

“One Rotarian’s Perspective and Ideas for a PeacePlus Peace Education Program
Locally, Regionally and Internationally”
A 2 PAGE SUBMISSION FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
- TO STIMULATE AND INSPIRE DIALOGUE AMONGST ROTARIANS

Our Mission

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and **advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace** through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The Mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians **to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace** through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Challenge

Rotary has the potential to lead the world in the co-creation of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, approved by almost every country in the world pursuant to the United Nations Culture of Peace Program. Rotary can be and do much more towards its mission when it applies all of its leadership, management and business acumen to the challenge.

It is time to focus our immense resources (human, information, financial, and time) directly on the greatest threats to peace, rather than secondary and tertiary activities.

There is a preponderance of material pointing at peace and violence illiteracy and lack of understanding as the major cause of violence (or threat to peace), and education as the primary solution (to raise peace consciousness, change attitudes and behaviours, and provide the necessary skills and tools). The PeacePlus Proposal is based primarily on investing in peace education as a way that Rotary can best accomplish its Mission (starting with Rotary’s own peace education, literacy and understanding).

We are all peace illiterate to varying degrees – some more than others. Our challenge will be to bridge the gaps of varying peace literacy. I would suggest that peace illiteracy and lack of understanding is the greatest threat to peace. It is the time of great world need for Rotary to fulfil its role as servant leaders, model the Culture of Peace of which we talk, and set an example for the transformation of organizations, communities and people from a culture of violence (that we have all grown up in) to a Culture of Peace. The challenge put to us is to put our differences, personalities and political agendas aside and walk the talk of peace.

The Prescription (Proposal or Solution)

It is suggested that the PolioPlus Program has provided a perfect model for Rotary to follow in order to lead the world in the co-creation of a Culture of Peace, and to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, **the support of education**, and the alleviation of poverty through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Note that the emphasis is on education. Let us apply what we did for polio to peace.

It is forecast that approximately \$18 billion will have been spent on Polio eradication between 1985 and 2018. Eradicating polio in the US is estimated to have saved some \$220 billion since 1955. An economic

analysis by infectious-disease experts estimated that by preventing some 8 million cases of polio paralysis from 1985 to 2035, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) will create net gains of \$40 to \$50 billion, mostly in the developing economies. (Source: <http://qz.com/191860/why-its-worth-it-to-eradicate-polio/>)

Like polio, violence is a disease (which is actually much more costly in human and financial terms than polio). We have the antidote. It is peace education. All we have to do is help inoculate all the children and in the process the adults of the world (starting with our own communities) with peace education, to reject violence, to empower (as an alternative to helplessness), and ultimately to make wise choices possible. The prescription or proposal is ultimately for the world to invest at least \$1 billion per year supporting peace education (which would be only .1% of the money spent on worldwide armament budgets annually). Rotary has the opportunity, skills and track record to lead this greatest of humanitarian causes.

In the process of working up towards such a grand vision, it is incumbent upon us to refine this proposal to meet the various stakeholder needs. We expect to submit this proposal to Rotary Clubs, Districts, Zones, RI, TRF, the Rotary Action Group For Peace, Board Members, Presidents and Incoming Leaders for their input and support. We expect to launch Pilot Projects to begin the demonstration of what it means to bring our leadership, management and business acumen to the peace challenge, and to model the Culture of Peace.

For More Information

A copy of an in-depth 39 page proposal is attached, addressing the issues in more detail.

Our Request

I would ask the Rotary Club(s) and RAGFP to consider the PeacePlus Proposal and consider either voting in support, revising it, and/or tabling their own proposals to achieve our Rotary Mission of advancing peace and world understanding. We would work together to refine the best of the proposals. Then we would seek District(s) and Zone(s) support and work together to refine the best of the proposals. Then we would submit the best proposal(s) to RI for consideration.

I would ask our Rotary E-Club of One World, the Rotary Club of Winnipeg and RAGFP if they would be willing to co-host a Peace Conference September 24 – 28, 2016 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to brainstorm what a Rotary PeacePlus Program might look like, as an important element in building a best proposal to float up the Rotary hierarchy. This is amidst Rotary World Peace Partners ‘Peace Days Festival of Peace and Compassion’ September 11 - 25, 91st Rotary Goodwill meeting September 23 - 25 and the Rotary Joint Zone Institute for Zones 24 and 32 September 28 to October 1. It is also in the heart of Turtle Island, and in the Place of the Beginning and the Forks of Indigenous Peace Making according to local Indigenous mythology and oral history. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is of course at the Forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

Respectfully submitted by
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