



SRI CHINMOY
ONENESS-HOME
PEACE
RUN

An Ever-
Blossoming
Dream





An **Ever-
Blossoming**

*Global torch relay
for world peace*

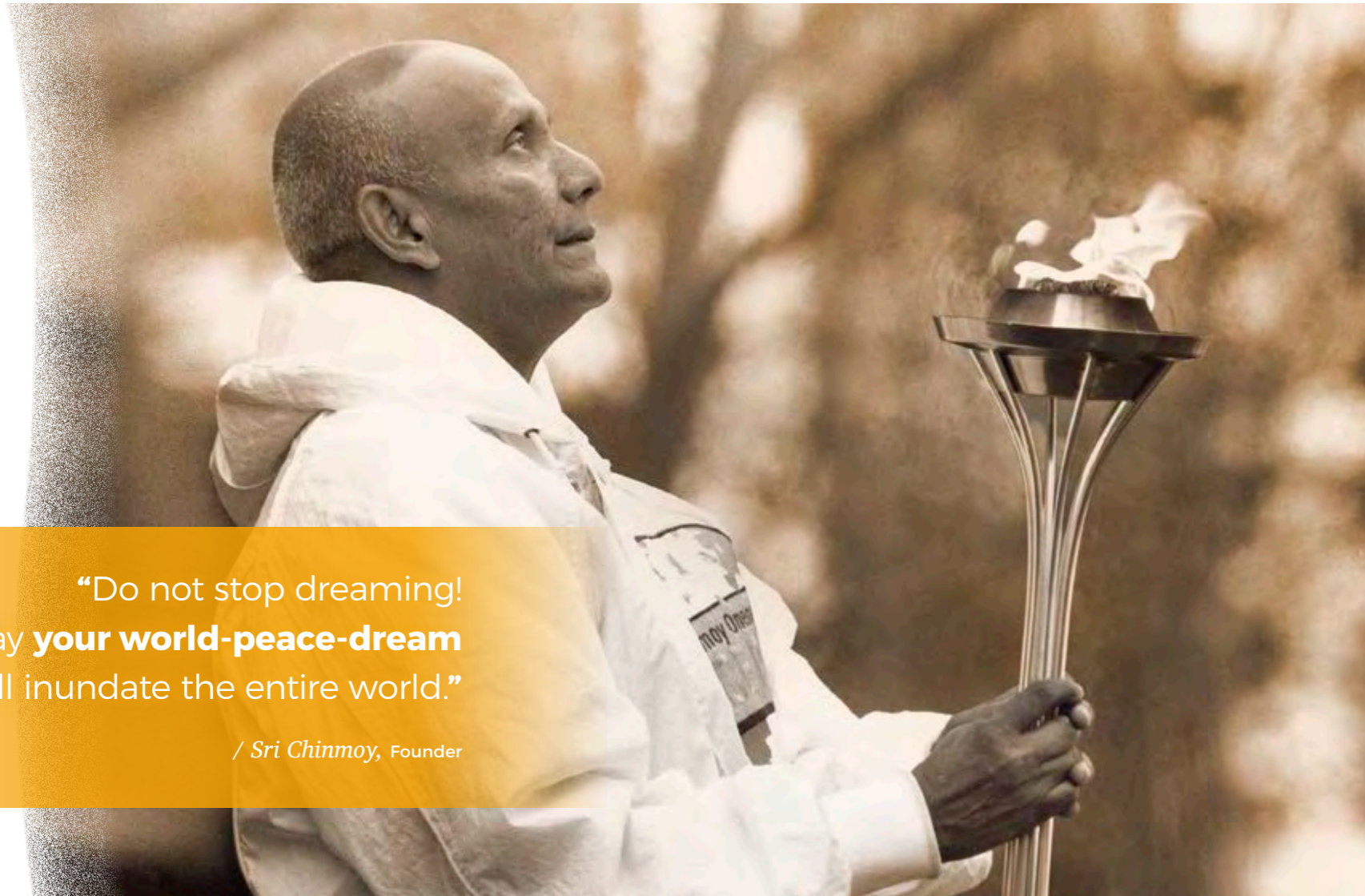
Since 1987

Dream

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“Do not stop dreaming!
One day **your world-peace-dream**
Will inundate the entire world.”

/ Sri Chinmoy, Founder



“ The goals and ideals of your Run are close to my own.... For me, peace means a transition from simple co-existence, to cooperation and common creativity among countries and peoples, to a dialogue of civilisations. Your Peace Run movement makes a remarkable contribution to this goal. In photographs of the Run I see people of different ages taking part—especially many young people and children, holding the torch in their hands. When we look at their smiling faces, we believe that a happy future is destined for our world. In years to come school textbooks will speak not about the history of war, but about the history of peace!

/ **PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV**, *Nobel Peace Laureate and a long-time supporter of the Peace Run (April 2017)*



