

RACIAL UNITY AND PEACE BUILDING

A GOAL OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GEORGETOWN for District 5870 and Rotary International

The Rotary Club of Georgetown, Texas has created a Racial Unity and Peace Building Committee, which meets weekly with a goal of building peace in our community, our country, and the world.

Our Mission

To develop and implement a model for the Rotary Club of Georgetown, using the Four-Way Test as a guide for ending discrimination, with a particular focus on race or ethnicity as a foundation for peace building in our community.

Our Vision

That our model is an inspiration for other Rotary Clubs and organizations in exemplifying how people of all races and ethnicities can live in harmonious unity, equity, and peace.

Rotary International – Peace Building

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peace building today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peace building, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

We invite all who are interested in building peace world wide, to email ronlswain48@gmail.com



Effective Elements for a Successful Program

- Recognition of difficulty
- Diversity of committee membership
- Commitment to listen/learn/act
- Club programs
- Ongoing communication with members
- Frequent, regular meetings
- Open conversations w/o judgment
- Creation of sub-committees for action
- Outreach for new diverse members
- Collection of resources for members

Guidelines for Difficult Conversations

1. Listen actively - respect others when they are talking.
2. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (“I” instead of “they,” “we,” and “you”).
3. One person will speak at a time
4. Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks – focus on ideas.
5. Information shared during the discussion must remain confidential.
6. Refrain from debating issues.
7. Strive to speak from your own experience and do not generalize or philosophize about “the nature or solution of the issue.”
8. Participate to the fullest of your ability – community growth depends on the inclusion every individual voice.
9. Sharing of emotions about personal experiences are encouraged.
10. Do not cross examine one another.
11. Instead of invalidating somebody else’s story with your own spin on her or his experience, share your own story and experience.
12. The goal is not to agree – it is to gain a deeper understanding.
13. Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses – they can be as disrespectful as words.
14. Note taking is not allowed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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