

落實和平

月 21 日是國際和平日。聯合國大會宣布 在這一天要透過遵守 24 小時不使用暴力 及停火來強化和平理想。

身為採取行動的人,光是避免戰爭還不 夠。如果我們要為世界創造希望,我們必須積 極締造和平。

要從哪裡開始?世界各地有無數的武裝衝 突,全球流離失所的人數節節攀升。機會幾乎 是無窮,可是暴力及苦難的循環似乎無止無盡。

我的建議是從小處開始,但思考要遠大。 我向巴基斯坦及印度的扶輪社員尋求啟發。

2020年3月,約有50名巴基斯坦的扶輪社員與50名左右的印度扶輪社員在巴基斯坦的卡塔普爾·薩希布神廟(Kartarpur Sahib)會面。這個聖所祭祀兩國人民都有信奉之錫克教的創始人古魯那克(Guru Nakak)。這兩個國家的緊張關係讓許多印度虔誠的朝聖者無法前往該神廟。直到巴基斯坦在2019年開放一個無須簽證的通道給他們,情勢才有所轉變。

今年稍早,來自國界兩邊的扶輪社員再度 在該座神廟會面,這次的參加人數幾乎倍增。

任何締造和平的努力都需要勇氣及膽量。 這些扶輪社員所做的正是這樣的事。巴基斯坦 政府讓印度朝聖者前往卡塔普爾·薩希布神廟 就是向和平邁進重要的一大步,可是巴基斯坦 的扶輪社員繼續走出下一步,歡迎來自印度的 扶輪社員,將其視為朋友及家人。這體現了所 謂的「積極和平」。

這些和平締造者並沒有停下腳步。今年會面的扶輪社代表簽署姊妹社證書,肯定雙方決心長期持續瞭解彼此,一起合作推動更多締造和平的工作,它們還透過視訊聊天程式辦理聯合例會。

彼此溝通及向彼此學習的重要性再怎麼強 調也不為過,扶輪還讓這點更簡單。參與跨文 化對話及建立跨國關係的一個方法,就是以我 們目前的計畫為基礎、讓其更容易普及的網路 國際交流。

網路交流使用網路平台來讓世界各地的人 連結在一起,讓他們分享自身的傳統、優先事 項、價值觀等等。網路交流可以透過網路烹飪 課程、學習新語言,甚至是規劃有全球影響力 的服務專案等活動,來作為瞭解世界另一個地 方的窗口。

這些網路聊天有可能激發不同社會之間的 新連結及更多尊重。下一步就是利用這個知識 來改善其他人類同胞的生活。

讓我們看看這會帶我們走到哪一步。

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國際扶輪社長



Peace in practice

he International Day of Peace takes place 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of nonviolence and cease-fire.

It is not enough, as people of action, to simply avoid making war. If we are to Create Hope in the World, we must aggressively wage peace.

Where can we begin? There are countless armed conflicts around the world, and the global population of displaced people is higher than ever. The opportunities are nearly limitless, but the cycles of violence and hardship seem endless.

My advice is to start small but think big. I look to Rotary members in Pakistan and India for inspiration.

In March 2020, about 50 Rotary members from Pakistan met about 50 Rotary members from India at Kartarpur Sahib, a shrine in Pakistan. The sanctuary honors Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, a religion practiced in both countries. Tensions between the two countries barred many religious pilgrims from India from visiting the shrine. That is, until Pakistan opened a visa-free pathway to them in 2019.

Earlier this year, Rotary members from opposite sides of the border again met at the shrine, this time with about twice as many participants.

Any work toward building peace needs to be brave and bold. What these Rotary members have done is just that. The Pakistani government took an important step toward peace when it admitted Indian pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sahib shrine, but Pakistani Rotary members took the next step when they welcomed Rotary members from India as friends and family. That is Positive Peace at work.

These peacebuilders did not stop there. Club representatives at this year's meeting signed twin club certificates to recognize their long-term commitment to continue to learn from each other and to work together on more peacebuilding efforts, and they have held joint meetings via video chat.

The importance of communicating with and learning from another culture cannot be overstated, and Rotary is making it even easier to do so. One way of engaging in cross-cultural dialogue and building relationships across borders is through virtual international exchanges that build on our current programs and make them more accessible.

A virtual exchange uses online platforms to connect people from different parts of the world so they can share their traditions, priorities, values, and more. Virtual exchanges can serve as a window to another part of the world through activities such as teaching a digital cooking class, learning a new language, or even designing service projects with a global impact.

These online chats have the potential to inspire new connections and more respect between societies. Taking that knowledge and using it to better the lives of our fellow human beings is the next step.

Let's see where it takes us.

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