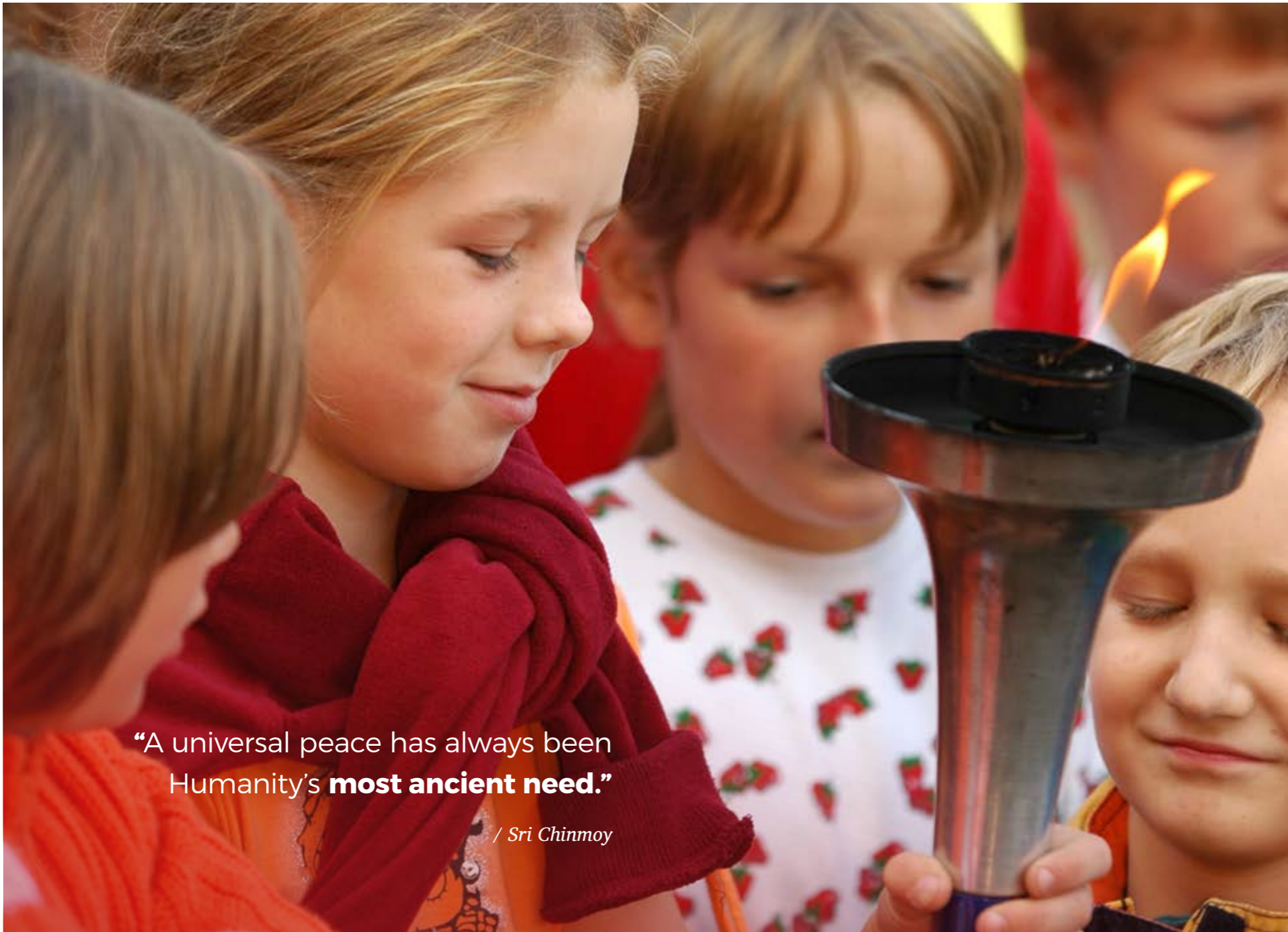
“ The Peace Run carries this dream: through running we can unite people in the whole world! When I see this torch of the Peace Run, it symbolises hope, love, light and caring for me.

/ **TEGLA LOROUPE**, *United Nations Ambassador of Sport, former World Marathon Record Holder and Peace Run Spokesperson*



“ Looking back now, I think Sri Chinmoy saw children as being an integral part of the Peace Run since day one. These are the images that stand out, the kids holding the torch. It means something so special to them, and to take the torch into these communities and let them touch the Peace Torch – it is something they’ll treasure their entire lives. That’s why the torch is important, fire is important and the kids are important. A lot of the kids that were nine, ten or eleven years old are now in their forties, and they’re telling their kids, “Let’s go see the torch”.

/ **SUDHAHOTA CARL LEWIS**, *Nine-time Olympic Gold Medallist and Peace Run Spokesperson*



“A universal peace has always been
Humanity’s **most ancient need.**”

/ Sri Chinmoy

Foreword



As a young man of 22, I first had the opportunity to run with the torch in Australia in 1987 as part of the inaugural Peace Run. Each time I would finish running my section of the relay, I would be overcome with gratitude for being part of such an undertaking.

My understanding of and love for the Peace Run is continually evolving. I’m amazed how each person, no matter their culture, religion or country, connects on a fundamental level with the peace torch. I’ve come to realise that we all have a deep yearning for peace, for love, for happiness inside us, and while it might find expression in different ways, it is what unites us at our core.

Perhaps the most powerful and inspiring experiences I see are when people, particularly young people, are moved to give expression to this inner yearning — through art, through music, through poetry, through service and much more. If the Peace Run can provide an opportunity for these higher ideals to find life in an aspiring heart, then we have rendered the greatest service we can.

Over the years of being involved with the Peace Run, I have noticed a deepening of comprehension of the spirit of the Run. With each year that passes, the depth of understanding of all participants, from world leaders, to runners, to young children, progresses. Each one impacting the other. Each of us helping the other to develop and progress. Like an inner fire our shared understanding and mutual experience expedites and enables growth. Since its inception, the Peace Run has grown from a tiny seed to an immense annual effort — a growing, tangible force for peace and harmony in the global family.

I invite you to hold the torch and to acknowledge all those who’ve held it before you, all the hopes and dreams which have gone into that torch. Also please know that you too are passing on your hopes and dreams to the next torch-bearer and, while you may have let go of the physical torch, you will always be carrying those highest hopes and dreams for humanity in your heart. Each of us has the golden opportunity to make the world a more peaceful place — right here and right now — simply by the choices we make, the decisions we take. Echoing the words of Sri Chinmoy, let us make our journey to world peace “an ever-blossoming dream.”

/ **SALIL WILSON**, Executive Director
New York, April 2017

Overview



The beginning

On April 27th, 1987 the first Peace Torch was lit in New York City by Sri Chinmoy, and so began the worldwide Oneness-Home Peace Run. In a single moment, humanity's age-old yearning for peace, deeply rooted in the heart of Mother Earth, found a new avenue of expression. A seed planted by one of the world's foremost visionaries and 'peace dreamers' began to blossom.



An ever-blossoming dream

Since 1987 flaming torches have been carried by runners throughout the world, connecting and inspiring individuals, communities and countries in a clear and dynamic declaration of peace.

In 2005, having watched the run develop over 18 years and seen the world's growing acceptance and participation, Sri Chinmoy remarked, "I had a dream, and the name of the dream was the Peace Run. This Peace Run is a dream, an ever-blossoming dream of our Source. This dream of ours will be valued infinitely more in the near future, and more so in the distant future."



