



ROTARY BUILDS PEACE

Rotary believes that if concerned citizens work together to create peace locally, we can create lasting change globally.

INTRODUCTION

A HISTORY OF PEACEBUILDING

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We see peace not as an abstract concept but as a living, dynamic expression of human development. By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, which include poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and an unequal distribution of resources.

As early as 1934, we were encouraging conversations to build goodwill within and across cultures through our Institutes of International Understanding. The program brought together community leaders, prominent authors, economists, scientists, politicians, and commentators to discuss issues such as the economy, world peace, and scientific advances.

Rotary was present at the inception of the United Nations in 1945 and was one of only 42 organizations invited to serve as consultants to the U.S. delegation to the UN charter conference in San Francisco, California, USA. Throughout that process, Rotary members served as delegates, advisers, and consultants: guiding agendas, drafting resolutions, and helping resolve disputes between delegates.

Today Rotary holds the highest consultative status offered to a nongovernmental organization by the UN Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies.

We launched the Rotary Peace Centers program in 1999 to train new generations of peacebuilders, and the inaugural class of Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies in 2002. The newest Rotary Peace Center, at Makerere University in Uganda, is our first in Africa. It offers a postgraduate certificate to peace and development leaders who are from or who have worked in Africa to address challenges in the region.

We approach the concept of peace with cohesion, inclusivity, and a broad scope that finds more ways for people to get involved.

[Learn more about Rotary's peacebuilding history.](#)



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

Every year, Rotary selects some of the world's brightest and most dedicated professionals to study at seven Rotary Peace Centers around the world. Our more than 1,400 program alumni work in over 115 countries and serve as leaders in governments and nongovernmental organizations, education and research, law enforcement and the military, as well as in international organizations dedicated to peace.

Up to 130 students per year receive fully funded fellowships to pursue studies in peace and development. The fellowships pay for tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field study expenses for either a master's degree or a professional development certificate. The centers, hosted by premier universities around the world, provide customized studies and offer field-based learning opportunities.

[Learn more about the Rotary Peace Centers.](#)

“The fellowship opened up my thinking, created new pathways, provided a new set of tools, and most important, opened up a whole new network of people and resources.”

~ Charlie Allen, Rotary Peace Fellow
(Chula, 2010) and director of partnerships
at the Institute for Economics and Peace



MASTER'S PROGRAM

Fellows study peace and development issues with research-informed teaching and a diverse student body. The programs last 15 to 24 months and include a two- to three-month field study, which participants design. We partner with these universities:

- Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
- International Christian University, Japan
- University of Bradford, England
- University of Queensland, Australia
- Uppsala University, Sweden



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CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Experienced peace and development professionals gain practical skills during the one-year program to promote peace within their communities and across the globe. Fellows complete field studies and design and carry out a social change initiative. We partner with these universities:

- Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- Makerere University, Uganda



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS

ElsaMarie D'Silva (Chula, 2016) is the founder and CEO of [Safecity](#), a platform aimed at ending sexual harassment and domestic violence in India and around the world.



The Rotary Peace Fellowship program came at a point in my life where I wanted to validate my work. Some of the skills I took back from the fellowship include better communication in the nonviolent space. I feel supported by this community and can reach out to any peace fellow in the world.

Patrick Bwire (Duke-UNC, 2016-18) is a regional liaison officer for 16 countries with the Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in Uganda. He coordinates projects that prevent youths from being re-radicalized after conflicts and that transform them into champions of peace.



With my passion for peace, it gives me great joy whenever I am able to apply the peacebuilding skills I have today to transform the life of a person or community and contribute a piece of peace in this world. The Rotary Peace Fellowship granted me a great stepping stone in this journey.

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ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The [Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association](#) connects past peace fellows for networking and facilitates collaboration between them and Rotary clubs to promote peace around the globe.

- The association's [speaker database](#) connects Rotarians with alumni who are willing to speak at club meetings, for webinars, or during town hall meetings.
- The group's [YouTube channel](#) offers recordings of presentations by alumni.

AREA OF FOCUS: PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. That's why peacebuilding and conflict prevention is one of our causes. By carrying out service projects and by supporting our fellowships and scholarships, Rotary members take action to end conflict and create environments of peace.

GLOBAL GRANTS

Club and district projects that support education about and the practice of peacebuilding and conflict prevention around the world are eligible for global grants from The Rotary Foundation. [Global grants](#) support large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus.

