



PRESIDENTIAL
PEACEBUILDING
CONFERENCE 2018



**Rotary International President Ian Riseley
Invites You**

Peacebuilding through Education and Literacy

June 2, 2018

Chicago South Shore Cultural Center

Be Inspired - Form Partnerships - Take Action!



Rotary International President Ian Riseley is presiding over the Rotary Presidential Peacebuilding through Education and Literacy Conference on June 2, 2018. Of the six Peacebuilding Conferences focused on Rotary's Areas of Focus, the Chicago Peacebuilding Conference is the only one being held in the United States.

Peacebuilding Conference

The Peacebuilding Conference will feature international and local speakers with interactive discussions on:

- Education and Literacy – Foundations of International Peace
- Work Locally – Global and District Grants
- Peacebuilding on the Ground in Chicago – Presentation of Paul Harris Fellows
- Prevention of Violence in Young People by Teaching Peace
- Curtailing Violence By Addressing Epidemic of Violence and Sustainable Development Goals
- Peace and Education – Never Too Late
- Rotary Peace Scholars – Making a Difference
- What Can We As Rotarians Do Going Forward?
- CARGO Peace Circle – Live enactments for Rotarians and Students
- Spoken Word Performance

Rotary-UN Model Day

Additionally, we will be hosting a Rotary-UN Model Day in conjunction with the Peacebuilder Conference at the South Shore Cultural Center for a diverse group of local high school students. Students will be focused on two resolutions related to equity in education and teaching peacebuilding skills in elementary and high schools. Students will begin their research on their assigned countries in February and will come prepared to present, debate, caucus, amend, and vote on resolutions. The student caucus leaders selected by the students will present their resolutions at the end of the day to Rotary President Ian Riseley, Rotarians, and Community Leaders attending the Conference.



Rotary Zones 28-29 is the host for the Peacebuilding Conference. Additional information and registration is located at www.rotaryliteracy.org including information on the Rotary-UN Model Day.

Presidential Message

Rotary International President Ian Riseley's Message - December 2017:

"Seventy-two years ago, the United Nations was founded "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ... [and] to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors." Despite those worthy aspirations, and generations of investment in achieving them, the "scourge of war" is still with us: Last year, more than 102,000 people died in 49 armed conflicts around the world. Some of those conflicts were in their fifth decade or beyond. Terrorism, intolerance, and extremism; the refugee crisis; and environmental degradation are now global challenges.

Collectively, we seem further than ever from achieving the goals that were set with such ambition and optimism in 1945. Yet hope endures, as long as there are people willing to work for a more peaceful future – not only through their governments, but also beside them and beside each other. Today, Rotary is better placed than ever to have a real and lasting impact for peace: through our peace-focused programs, such as Rotary Peace Fellows, and through every area of our service. Water, sanitation, health, education, and economic development are all interrelated and part of the complex interactions that can lead to conflict – or avert it. To best leverage our service in all these areas, and to maximize their impact for peace, it is essential to understand these interactions and plan our service accordingly.

For these reasons, we have scheduled a series of six presidential peacebuilding conferences between February and June in Canada, Lebanon, the UK, Australia, Italy, and the United States. These conferences will focus not on peace but on *peacebuilding*: We will share ways that we can work to build peace through the service of our Rotary clubs and districts. Five of the one-day conferences will illuminate the connections between peace and another area of focus. The first conference, in Vancouver, B.C., will explore the link between peace and another sphere of great concern to us in Rotary: environmental sustainability. You can view the full schedule and register at www.rotary.org/presidential-conferences.

The goals are simple: to help Rotarians find new ways to advance peace through their service, to learn from experts, and to strengthen our abilities to build peace. It is my hope and belief that these conferences will help us move closer to a more peaceful world, through *Rotary: Making a Difference.*"



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Riseley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ian H.S. Riseley
Rotary International President 2017 - 2018