Living in a global oneness-home

We are all sisters and brothers in the world-family. The goal of the Peace Run is to expedite humanity's efforts to make our world a 'oneness-home' for all people. With the Peace Run we celebrate the wonderful diversity of humanity and the unique and exemplary qualities of each individual and each nation. We run together to create a world founded on peace. With each step the Peace Run is building bridges between schoolchildren, artists, athletes, and people from all religions, cultures and nations, revealing and strengthening the bond of unity that connects all people from all backgrounds.



How does it work?

The Peace Run is a worldwide relay run. Runners carry a torch – the Peace Torch. As the torch is passed from hand to hand, from person to person, from nation to nation, each citizen of the world has the opportunity to carry the flame, to take a step for peace and to feel their oneness with the universal aspiration shared by children, women and men around the globe. Through the Peace Run everyone can give expression to their own highest hopes and dreams for a more peaceful world.

Running with the Peace Torch is a unique experience. It underlines the importance of striving for peace and awakens the experience of peace as a dynamic, fulfilling, achievable reality. Hundreds of thousands of individuals, from schoolchildren to heads of state, have shared the joy of this experience.



Bringing together the lovers of peace

The Peace Run brings together peace-lovers from all corners of the world and from all walks of life in a combined aspiration and understanding. The vision of a global 'oneness-home' will help to create the conditions that we as a human family need to progress and flourish on this earth planet. Each sincere effort for peace strengthens the solid foundation upon which the world community can overcome all the various challenges that lie ahead.



The future is in your hands, hearts and feet

The time has come in the history of humankind for us to consciously steer a constructive path forward with vigilance, compassion and determination. A renewed sense of personal responsibility is required by each and every member of the world-family along with a deeper understanding of and value for the intrinsic interdependence of all nations and peoples on earth.

touching the heart...



Greece



France



Serbia



Ghana



Albania



Australia

*Deep within we all share one and the same essential yearning:
the yearning for peace.*

Facts

The route of the biennial Peace Run covers over **40,000 Kilometres** or **25,000 miles**. That is the distance **around the Earth**.

Since the inception, the Peace Torches have been carried over **600,000 Kilometres** or **370,000 miles**. That is like running **to the Moon & beyond**.

Since 1987, more than **25,000 schools** have participated in the Peace Run events, and over **7,000,000** people have held the Torch.

Colour Key

- Annual country-wide Peace Run events
- Countries with regular local events
- Countries participating occasionally
- Countries we hope to visit in the near future!

Participating countries and territories...

Africa

Benin
Botswana
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Egypt
Ethiopia
Gambia
Ghana
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Mali
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei
Cambodia
China
Georgia
India

Indonesia
Israel
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Malaysia
Maldives
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Palestine
Philippines
Qatar
Russia
Singapore
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Turkey
Turkmenistan
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Vietnam

Europe

Albania
Andorra
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
England
Estonia
Faroe Islands
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Greenland
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malta

Australia & Oceania

Antarctica
Australia
Cook Islands
Fiji
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Micronesia

New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Tonga
Vanuatu

Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Northern Ireland
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Scotland
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
Vatican
Wales

North America

Canada
Mexico
United States of America

The Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Dominica
Dominican Republic

Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica
Puerto Rico
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
Virgin Islands

Central America

Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua
Panama

South America

Argentina
Belize
Brazil
Colombia
Chile
Ecuador
Guyana
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Uruguay
Venezuela

Over 150 countries on all 7 continents!

The founder

SRI CHINMOY (1931– 2007) dedicated his life to the fulfilment of the dream of world peace. Through events like the Peace Run, he sought to inspire individuals to bring forward their own feelings of peace from within and to share them with the world in dynamic ways. Sri Chinmoy is also highly regarded for a variety of creative accomplishments that convey the spirit of peace and harmony through music, art and poetry. He was always a strong advocate for the role of sports as a powerful instrument for promoting global peace and harmony.

In 1987 he founded the Oneness-Home Peace Run as a way to bring people together in a global yet grassroots event. Since its inception the Run has traversed over 150 nations and touched the lives of millions of people.

Sri Chinmoy has expressed humanity's age-old dream for peace in many poems and aphorisms:

*Peace does not mean the absence of war.
Peace means the presence of harmony,
Love, satisfaction and oneness.
Peace means a flood of love
In the world family.*

*May I become
A flame of peace
In the heart of humanity.*

*Peace reveals
The absolute excellence
Of human life.*



More information at
SriChinmoy.org



Voices for the Peace Run



“ I salute the runners of the Peace Run who are carrying a torch to the destination of peace through the streets of the world.

/ **HOLY FATHER POPE JOHN PAUL II**,
St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, Rome
On May 31st, 1995 before a gathering of 15,000 people in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father blessed the Peace Torch which was offered to him by Sri Chinmoy.



“ It is my hope that the flame of the Peace Torch will kindle the spirit of oneness, solidarity and friendship in all the people that hold the Torch aloft. May we all work together to build a European society based on the values of our common humanity, so we can have a world where peace and harmony are not mere dictionary words, but living realities.

/ **HERMAN VAN ROMPUY**,
President of the European Council
Meeting the Peace Run team in Brussels (Feb 11th, 2014)



“ You are part of the spiritual force of Love that emanates from God and which will transform the evil of this world into its counterpart. Thank you for persisting and going on, going on. The world continues its existence only because of people like yourselves who help to hold it in being.

/ **ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU**,
Nobel Peace Laureate, to Sri Chinmoy in a meeting at the UN Plaza Hotel, New York (Mar 16th, 2004)



“ This is so important. We are with you in upholding peace this way, which brings solace to many people throughout the world. Peace is one of the things that is going to save the world. Thank you, thank you very much.

/ **PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA**, *during one of his meetings with Sri Chinmoy (New York, Sep 20th, 1998)*



“ I am so pleased with all the good work you are doing for world peace and for people in so many countries. May we continue to work together and to share together all for the glory of God and for the good of man.

/ **MOTHER TERESA** *to Sri Chinmoy during their meeting in Rome where Mother Teresa held the Peace Torch aloft (Missionaries of Charity, Oct 1st, 1994)*



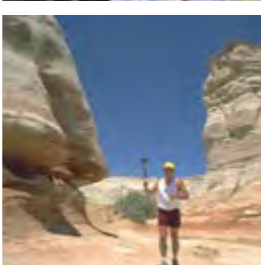
“ Let me also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your 30 years of dedication to the United Nations. Through your prayers, meditations, concerts and global 'Peace Run', your work has linked peace-lovers in more than 100 countries and complemented that of the world Organisation...

