

Rotary



Peace Fellowship  
Alumni Association

# GLOBAL CYBER PEACE CONFERENCE 2020

ENVISION THE WORLD



**SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT**

**JUNE 27, 2020**

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## SUMMARY

The Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association held the inaugural Global Cyber Peace Conference on 27 June 2020. The Covid19 global lockdowns were the impetus to design a conference that was truly global and yet accessible to those in geographically isolated regions. The events of 2019 and 2020 – Australian bushfires, the pandemic, economic recessions and the Black Lives Matter marches – inspired the need to reconsider the parameters of a world grounded in peace.

Drawing on a Rotary Peace Fellow community of **over 1,400 peace and social justice practitioners in 115 countries**, this entirely volunteer-led initiative brought together more than **1,500 participants** globally in a 24-hour effort to 'envision the world after the great pause'. The generosity of contributors, partners and sponsors enabled the Conference to be offered as a free event; and conference organizers worked for an estimated **294 days pro bono**. This provided a genuine opportunity for collaboration, knowledge sharing, professional development and networking in the peace community.

**“It brings tears to my eyes to know that all of you are out there doing this work. When this opportunity for this partnership and this sponsorship came up [to] support what the peace fellows are doing, I had no hesitation in my mind. Each one of you is playing a role in this transformation that is possible. You all pulled off something nobody else has!. So, kudos to all of you who stayed up for many, many, many hours to make this happen.”**

Prahba Sankaranarayan, President & CEO,  
Mediators Beyond Borders International

The virtual conference consisted of over **50 panel sessions** and workshops, providing **75 hours of content** on issues such as youth in peace building, food security, gender and justice, technology, environment, dance and drama in peace building. The full conference agenda is [available here](#). Notable speakers included:



- Holger Knaack, Rotary International President 2020-21;
- Senator Penny Wong, Leader of the Opposition in the Australian Senate and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- John Charles Bryan Barnes MBE, Legendary Jamaican-born English international former professional footballer, manager, pundit, and the Show Racism the Red Card Activist;
- Yasmin Sooka, Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan to the Human Rights Council;
- Sim'oogit Hleek/Dr. Joseph Arthur Gosnell, former President, Nisga'a Nation;
- Irene Santiago, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Executive Director of the historical NGO Forum on Women in China in 1995;
- John Paul Lederach, Internationally renowned peacebuilder and author of The Moral Imagination; and
- Uzra Zeya, CEO and President of Alliance for Peacebuilding.

Over **400 experts** from regions across the world explored how positive peace could inform efforts to re-imagine and reconstruct governmental, educational, business and family systems disrupted by the global pandemic and the events of 2020. Breakout sessions facilitated by over **140 volunteer facilitators** provided conference participants with opportunities to discuss issues in small groups.

In one example of the impact, for a group of 30 participants in Papua New Guinea, the conference provided “new tools in their backpacks” to promote peacebuilding within their communities. They also demonstrated how peacebuilding is done in practice, by working together as a group to come to a consensus before sharing their ideas with the rest of the conference session.

A post-conference survey demonstrates that the RPF AA Global Cyber Peace Conference was successful in bringing new audiences to the Rotary Peace community. Opinions on the content were overwhelmingly positive. While there were some technical challenges, the respondents generally rated the logistics, including registration experience, technical support and RPF AA website favorably. In terms of next steps, 84% of the survey respondents expressed a strong interest in attending future webinars and networking events, indicating a demand for future programming by the RPF AA. The Conference also grossed a total of **USD \$10,532.81 in revenue**, primarily through donations. Expenses totalled \$5,641.12 with a net balance of \$4,891.69. The RPF AA donated \$1,000 of that revenue to The Rotary Foundation.

Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback to the conference, the Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association plans to work with local Rotarians to develop further peace projects and webinars that include and benefit local communities, as well as a 2021 RPF AA Conference.



Find the full conference report and view recordings of the conference at <https://rpfaa.org>



The Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association's Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/rpfaa.org>