The goals for promoting peace are to:

- Enhance the individual and community capacity for transforming conflict and building peace
- Educate and train community members in peace education, peace leadership, and conflict prevention and resolution
- Provide services that promote and support the social integration of vulnerable populations
- Improve dialogue and community dynamics regarding the use and management of shared resources
- Support career-minded professionals seeking to pursue graduate-level studies related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention





Yi-Yu Lai

Rotary global grant scholar (University of Hawai'i, 2019-20)

Yi-Yu Lai is an anthropology PhD student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA, focusing on Indigenous politics and political violence in the Philippines. He has also worked on Indigenous affairs in Taiwan. He uses both academic and social practices, actively participating in research groups and service organizations. Yi-Yu believes that if we are to be truly effective in bringing about change, we must rely on research as well as action. Yi-Yu hopes that his research can promote Indigenous equality and inclusion and bring about social reform.

ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS

Global grant scholarships fund graduate-level coursework or research for up to four years in fields related to all areas of focus, including peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has awarded more than 1,450 global grant scholarships, of which more than 450 have been within the area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARS



Mina Chiang
Rotary global grant scholar
(University of Sussex, 2017-18)

Through a Rotary global grant scholarship, Mina Chiang completed a master's degree at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, England.

"With classmates from more than 50 countries, this diverse and inclusive environment constantly blew my mind and widened my horizon," she says. "The experience transformed me into a global talent that will have a lot to contribute to the world."

After finishing the program, Mina worked as an independent consultant specializing in ending modern slavery. "There are still a whopping 40 million people today in modern slavery, including situations like human trafficking, forced labor, and forced marriage," she says.

In 2020, Mina became a board member of the Rotary Action Group

Against Slavery, where she works alongside Rotarians and Rotaractors who are also passionate about this issue.



Rotary global grant scholar Mina Chiang addresses the issue of modern slavery in Sri Lanka.

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery was the natural place for me to connect with Rotarians Rotary not only provided the scholarship to empower me with skills and knowledge that I can utilize today to end modern slavery, but [it's] also a pioneer on this social issue that I care [about] dearly. How amazing.

PARTNERS IN PEACE

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension ...
it is the presence of justice

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE

Rotary works with the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#), a leader in the study of peace and conflict, to address the causes of conflict and create conditions that foster peace.

The partnership focuses on education and training about Positive Peace. While negative peace is usually defined as the absence of violence, Positive Peace looks at the underlying conditions that lead to more peaceful societies, including good governance, access to needed services, a sound business environment, and respect for human rights.

Club members and community leaders can use these resources:

- The [Rotary Positive Peace Academy](#), a free online course
- A [Positive Peace presentation and facilitation guide](#)
- Our [Positive Peace in Action Guide](#) to help support the creation of Positive Peace workshops

[Learn more about Rotary's partnership with IEP.](#)

MEDIATORS BEYOND BORDERS INTERNATIONAL

Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) works with clubs and districts on peacebuilding and mediation skills to build stronger, more stable communities

MBBI and Rotary have worked together to:

- Reduce violence, strengthen the civil society, and hold people accountable through data and documentation in Indonesia
- Save lives and heal indigenous communities from the stigma and trauma of sexual violence in Colombia
- Develop regional groups of women as peacebuilders in South America, South East Asia, and West Africa
- Develop regional groups of peacebuilders in South America, South Asia, and West Africa

[MBBI's Peace Conversation Facilitation program](#) helps Rotarians handle difficult conversations in their clubs and communities. During this three-month program, Rotary members receive practical training to become peace facilitators and coaches. The members then help clubs organize discussions on topics such as interfaith conflict, homelessness, LGBTQ rights, human trafficking, and racial justice issues.

[Learn more about Rotary's partnership with MBBI.](#)





Charlie Masilae Hunt

I often say that the Rotary slogan “Service Above Self” is also the essence of what it means to be a Peace Corps volunteer. Pulling Peace Corps volunteers into the Rotary family after their service overseas gives them the opportunity to continue their Peace Corps service, which is the Third Goal of Peace Corps.

~ Charlie Masilae Hunt, a Rotarian, returned Peace Corps volunteer, and president of Partnering for Peace, a group that facilitates collaboration between Rotary and the Peace Corps

PEACE CORPS

Rotary and the Peace Corps share a focus on peace and volunteer work and have a global partnership to promote development and volunteer service. We collaborate to support community projects and offer training, education, and networking.

The Peace Corps in Tonga and the Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa have worked together to support locally led community projects in Tonga schools. They began supplying schools with age-appropriate, culturally relevant books and then expanded their scope to include a water project after a drought in 2015. The Nuku'alofa club provided the schools with water tanks, and Peace Corps volunteers taught community members how to maintain them.

[Learn more about Rotary's partnership with Peace Corps.](#)

SHELTERBOX

Founded by a Rotary club in 2000, ShelterBox provides emergency shelter and other essential items to families who have lost their homes to disaster. The aid can include tents, tarpaulins, and household necessities such as mattresses and children's clothing. Rotary works with ShelterBox by raising awareness about its work as well as providing support on the ground during disasters.