/ **KOFI ANNAN**, *UN Secretary-General, in his letter to Sri Chinmoy (Sep 22nd, 2000)*

Highlights 1987-2017



Connecting Egypt with Israel.
Reception by the Mayor of Bethlehem, 1999



HRH Queen Elizabeth with the Peace Torch
at the 50th Anniversary of
V. E. Day in London, 1995



1987

Sri Chinmoy launches the first-ever Oneness-Home Peace Run in New York City – televised live by the Today show. The Peace Run went on to visit 55 nations on 6 continents.

1989

Peace Run visits Antarctica – the torch has now been on all seven continents.

1991

- First-ever relays links Egypt and Israel; first-ever Peace Run in the Soviet Union.
- Sri Chinmoy composes the Peace Run song.
- Nationwide Peace Run in the Philippines with tens of thousands participating. President Cory Aquino receives the torch.

1994

Mother Teresa meets with Sri Chinmoy in Rome on October 1st and holds the Peace Torch.

1995

Queen Elizabeth II uses the Peace Torch to light beacons all over the UK celebrating the end of WWII.

1996

Cosmonaut Gennady Strekalov takes the Peace Torch to Space Station “Mir”, which means peace in Russian. He presents the Peace Torch to US astronauts.

1998

Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, holds the Peace Torch with founder Sri Chinmoy. To date over 55 heads of state and government have held the torch.

1999

A year-long continuous relay links 46 European countries. The core team is comprised of 90 runners, some of whom run the entire year.

2001

Eternal Peace Flame established in Oslo, Norway.

2005

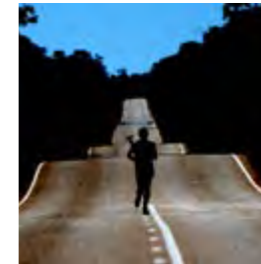
Sri Chinmoy composes the World Harmony Run song.

2006

Peace Run in Caribbean visits 11 nations, meeting 4 heads of state.



Mother Teresa blessing the Torch in Rome, 1994



The Peace Torch was carried to Space Station "Mir" (1996)

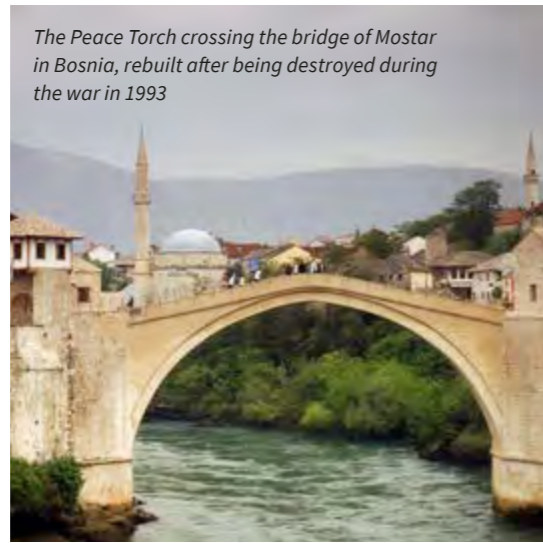


Mikhail Gorbachev with his wife Raisa holding the Torch in New York, October 16th, 1994

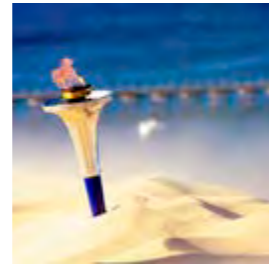




Closing of the global Peace Run in New York, 2005



The Peace Torch crossing the bridge of Mostar in Bosnia, rebuilt after being destroyed during the war in 1993



2007

Finish of Peace Run at European Parliament in Brussels with President of European Parliament.

2008

The first Torch-Bearer Award is presented to nine-time Olympic Gold Medallist and Peace Run spokesperson Carl Lewis. Since then the Torch-Bearer Award has been presented to numerous heads of state, humanitarians, musicians, athletes and others who have dedicated their lives in the service of others.

For the first time the Peace Torch is carried around the entire continent of Australia.

Peace Torch goes to the North Pole.

2010

European Peace Run culminates in Red Square, Moscow after an 8-month, 25,000 km, 49-nation journey which began in Dublin, Ireland.

2011

Archbishop Desmond Tutu receives the Torch-Bearer Award.

2012

A Moment's Peace in conjunction with the 2012 Olympics in London.

Peace Torch taken to top of Mount Everest by Canadian climber Samuel Nirabadhi Wyatt.

2013

Leaders of Timor-Leste hold the torch and dedicate a statue of Sri Chinmoy on the grounds of the national parliament.

2014

Peace Torch presented at European Parliament and to the President of European Parliament.

2016

Pope Francis blesses the Peace Torch at a public audience in St Peter's Square.

Peace Run visits Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Micronesia for the first time.

Peace Run Team visits Greenland for the first time ever.

2017

"Colours of Peace" event is organised by the Peace Run on the occasion of the International Day of Peace in Rome, 2017, with over 7,000 peace drawings from 39 countries exhibited at the Colosseum.



Tegla Loroupe bringing together in peace the fighters of the belligerent tribes in Kapenguria, Kenya (2006)



The Peace Torch is blessed by Pope Francis at the Vatican, 2016



"Colours of Peace" organised by the Peace Run on the occasion of the International Day of Peace in Rome, 2017



sharing precious

moments...



United Kingdom



Czech Republic



Faroe Islands



Timor-Leste



Greenland



Turkey

The moments when we can express our sincere cry for peace are rare in our lives... and precious.



“The children of happiness will create a new world.”

/ Sri Chinmoy



United Kingdom



Malta



Luxembourg

THE PEACE RUN IN SCHOOLS:

Peace begins with me!

Thousands of school ceremonies have shown the extraordinary transformative energy and power that the Peace Torch and its flame create. In 30-60 minutes, the runners, teachers and schoolchildren, ignited by the peace spark, blend into a happy community of harmony and joy.

