

社長文告



Sephi Bergerson

各位親愛的扶輪改變者：

過去兩年來，我們已經克服許多挑戰並改變無數生命。這一年來大家如此努力透過「一個帶一個」計畫讓扶輪成長，令我備感欣慰。成果是社員人數大幅成長。讓我們繼續維持這個動力。

2020年3月11日，世界衛生組織宣布新冠病毒COVID-19成為全球大流行病。兩年後，我們必須繼續運用我們在疾病預防及治療這個焦點領域的經驗來協助世界各地的人對抗這項持續的挑戰。疫情不斷打破所有預測，可是我們不可畏懼不前。我們的工作太重要。我們也必須撥出時間給彼此，我呼籲各位註冊參加休士頓的2022年國際年會。

我們可以運用我們的資源來幫助最容易受傷害者，持續在世界建立希望及擴展和平。新冠疫情對女孩造成的影響尤其嚴重；在疫情滿一年時，聯合國兒童基金會執行長亨麗艾塔·佛爾 (Henrietta Fore) 說：「必須立即採取行動來舒緩對女孩及其家人的傷害。」在一年後，這項需求依然殷切。疫情對女孩有特別的影響——阻斷她們的求學之路、削弱她們的求職前景，並造成童婚及人口買賣增加等其他可怕結果。

聯合國兒童基金會的資料顯示出我們的行動為何很關鍵。在2010年代，消除童婚這種風氣的行動有長足進展，聯合國兒童基金會估計，全球減少了2,500萬件童婚。不幸的是，疫情逆轉了這些正向的發展，因此，在2020年代結束前，將有1,000萬名女孩將淪為兒童新娘。

這就是我們「賦予女孩能力」(Empowering Girls) 這項重點工作為什麼這麼重要，我很開心在今年的線上國際講習會，社長當選人珍妮佛·瓊斯 (Jennifer Jones) 承諾要讓這項提案再延續一年。在我的旅行中，我親眼看過許多傑出的扶輪社計畫支持我們「賦予女孩能力」的目標。可是所有扶輪社員都知道真正的改變需要持續多年的長久努力。這是我們全球獎助金及鎖定焦點領域所採取之行動的力量。

我鼓勵各扶輪社在擬定獎助金計畫時去構思創新的方法來賦予女孩能力。我們改善女孩教育、醫療保健，及經濟機會的每個行動都會大大影響她們能否充分發揮自己的潛能。有機會就可創造希望，有希望就可解決世界各地衝突的根本原因，為永續的和平奠定基礎。

我們沒有人知道新冠疫情會持續多久——身為一個數十年來努力不懈根除小兒麻痺的組織，我們比大多數人都更瞭解我們前方的工作有多艱難。這就是我們為何要保持聚焦在可能做到的事——不要對我們過往的生活方式感到戀戀不捨，而是要充滿希望展望未來，運用這個機會來「以服務改善人生」。我期待與各位一起延續我們的善行。

Shekhar Mehta

梅塔
國際扶輪社長

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



GREETINGS, DEAR CHANGE-MAKERS OF ROTARY,

We have overcome so many challenges these past two years and changed many lives. It brings me great joy that we have worked so hard this year to grow Rotary through the Each One, Bring One initiative. The result has been excellent membership growth. Let us keep up the momentum.

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 constituted a pandemic. Two years later it is important that we continue to draw on our expertise in disease prevention and treatment to help people worldwide cope with the continuing challenges. The pandemic continues to defy all expectations, but we cannot be frozen in fear. Our work is too important. It is also important that we make time for each other, and I urge you to register for the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston.

We can continue to build hope and spread peace by using our resources to help the most vulnerable. The pandemic has had an especially devastating impact on girls; on its first anniversary, Henrietta Fore, the executive director of UNICEF, said that “immediate action is needed to mitigate the toll on girls and their families.” This need remains just as strong a year later. The pandemic has affected girls in unique ways — stunting their educational attainment, weakening their job prospects, and contributing to other terrible results such as child marriages and increased human trafficking.

Data from UNICEF reveals why our action is so essential. In the 2010s, important progress was made toward eliminating the practice of child marriage, and UNICEF estimates that 25 million such marriages

were averted worldwide. Unfortunately, the pandemic reversed those positive trends, and as a result an additional 10 million girls are vulnerable to becoming child brides by the end of this decade.

This is why our focus on Empowering Girls is such vital work, and I am delighted that President-elect Jennifer Jones has committed to continuing this initiative. In my travels, I have witnessed many wonderful examples of club projects that back our Empowering Girls goals. But all Rotary members know that real change requires big efforts sustained over many years. This is the power of our global grants and actions taken within our areas of focus.

I encourage clubs to think of innovative ways to empower girls when designing their grant projects. Every step we take to improve education, health care, and economic opportunities for girls makes an important difference in helping them achieve their full potential. With opportunity we create hope, and with hope we address the root causes of conflict around the world, setting the stage for sustainable peace.

None of us know how long the COVID-19 virus will linger — and as an organization that has worked tirelessly for decades to eradicate polio, we understand better than most the difficult work that lies ahead. That is why we need to remain focused on what is possible — not feeling nostalgic for the way our lives were, but looking hopefully to a future that uses this opportunity to *Serve to Change Lives*. I look forward to continuing this good work with you.

Shekhar Mishra

President, Rotary International