ShelterBox has helped displaced people inside Syria as well as refugee households in Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon and families moving through Greece. The organization also supports families displaced by conflict across the Lake Chad Basin.



Noor and her family live in a camp of displaced people in Syria. They had been cattle farmers but fled their home and lost everything when the Islamic State group took control. “ShelterBox came and gave us a tent and told us that it's ours from now on. My children were very excited, they jumped with joy, and drew a circle in the sands around the tent, and said, this is our house now,” Noor says.

[Learn more about Rotary's partnership with ShelterBox.](#)

PEACE PROGRAMS

Sometimes the best peace projects don't focus on the conflict itself, but rather initiate communication and cooperation between two parties ... [I]ntercountry meetings and projects not only lead to better understanding between Rotary and Rotaract members, but can also act as a catalyst for clubs within a country with a longstanding history of internal conflict.

~ Toni Polsterer, Rotary Club of Wien-Nordost, Austria

INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES

Intercountry Committees promote fellowship and intercultural understanding, establish networks across borders, and foster stronger ties between members, clubs, and districts. Begun by German and French Rotary clubs in the early 1940s, about 400 intercountry committees now exist around the world.

The Poland-Ukraine Intercountry Committee organized a summer camp for children affected by the conflict in Ukraine in 2014. In addition to activities and field trips, the campers received counseling to help deal with their feelings. ICC members raised money to pay for the travel and lodging expenses of the children and their caretakers.



Summer camp for Ukrainian children affected by the conflict in their country; organized and funded by the Poland-Ukraine ICC.



[Learn how an ICC can help your club.](#)

FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

Rotary Friendship Exchange allows Rotary members and their friends to explore new cultures and discover diverse perspectives while staying in the homes of international hosts. Exchanges are reciprocal and can include cultural experiences, vocational activities, and hands-on service projects. Participants often discover new partners for lasting change through their exchanges. More than 300 Rotary Friendship Exchanges are organized every year.

The idea for the Indus Peace Park on the border of India and Pakistan came about after a Rotary Friendship Exchange group from Canada visited Pakistan in 2015 and participants learned that because of security considerations, they couldn't attend a changing of the guard ceremony on the border with India. Group leader Kees van der Pol, a Rotarian from British Columbia who's a director of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park on the U.S.-Canadian border, suggested creating a new park. Once the park is finished, the goal is for the park to be a place where Indians and Pakistanis can celebrate and share their cultures through dialogue, literature, religion, dance, music, history, and art.



[Learn more about Rotary Friendship Exchange.](#)



ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

Rotary Fellowships are international, independently organized groups that form around a common interest, vocation, or recreational activity. They also foster international connections, friendships, and understanding across cultures and geographies. These groups, such as the International Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, the LGBT+ Fellowship, or the Fellowship for Global Development, give people a chance to explore issues they're committed to, making connections around the world, while also creating more peaceful societies.

[Learn more about Rotary Fellowships.](#)

International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals

The [International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals](#) uses their professional skills and the global network of medical workers in Rotary to help people with albinism in Tanzania who are marginalized and discriminated against.

Rotary LGBT+ Fellowship

The [Rotary LGBT+ Fellowship](#) provides a global home for LGBT+ members and friends. The fellowship is seeking to work with clubs on projects that support the LGBT+ community and to offer resources to clubs that want to be more diverse and welcoming to all.



To have a fellowship where I can meet and visit — virtually now — with other gay Rotarians in a completely “out” environment really affirms that we are now completely included in Rotary.

~ Valleri Crabtree, Rotary Club of Wellston, Ohio

Rotary Fellowship for Global Development

Through learning and networking opportunities, the [Rotary Fellowship for Global Development](#) encourages Rotarians and other individuals to support global development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The fellowship organizes seminars and learning events, maintains a newsletter/blog related to various aspects of global development, and organizes networking opportunities for its members. It aims to collaborate with other Rotary-affiliated organizations.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Each year, [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) gives thousands of students the opportunity to experience life in another part of the world. During their exchanges, students develop new skills, build lifelong friendships, and gain a new perspective on themselves and the people around them that fosters an understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

Rotary Youth Exchange inspires young leaders to serve as catalysts for peace and social justice in their local communities and throughout the world, long after their exchanges end.

ROTARY REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK



Rotary works closely with the [United Nations](#) and other international institutions toward the goal of a more peaceful world. Members of the [Rotary Representative Network](#) maintain Rotary's relationship with several UN agencies as well as key international and regional bodies and nongovernmental

organizations, including the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the European Union, the African Union, and the Arab League. By developing connections within specific organizations, the representatives help Rotary succeed in its endeavors around the world. They also serve as a resource to clubs and districts that want to collaborate with international institutions to develop sustainable and meaningful projects.