Sri Chinmoy expresses this feeling as “Oneness-World-Heart-Joy” in the song that he composed for the Run. The hearts of the world join together, regardless of colour, culture, religion, language, age and social background. Let us join with Nobel Prize Winner and former President Mikhail Gorbachev who stated in his message to the Peace Run that “when we see the happy faces of the children in the school ceremonies, we believe that a happy future is destined for our world. In years to come school textbooks will speak not about the history of war, but about the history of peace!”

Inspired by the message “Peace begins with me” and a dynamic presentation that seeks to involve and educate children, more than 25,000 schools around the world have welcomed the Peace Run. Children greet the Peace Runners’ arrival at their school with huge peace banners, drawings, paper peace doves and other artwork for peace. During the ceremony children read essays, poems and messages they have written about peace, perform plays, play instruments, dance and sing. In addition, thousands of young hands reach out to hold the Peace Torch and to run with it.

Usually the Peace Run stays no more than 45-60 minutes in any one place, but the spirit of the Peace Run and the experience of peace remain.

MORE INFORMATION...

You can find simple guidelines for how to organise a school ceremony at:
peacerun.org/schools-and-youth

You can find video examples of ceremonies from around the world at:
vimeo.com/peacerun

For more information you may also contact the local coordinators listed under your country at peacerun.org.



Ethiopia



Morocco



Mozambique



Nepal



Malaysia



Costa Rica



Botswana



Uganda



Mongolia



China



Indonesia



Brazil



Cape Verde



India



Bali



St. Thomas



Guatemala



Spain



Germany



Hungary



Switzerland



Canada



Kiribati



Russia



Slovenia



Macedonia



Croatia



Latvia



Ukraine



Romania



Poland



Austria



Slovakia



Puerto Rico



Kazakhstan



Tajikistan

CASE STUDY 1 National level



Timor-Leste

SCOPE: Three days of events in the National Capital of Dili and nearby villages Liquica and Maubara

SUPPORT: Prime Minister, President of the Parliament

FACILITATING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:
Department of Youth and Sport

SUPPORTING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:
Department of Tourism, Police Department, Education Department



The country joined in celebration

- **Launch ceremony at the National Parliament with the Prime Minister, HE Rui Maria de Araújo, and President of the Parliament, HE Adérito Hugo da Costa. Included a torch lighting and traditional performances followed by 1 km mass participation walk in the Parliament district with country leaders, government civil servants, national athletes, youth and civic organisations.**
- **School Visits – 11 schools over three days featuring numerous performances by students with music, singing, spoken word, artwork and dance.**
- **Community Run/Walk – 5 km run/walk through the streets of Dili, the capital, involving numerous community groups joining along the way. National hero Xanana Gusmão and the President of the Parliament completed the entire event. The run/walk culminated with a concert, dancing and award presentation.**



Mara Bernardes de Sá
Peace Run Focal Point, Timor-Leste

“ My role with the Peace Run formally began at a joint meeting with the departmental leaders from Youth and Sport, Tourism, Education and Police. In this meeting the main priorities and aspects of the Peace Run visit were discussed and the steps forward outlined.

As a focal point my role was to liaise between the various departments as well as develop and organise the proposed events.

I began by building the event around school visits for the Peace Run team as this is one of their core competencies. We selected schools both in the region of the capital as well as in some outlying districts.

Then we added in a formal launch involving our Prime Minister and President of Parliament which also involved schoolchildren as well as many Presidential candidates.

The highlight for me was the finale event of the Peace Run – a 5 km run/walk through the streets of Dili – our capital. We involved many community groups who joined us along the way and I was very proud that the historical leader and the first President of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, covered the entire distance. The 5 km community walk culminated with a family event featuring a concert and traditional dancing – it

was much fun and a fitting way to finish wonderful days with the Peace Run.

The Peace Run is a very effective and fruitful project and furthers and deepens all efforts to promote a culture of peace and understanding among all inhabitants of a nation.



Photos on this spread (left to right):

Over 700 students of the Escola Bazica e Secundario Catolica Sao Inacio de Loyola Kasait sharing a silent moment of goodwill for the world. / The international Peace Runners presenting the Torch during a school ceremony. / The Prime Minister, Mr. de Araújo, holding the Torch. / Mr. Xanana Gusmão enthusiastically leading the runners through the city during the 5 km run. / During the days of the Peace Run visiting the country, the programme was intertwined by many cultural events.

CASE STUDY 2 City level



San Diego (USA)

SCOPE: Five days of events in San Diego

SUPPORT: Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District

FACILITATING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS: Visual and Performing Arts Department, San Diego Unified School District

SUPPORTING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS: Al Oerter Foundation, Art of the Olympians



And we began to imagine peace...

- Five months of planning resulted in visits to twelve schools over four days throughout the District, which is the eighth largest in the US.
- Preparatory meetings with an organising committee at each school resulted in significant teacher involvement and consequently excellent student preparation.
- District-wide participation in art and poetry project with selections sent to Rome for an international exhibition at the Colosseum.
- Grand Finale “Evening of Excellence” event showcasing the students’ creative expressions for peace including music, dance and song. An excellent opportunity for parent and teacher participation.



Cindy Marten
Educator, teacher and
Superintendent of the
San Diego Unified School
District

“ I speak on behalf of the Board of Education, and I speak as an educator, a teacher and as a Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District when I talk about the work that happens through the Peace Run.

I first experienced the Peace Run when I was principal at Central Elementary. The team came to our school and the students wrote their essays on what peace means to them. And we began to imagine peace not just in our school, but in our

city, in our state, in our nation, and across the world.

As the torch gets passed literally across the world, spreading peace, each individual person finds their own way to engage in peace, whether it is through art, through dance, through music, through the spoken word or through the written word. What we learn through the Peace Run folks is that peace comes from within and we express it in multiple ways. We express it from our hearts as we make wishes and intentions for a beautiful world. I watched it happen at Central and said it would be wonderful if this could be across this whole district.

What really ends up happening is that individual children across this entire district begin to imagine peace. And we know that when you make a wish for something and you feel this wish

coming from within, you don’t always know how or when your wish is going to come true, but when you believe in that wish and you hold on to it and you gather people around that intention, things begin to happen. And that is what you could never even plan.

To see children in twelve schools envisioning peace, manifesting peace in their communities, I know change will happen. And today more than ever do we need peace! And it happens — one child, one thought, one action, and as the Peace Run teaches us — one step at a time. That step begins with each of us.

