

The symbols of Peace in Sofia, Bulgaria, dedicated to children – Peace Bells

The *Kambanite* (The Bells) monument and park, is dedicated to children all over the world. The monument was erected by Lyudmila Zhivkova, the daughter of the former head of state, Todor Zhivkov. Ms Zhivkova who was a respected patron of the arts and culture, established the monument through the "Banner of Peace" organization with support from UNESCO.

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Kambanite Monument in Sofia, Bulgaria - <https://youtu.be/oGj98Q7IPhc>

The park is made up of a circular pattern of bells donated by different countries. These are built around a concrete tower holding seven more bells, meant to represent the seven continents. Today many of the original bells are missing, but there are still signs of a bygone era: bells from Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, the USSR and both the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. There are also bells from North and South Korea, Syria, Angola, China, Thailand, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe and many other countries around the globe.

The bell of Bulgaria is 1300 kg, commemorating 1300 years of Bulgarian history as of 1981.

There are 91 Peace Bells now, including some new additions – donated by Bulgarian Rotarians, Pope John Paul II, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria and Israel.

The Proposal:

The New International Rotary Assembly “Children for World Peace”(IRCA) will be organised every 2 years for 7 days in August, hosted by different countries, starting from Sofia. Bulgaria being a previous successful host of children's assemblies has been selected as the first host country, followed by London, UK, which is also a joint partner of this project. In this manner, the World's Children's Capital will move on a rotation principle to other countries and continents every two years.

Gifted and talented children from different countries coming from various religions, races and backgrounds, will get together to play, sing, draw pictures, cite poems, participate in competitions, discuss and become symbols of unity, creativity and beauty in the name of the world peace. They will have a very enjoyable time and start long lasting friendships

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Benefits:

- 1] Build lasting relationships across borders;
- 2] Focus on young Children **ages 10-14 years** with open minds to broaden their horizons, to be trained and educated attending peace building programmes;
- 3] Building friendships through integration and participation.

The Participants:

The event will comprise the participation of 350 children, 100 of whom will be Bulgarian children for a period of 7 days. It is anticipated that there will be 100 adults (Rotarians/Parents) accompanying the children who are from abroad.

The Peace Education Programme:

1. To prepare Peace Education and Training Materials
 - Invite Speakers and Guests involved in Peace Building activities, including Nobel Peace Prize winners;
 - Rotary Peace Fellows would be involved in the organising of the events and participate and lead the Peace educational and training process;
 - Rotary Interact - involve them at the IRCA, involve them to assist the participating children in their home countries to organise Rotary Interact at their schools;
 - Split children participants in groups of 10, based on their interests and achievements indifferent areas, after observing their activities and interactions, as well as success at the peace education and training courses, in order for their future activities to be monitored and supported by Rotary Interact.
2. Start and establish Rotary International Children's Peace Park at the Monument "The Peace Bells"
 - Invite the Rotary Guardians of the participating children, whose bells are missing to send one - could be done with the help of the Rotary Districts in respective countries;

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- Build Camps and picnic facilities in the Park for children from all over the world to use and organise events in the future;
- Plant trees in the Park - one for each participating child, as a symbol of peace and friendship;
- Set up a covered stage for future children's peace performances;

3. The Children's Guardians & Parents, Rotarians themselves, and the other Rotary Leaders /e.g. Clubs Presidents, District Governors, will make an assessment of the sustainability and be required to:

- Monitor the establishment of future Rotary Interact Clubs in their schools;
- Continue the dialogue across border among the participating children, organise future exchange of peace training and peace events in different countries;
- Create a database of all the participants, who will continue to be in touch themselves, but also will be contacted on a regular basis by the Members of the National Rotary Peace Committees from the participating countries;
- To set up a dedicated website, which is to be maintained and managed after the event. Social media needs to be integrated within the site where the children can share their experiences via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

4. Prepare memorabilia for participating children

- Rotary Peace Keeper trophy with Certificate, commemorating the participation at the Assembly;
- Rotary Peace Flag for every participant;
- Rotary Peace Medals with Certificates for the winners in different categories;

The Bulgarian Parliament will be converted to the International Children's Parliament for celebrating World Peace for one day during the IRCA.

The day will be devoted to a peace assembly, where the participating children will be given topics to discuss in the style of the United Nations and to send an Appeal for Peace in the World to the United Nations. They will elect their own Chairperson, who will send the Appeal to UN.

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Observers will include **UNICEF Director General, UNESCO Director General, RI President, Rotary District Governors and Clubs Presidents, Bulgarian and International Politicians and Dignitaries.**

The Peace Harmony Programme:

Over a two day period, the children will participate in excursions to interesting sites and monuments and have evening entertainment such as friendship evenings, puppet shows, musical performances, meetings with famous authors of children's books.

During the last two days of the IRCA event, after completing the Educational Peace Program and Training, the participating children will be involved in practical and engaging events, such as singing, dancing, painting, drawing, acting, pantomime, sports – all dedicated to peace.

The Draft Budget :

To be prepared

Funding :

- 1] *Air Travel and Accommodation to be paid for by the rotary clubs, sponsoring the participants.
- 2] Host City and corporate sponsors will contribute to the overall Security and Local Transport, while the state has given full support.
- 3] Rotarian Doctors will volunteer to provide First Aid and Medical Assistance.
- 4] Rotary Global Grant for overall contribution.
- 5] Registration fees will be minimal and help to fund shortfalls. Any excess will roll over to the next Assembly in London in 2021.

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