ROTARY DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Each year, members of the [Rotary Representative Network](#) organize [Rotary Day at the United Nations](#). This event highlights our long-standing relationship with the UN and focuses on the action we can take together to achieve the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). This event is also an opportunity to recognize outstanding volunteers as people of action who support refugees, empower youth, and promote peace.



Lorelei Higgins

[Lorelei Higgins](#) credits her year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student for developing her passion for community peacebuilding. She now leads development projects for the city of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, that are centered on peace and conflict transformation and have a focus on Indigenous human rights. She is also a Rotary Peace Fellow alumna.

SUPPORTING PEACE

GLOBAL PEACEBUILDER DISTRICT RECOGNITION

Your district can get involved in Rotary's peacebuilding initiatives by becoming a Global Peacebuilder District. This program recognizes the generous contributions that districts make to our peacebuilding work. Districts that contribute at least \$25,000 in District Designated Funds or district cash to support the Rotary Peace Centers or the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus are recognized as Global Peacebuilder Districts. The program recognizes contributions that go to the Endowment as well as those that are for immediate use.

Being a Global Peacebuilder District means knowing that your district is part of a Rotary network dedicated to supporting peace and development activities, while also helping dedicated scholars become catalysts for peace around the world.

[Learn more about the Global Peacebuilder District recognition program.](#)

PEACE MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE

The Rotary Foundation Peace Major Gifts Initiative raises funds for the Rotary Peace Centers and for the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus. It also seeks gifts and bequests for visionary projects that further Rotary's mission of promoting peace.

[Naming opportunities](#) are available for donors who establish endowed funds to support Rotary Peace Fellowships and other peace priorities. Endowment donors receive an annual report and donors who establish funds supporting Rotary Peace Fellowships receive a personal message from the fellow who received support from that year's fund. Naming opportunities are also available for directed (one-time) gifts.

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PEACE EVENTS

THE ROTARY PEACE SYMPOSIUM

The [Rotary Peace Symposium](#) gives Rotary Peace Fellows and Rotarians the opportunity to showcase and celebrate their peacebuilding initiatives, while also meeting and finding ways to collaborate with like-minded people. Usually held every three years, the [most recent symposium](#) was held with the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. These events have inspired many Rotarians to develop peacebuilding projects in their clubs and districts or make significant contributions to existing peacebuilding initiatives.

OTHER PEACE CONFERENCES

Peace events are also organized at the district and club levels. The [Rotary World Peace Conference](#), held in January 2020 in Ontario, California, USA, was organized by members of the [Rotary E-Club of World Peace, D5330](#), and drew nearly 1,500 participants from 38 countries. At these gatherings, Rotarians, Rotaractors, Rotary Peace Fellows, and members of the public present and share their experiences and solutions to peacebuilding and conflict prevention.



ROTARY ACTION GROUPS

Rotary Action Groups are independent, international, Rotary-affiliated groups whose members have expertise and experience in a particular area of specialization. Action groups collaborate with clubs and districts on humanitarian service projects by offering their technical expertise and support on project planning and implementation or helping them find partners, funding, and other resources. While only Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows can initiate new action groups and serve in leadership roles, membership is open to any individual in action groups.

ROTARY ACTION GROUP FOR PEACE

The [Rotary Action Group for Peace](#) provides technical advice, resources, and best practices to clubs and districts to further their peace efforts around the world. The group advises clubs on their global grant applications and helps identify partners and funding resources.

The group's Peacebuilder Club program encourages clubs to learn about peacebuilding and initiate dialogue and peace projects in their communities. The clubs use resources provided by the action group and learn how to make an impact with peace activities.



The Rotary Action Group for Peace map denotes members throughout the globe.



ROTARY ACTION GROUP FOR REFUGEES, FORCED DISPLACEMENT, AND MIGRATION

The [Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration](#) advises clubs, districts, and other organizations about service projects that can improve the lives of refugees, internally displaced people, and vulnerable migrants. The projects may include providing relief, shelter, food, or education. The group also offers learning and networking opportunities.



ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

The [Rotary Action Group Against Slavery](#) provides guidance to clubs and districts on projects that address modern slavery and human trafficking. The group focuses on preventing and detecting slavery and trafficking and supporting survivors through access to services and a safer, healthier future.



ROTARY ACTION GROUP FOR FAMILY SAFETY

The [Rotary Action Group for Family Safety](#) assists clubs and districts with projects focused on reducing domestic violence by providing resources, program guidance, and training, and by connecting clubs and districts with organizations that work against violence.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA
Rotary.org