I am so grateful to be a part of this and the work that happened. Thank you very much, everybody!”

(Address at the Peace Run Ceremony in San Diego, March 23rd, 2017)

CASE STUDY 3 School level

Caivano (Naples, Italy)

SCOPE: Ongoing cooperation of the school with the Peace Run, involving several projects with patronage of the Government

SUPPORT: School principal, staff and parents

FACILITATING PARTNER ORGANISATION:
Morano High School

SUPPORTING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:
Italian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture



Peace: A light of hope

The story of the Morano High School in Caivano, in the province of Naples, is quite remarkable. Ms. Eugenia Carfora, “the Principal”, as the whole community calls her, has transformed it from a dilapidated place in an area of low school attendance and high crime into a model institute in the education sector, giving the children a new possibility of a better life.

In 2016, a collaboration between the school and Peace Run was initiated, with the implementation of several projects that received the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture.

In 2017, the Morano High School sent a delegation of one hundred students to Rome to provide catering for the opening ceremony of “Colours of Peace”, a large exhibition of over 7000 peace drawings from 38 countries, organised by the Peace Run to honour the UN International Day of Peace. The school also presented artworks for the exhibit, and assisted the Peace Run in launching the international PMA (Peace Movie Award) project.



Eugenia Carfora
Head of the Morano High School in Caivano

“ In 2016, I was contacted by the Peace Run, and was told

they would be passing through the area and would like to visit our school. I liked the idea and was struck by the Peace Run’s approach to the ideal of peace and the possibility of giving the kids hope and a positive vision for the future. In this area children need to dream, to have a new horizon and to be able to imagine a different, better life.

The Morano High School is a vocational school, and together with the teachers we involved all

the school departments: cooking, mechanical, etc. All worked together on the project for about six months. One department prepared sweets on the theme of peace, in particular “Peace Run cupcakes”. Another department used recycled materials to show that problems can be turned into resources, creating design objects, pieces of furniture, and even a wedding dress made from recycled paper!

Also, we contacted a well-known Italian director and created a video on the theme of peace, showing how peace can be a value lived in everyday life by each student.

To welcome the Peace Runners, we celebrated a “Peace Run Day” where all the work done was presented to the runners. Peace-drawings were created and music performances and poems performed on stage. A delegation of five hundred

students from three other local schools was invited, involving a thousand students in total. Representatives of the local police and magistracy and of the national Ministry of Education took part in the event.

The collaboration with the Peace Run has become an ongoing partnership that involves students and teachers from various departments of the school. In the Peace Run I envisioned a further possibility for the students to use their positive potential, even in the face of the difficulties they may have to face in their everyday lives, especially when living in a difficult environment such as ours. To me peace is to give children a light of hope in the dark, and that’s my ultimate goal.



spanning cultures...



Lesotho



Indonesia



South Korea



United States of America



India



Belarus

The daily experiences on the route of the Peace Run prove that there is far more that unites us than divides us.



“May the flames of peace-torch
Kindle and awaken
Each and every world-citizen.”

/ Sri Chinmoy

Fostering the culture of peace



Sri Chinmoy has always been deeply inspired by the United Nations and for 37 years offered twice-weekly peace meditation sessions for staff and delegates. In fact it was following one of these meditation sessions at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City that Sri Chinmoy posed the question, “Can we not organise a worldwide relay for peace?”

The Peace Run seeks to express the core ideals of the United Nations in a dynamic way: to support and nurture a peaceful family of nations in a spirit of unity in diversity. It is fully in line with paragraph 4 of UN Resolution A/Res/71/160 of 16 December 2016 titled “Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace” where civil society is invited “to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster development and peace and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through sport-based initiatives...”

The Peace Run seeks to go one step further: as expressed in its title, it aims to provide an opportunity for nations, peoples, cultures and religions to find their “Oneness-Home.” Through running with the Peace Torch we have felt this spirit go beyond geographical or cultural borders and unite people in a common joyful feeling of belonging to one large global family.

Representing the countless personalities from the international civil service who have participated in the Peace Run, we would like to highlight three true pioneers who have promoted a Culture of Peace.



Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UN, Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (GMCoP)

Ambassador Chowdhury is internationally acclaimed for his pioneering leadership at the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 for adoption of the landmark Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and in 1998 for the proclamation of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010). Ambassador Chowdhury is an inspirer, encourager and facilitator who brings to fruition the highest ideals of the United Nations, within the United Nations itself and around the globe.

“ I am very delighted to be here because I was associated from the very beginning with the Peace Run. I am also particularly touched by my brother-friend Sri Chinmoy, whose image you see here, who instituted and inspired the Peace Run. He has been and continues to be a great soul with a true vision for peace.... I remember many, many years of my collaboration with him. I remember his message, which he used to define as a ‘oneness-world of peace’. This message has a vision for each one of us, each individual, as well as for humanity at large.”

April 12th, 2010, Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York



Vladimir Petrovsky (1933-2014)
*Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York
 and Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva,
 Former Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR*

Vladimir Petrovsky was an important figure in the political landscape of the second half of the 20th century. As Deputy Foreign Minister under President Mikhail Gorbachev, UN Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations office at Geneva, he contributed significantly to many important processes such as the Helsinki Final Act, Mikhail Gorbachev's Perestroika, disarmament and the strengthening of the United Nations. He met Peace Run Founder Sri Chinmoy for the first time in 1991 and they developed a close friendship until Sri Chinmoy's passing in 2007. Mr. Petrovsky hosted two beautiful Peace Run events in 1993 and 2000 at the Cour d'honneur of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

“You are continuing to build a bridge between peoples and nations. Your contributions are most welcome and needed in our turbulent times!”

“I regard Sri Chinmoy's work as one of the most powerful pillars of a culture of peace of the 20th and 21st centuries.” (October 27th, 2007, UN Headquarters, New York)



Dr. Davidson Hepburn
*President of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO,
 Former Ambassador of the Bahamas to the UN*

Dr. Hepburn was President of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), from 2009 to 2011. Ambassador Hepburn served also for many years as the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations in New York.

“Twenty-five years ago, Sri Chinmoy, who was a very dear friend, breathed life and action into the simple idea that we are a oneness-world-family. The global run, known as the ‘Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run’, powerfully demonstrates this blossoming truth.”

