



GALLIPOLI PEACE INITIATIVE PROJECT

"PEACE IS POSSIBLE"

**ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL PREPARED BY JOHN BASARIN & JENNIFER SCOTT
FOLLOWING ON FROM**

THE ROTARY *ISTANBUL PEACE DECLARATION*, 18 APRIL 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

Rotary International is a non-political, non-religious, voluntary organisation with 1.2 million members around the world. Since 1905, Rotary continues to assist people and communities in need. At the Tokyo Convention in 1928 Paul Harris said ""The most virtuous war is the war against war itself. " Hence it is no surprise to note that one of the main areas of focus of the Rotary is *Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution*. Rotary's 4th Object is "the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a worldwide fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service".

Whilst the UN Charter was being developed in 1945, Rotary International contributed to the debate and the development of the UN ideals. It has also championed the eradication of polio and it has nearly succeeded in doing so. With these humanitarian credentials, Rotarians worldwide believe that Peace is one of the most basic and important human rights. Without peace, no other humanitarian effort can fully succeed.

2. PURPOSE

With the attendance of several hundred Rotarians from Australia, New Zealand, Turkey and many other parts of the world, a Peace Conference was held in Istanbul on 18 April 2015. The purpose was to mark the Centenary of the tragic Gallipoli campaign of 1915 and showcase the friendship and peace that developed between these three countries. The peace and friendship, an unintended consequence of Gallipoli campaign, can be an example to the world community through Rotary International.

3. THE DOCUMENT

The document presented at the end of this page, is the signed copy of the Istanbul Peace Declaration, penned by Rotarian Sir Anand Satyanand, Former Governor-General of New Zealand.

The signatories, apart from Sir Anand include Rotarian Dr Peter Hollingworth, Former Governor-General of Australia, 2014/2015 Rotary Governors Ian Scott [D-9650, Sydney], Murray Verso [D-9800, Melbourne] and Mufit Ulke [D-2420, Istanbul]. It is endorsed by many Districts.

4. ACTION PLAN

This Peace Declaration, if not acted upon, will just stay as a fine document. So, it is imperative that an action plan be developed, such as the one proposed here. The arising project is entitled “Gallipoli Peace Project”.

5. AIM

We are seeking to build ongoing practical and sustainable peace, not only between our nations, but also within our nations and communities. What do we mean by peace? Peace is much more than simply the absence of conflict and the stability of formal structures such as governments and infrastructure. Peace begins within oneself; it is a sense of well-being. It extends to basic rights, such as freedom from violence in the home, as well as the opportunity for education and healthcare.

6. HOW?

The Gallipoli Peace Initiative [i.e. the Action Plan] is based on the platform of creating an opportunity to:

- Bring together Rotarians and community members of different cultural beliefs/faiths and backgrounds,
- Share and learn of each other’s personal stories, values and beliefs,
- Break down barriers and broaden our understanding of others,
- Create practical peace within communities and to initiate positive social change.

Perhaps the following quote, an old proverb, sums up the outcomes we envision:

“If there is peace in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.
If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world”

7. THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ACTION PLAN – “GALLIPOLI PEACE INITIATIVE PROJECT”

The Gallipoli Peace Initiative proposal involves the 21 Rotary Districts of Australia, 6 of New Zealand and 3 Turkey with the following main points:

1. In April every year the Rotarians and peace and conflict specialists will participate in a one-week peace related workshop;
2. The initial topics:
 - a. 2016 - Preventing and managing family violence,

- b. 2017 – Pathways to peace, building trust within communities,
 - c. 2018 – Building peaceful nations.
- 3. Two out of three years, the workshop will be held in Turkey. Every third year, the event will be held in either Australia or New Zealand.
- 4. After the workshop, the participants will have the opportunity to build on their knowledge and understanding by:
 - a. visiting some of Turkish cultural and historical sites for one week;
 - b. attending the Gallipoli ceremonies on Anzac Day;
 - c. undertaking a one-week community project;
- 5. The participating Rotarians will self nominate and their Clubs will endorse the application based on their own criteria which might include the Rotarians' background, interest, future commitment to the project, and similar points.
- 6. The total project time is about three weeks and the project budget is estimated to be \$6000 per Rotarian for Australian and New Zealanders (travelling to Turkey) including workshop registration, most meals, accommodation & airfares. The cost for Turkish participants will be approximately \$3,000, when the event is in Turkey.
- 7. Depending on the decisions of the Boards of the participating Clubs, the Rotarians are expected to cover at least the 75% of the cost of their attendance and the balance being funded by their Club.
- 8. The program will be reviewed after three years to ensure the outcomes are being met.

8. THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE

The following Rotarians are members of an Ad-Hoc Committee, the genesis of which was at Gallipoli during the Centenary commemorations, under the Chairmanship of PP John Basarin:

New Zealand: Sir Anand Satyananad, PP Allan Lill

Australia: PDG John Kevan, DG Melodie Kevan, PDG Jennifer Scott, PDG Ian Scott, PDG Bob Cooper, PDG Murray Verso, President Melissa Hebbard, Marcus Falay, and DG David Tolstrup [co-ordinator]

Turkey: PDG Mufit Ulke, DG Mehmet Gorkey, DG Canan Ersoz , DG Reha Arkin

9. THE NEXT STEPS AND THE TIMETABLE

It is envisaged that April 2016 will be the inaugural program start date. To achieve this, the following timetable is proposed:

August-September 2015: Call for nominations from Rotary Club Presidents in Australia, New Zealand and Turkey

October- November 2015: Nominations confirmed. The itinerary and costing are confirmed

February 2016: The arrangements in Turkey are in place

March 2016: The final organisational aspects are in place

April/May 2016: The program is implemented.



April, 18

DECLARATION

We, the several hundred members of Rotary International, drawn from Rotary Districts in Turkey, Australia and New Zealand attending the Peace Conference in Istanbul Turkey in April 2015

Recalling with respect the lives lost 100 years ago in the undertaking of the First World War

Deeply appreciative of the peace that has subsequently attended relations between Turkey and Australia and New Zealand

Fortified by the bonds which people from our three countries share through membership of the Rotary organisation

Inspired by the addresses and contributions that have focused attention on the sacrifices of men and women in the interests of achieving eventual peace 100 years ago

Further inspired by the challenge to ensure peace in an increasingly troubled world notwithstanding substantial progress in the 20th century

Regretting that there remain many challenges to peace in our contemporary world

Dispirited at the unlikelihood of peace being achieved in the immediate future Notwithstanding remaining resolute about the desirability of peace being achieved

Expressing confidence in the membership of Rotary being a valuable contributor in the adoption of peace by countries and their citizens world wide

Do hereby resolve in a manner that will become known as the Istanbul Declaration

First that peace remains an aspiration worth pursuing in the interests of all the world's citizens

Secondly that the achievement of peace is a challenge taken up by all delegates attending

And Thirdly that our efforts in taking this up is underpinned by our membership of Rotary International

Dated at Istanbul Turkey this 18th day of April 2015

ISTANBUL ROTARY PEACE DECLARATION - 18 APRIL 2015

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Rtn. Sir Anand Satyanand
Former Governor General
of New Zealand



Rtn. Dr. Peter Hollingworth
Former Governor General
of Australia



DG Rtn. Ian Scott
D. 9685



DG Rtn. Murray Verso
D. 9890



DG Rtn. Müfit Ülke



Note: A joint Rotary program to advance this Istanbul Peace Declaration will be developed with consultation by the Districts of the three countries, in the near future.