“I think Sri Chinmoy was searching for a way to bring the essential spirit of the United Nations, an organisation he dearly loved, to people all over the world. By carrying the torch from one city to the next, one country to the next, with joyful reception all along the route, the run highlights the fact that there is far more that unites us than divides us.”



Sri Chinmoy and the culture of peace

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

“I remember as far back as in the mid-eighties when I came to know Sri Chinmoy, and then we became closer and closer in many ways. But three things stand very importantly in his work which I admire from the bottom of my heart.

The first is that he brought out the essential core element of spirituality in all of us. He taught, and I believe equally strongly, that spirituality should be the essential core value of the United Nations. Because without that value, that sense of spirituality, none of our work for humanity will be worthwhile.

Secondly, I also find that he highlighted the core concept of the oneness of humanity, and that is very essential for the United Nations also. Unless we have that human solidarity, the purpose of our work will be lost.

And then of course, Sri Chinmoy used to speak about inner peace and outer peace. I think that is something that we should very much sincerely try to understand because that is the core basis of the culture of peace for which we had worked together.

I still continue to work with all of you to promote (the idea) that peace should become a part of our daily existence. It's not something which is separate from us. Each one of us should know how to face the challenges of our lives and of the world through peaceful and non-violent means. That is the essential message that Sri Chinmoy gave me, and we worked for that.”

a relay of hope...



The Netherlands



Cape Verde



Tanzania



United States of America



Moldova



Mexico

Connecting the hopes, dreams and promises of millions of people, the Peace Torch embodies the inherent goodness of humanity.



Mostar



Kenya



Jorge Pina

Connecting life-stories

Every day of running with the Peace Torch brings something memorable. Some moments touch us profoundly, leaving a lasting impression upon our hearts: situations where the fundamental human need for peace is manifested in its unalloyed form, unveiled often by harsh life circumstances. And we witness, in awe, the healing power of peace.

Peace Run in Bosnia

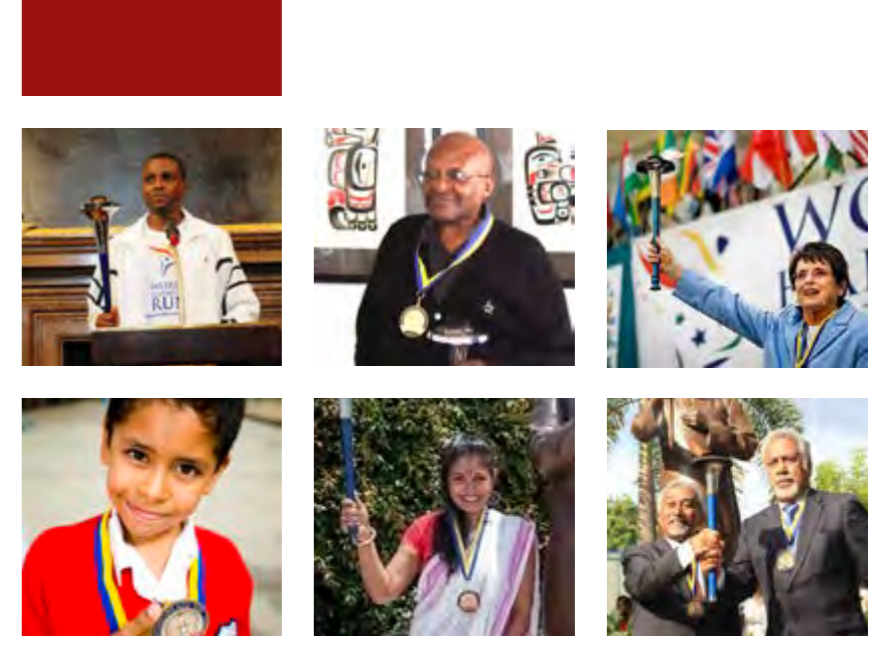
Visiting the city of Mostar in 2006 was one of the strongest experiences on our route. Reminders of the recent war were never far away, in the form of ruins and houses with bullet holes all over. This made so poignant the ceremony of handing the torch to the children and their parents, who had waited for us in the pouring rain with such joy and enthusiasm — and a deep, genuine yearning for peace, love and understanding which the war made a hundredfold more precious.

Exchanging guns for running shoes

Through the power of inspiration, the Peace Run's dear friend and spokesperson Tegla Loroupe has achieved the almost impossible in Kenya: she has created an annual series of Peace Marathons to encourage warriors from belligerent tribes in Kenya and the neighbouring Uganda to hand over their weapons and exchange them — literally — for running shoes. Seeing the former deadly fighters reunited through an athletic event and then holding the Peace Torch was a deeply moving and unforgettable moment.

Seeing with the heart

Jorge Pina lost his sight when he was 30 — shortly after he became the Portuguese national champion in boxing. Yet he didn't take this new condition as a handicap but rather a blessing. "I was blind; now I see. I see with my heart," he says. When holding the Peace Torch for the first time, without knowing what it was, he felt a quiet energy drawing him deep within. "This is something unique," he said. Jorge joins the Peace Run team regularly ever since, enriching and inspiring all of us with his cheerful, indomitable spirit.



Torch-Bearer Award

As we journey across the country and around the world, invariably we come into contact with some remarkable people who have inspired their communities, cities and nations through their own lives and deeds. The presence of the Peace Run and torch creates an opportunity to recognise these remarkable people.

The Torch-Bearer Awards programme was inspired by the Peace Run founder, Sri Chinmoy. Throughout his life he encouraged individuals to offer their talents and energies in self-giving service to the cause of peace. This programme continues his tradition of honouring deeds of the heart: selfless acts of love, compassion and kindness that help transform our world into a oneness-home of peace and harmony.

*Some of the recipients (by rows):
 Carl Lewis, 9-time Olympic gold medallist and spokesperson for the Peace Run /
 Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate / Billie Jean King, tennis great and
 women's rights advocate / Student from Tijuana, Mexico honoured by his peers / Wasfia
 Nazreen, Bangladeshi mountaineer, activist and social worker / Hon. Xanana Gusmão
 (right) and Hon. Mari Alkitiri, freedom fighters and founding fathers of Timor-Leste*



“Our Peace Torch flame shall feed the **globe-harmony-game.**”

/ from the Peace Run theme song by Sri Chinmoy

Our team

The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run is the global collective of independently incorporated chapters in more than 40 countries that administer events around the world. We are supported primarily by private financial donations from individuals and secondarily by grants and donated services/materials offered by empathetic businesses, as well as town and city administrative agencies. The Peace Run is organised and facilitated by volunteers in close cooperation with sports clubs, schools, local and national government bodies and media.

Some of the members of the core Peace Run team of organisers have been with the Peace Run since its inception in 1987. They have experienced the essential vision and spirit of the Run and its actual manifestation around the globe. They offer a great insight into the heart and soul of the Peace Run.



The inherent goodness of humanity

Dipavajan Renner,
Europe Executive Director / Graz, Austria

“ Since my first day of running with the torch, I have been able to feel that we truly have the power to change the world by giving an example to the people around us.

From my journeys through almost half of the countries in the world with the flaming torch, I have learned that there are good people everywhere. Wherever I have gone, I have found that the majority of human beings have good hearts and good intentions. I think that otherwise, humanity would have already ceased to exist.

The Peace Run symbolises and reflects this goodness and teaches it to us in action. It has taught me never to give up hope for humanity. The Run inspires me daily to improve myself and to become a better citizen of the world.



Oneness-home-building in the Asia-Pacific region

Harashita Sunaoshi,
Asia-Pacific Executive Director / Kyoto, Japan

“ In 2009 the idea came to several of us to connect different countries in Asia. Until

then we used to have separate Peace Runs in our respective countries, but not as connected events. We were from Russia, Mongolia, Korea and Japan, and we started planning.

There was so much joy, inner thrill and eagerness in the whole process, even communication challenges seemed charming and inspiring. In our inaugural run in 2010, there was one Russian runner who ran the whole distance from Hiroshima to Moscow! Eight countries participated in this first Asia Peace Run, which expanded to include the Pacific region in 2012, and by 2016, the Asia-Pacific Peace Run has connected 18 nations. It is a great joy to participate and witness the progress of oneness-home-building in this part of the globe with such diversity in cultures and languages.



On a deeper level

Harita Davies,
USA Co-Director / New York, USA

“ Some people say they feel the message of the Peace Run is now being accepted and received on a deeper level. I feel the same way. It

seems that more than ever humanity as a whole is looking for peace and the level of outer unrest is urging us as individuals to look more sincerely for ways to rectify the situation. Maybe the realisation of the importance of our own inner responsibility to the world situation is becoming more apparent. Perhaps on a deeper level the great disparities of humanity are bringing us all closer together as one world family.



“Nothing can be loftier than my
World-oneness-peace-dream.”

/ Sri Chinmoy



Expressing the universal yearning for peace

Brahmata Michael,
Co-Director, Peace Run Canada

“ Our visits with children are my favourite part of the Peace Run. The children intrinsically understand peace. When we ask them for ideas about how to feel peace, a sea of hands shoot up

with dozens of insightful answers: ‘I try to be silent and feel the peace inside the air’; ‘I sit on my bed and listen to nature’; ‘I ask God for peace’; ‘Be kind to everyone even when you don’t want to’.

In every single community, we find circles of wonderful people who are working tirelessly for peace. In small ways and big ways, locally and globally, people everywhere are serving the world. I feel so fortunate to learn about these people, their optimism and selflessness, and their inspiring projects. They have not given up hope, and they believe in the beautiful dream of world peace. These people will change the world. Meeting them has changed me.



The spirit of oneness

Apaguha Ondřej Veselý,
European Co-Director / Prague, Czech Republic

“ When running for a long time on the Peace Run, I feel that I am not alone. That I am carrying more than “just” a Peace Torch. I can feel with me the hearts of thousands of people that we

have met on the road. I love the unique concept of the Peace Run. It offers people a chance to hold the Peace Torch and send with it their love, joy and goodwill to humanity. This way people create an amazing amount of positive energy that does not get lost. It grows with every new person, with every new heart. It travels around the world with the Peace Torch. That is the spirit of oneness that you can feel on the road.

I am truly grateful that I can be part of this project. And I am grateful to all the people who have held the Torch and joined us on the road, as by doing so, they contribute to this spirit of humanity’s oneness-home in their lives.

inspiring your own



Japan



Mexico



Portugal

steps...



England



New Zealand



Sweden

We read about peace. We talk about peace. It is time to make peace a living reality — beginning with us.



“Oneness-world-heart-joy has begun.”

*/ from the Peace Run theme song
by Sri Chinmoy*

You are invited..

Dear reader, we hope that this brochure has been able to convey the spirit of the Peace Run. Without you we are nothing but runners carrying a torch. It is only with your heartfelt and enthusiastic participation that this event becomes the Oneness-Home Peace Run.

The Peace Run seeks to inspire and remind us that through each of our actions and choices, we can actively become engaged in creating positive solutions for our communities and the world.

As we hope to celebrate and support you and your community’s aspirations and initiatives for peace, we would be very happy to explore bringing the Peace Run to your community. As we have seen in the case studies, Peace Run activities can be at any level — country, district, town or school.

The Peace Run is carried by a pure volunteer spirit, a spirit of cooperation, of joining of hands and hearts.

We are working with a modest budget and do not accept big sponsorship so as to avoid compromising the ideals of the run. We compensate for this with a shared enthusiasm, a common yearning of thousands of peace-lovers from all walks of life, who help to organise the run on a global, national, regional and local level.

In this partnership of peace we are reminded tangibly and powerfully that we belong to one world and that we need to join together to create a true culture of peace, solidarity and cooperation. This coming together is crucial to solving and transforming our common global challenges, enabling us to build a new oneness-world peace-family.

Please find additional information as well as practical guidelines at
peacerun.org

You can contact the Peace Run through the regional offices that are listed on our website.

Thank you for taking a step for peace!



/ DEVASHISHU TORPY, Global Events Director

“○ **dreamers of peace**, come.
Let us walk together.
○ **lovers of peace**, come.
Let us run together.
○ **servers of peace**, come.
Let us grow together.”

/ Sri Chinmoy



SRI CHINMOY
ONENESS-HOME
**PEACE
RUN**

Please visit
peacerun.org