

**PEACE AND CONFLICT pREVENTION/RESOLUTION**

Nearly 60 million people worldwide are displaced by armed conflict or persecution.[[1]](#endnote-1) To a significant degree, the failure to provide for basic human needs — food, water, shelter, health care, literacy, jobs, and basic rights — is the root cause of conflict.

**ROTARY’S ROLE IN RESPONSE**

We provide training to adults and young leaders to prevent and resolve conflict, through [Rotary Peace Fellowships](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/get-involved/exchange-ideas/peace-fellowships) and other Rotary-sponsored initiatives. Rotary Peace Fellows and Rotarians are at work in all of our [areas of focus](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/areas-focus). This holistic approach is essential to address the underlying causes of conflict and build more peaceful societies.

**ROTARY PEACE CENTERS**

The [Rotary Peace Centers](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/get-involved/exchange-ideas/peace-fellowships) develop leaders to become catalysts for peace and conflict prevention and resolution in their communities and around the globe. The centers prepare students through a rigorous program of academic study and practical training. Up to 100 peace fellows are chosen each year to participate in a master’s degree or certificate program at one of our partner universities. Rotarians [provide vital support](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/support-peace-centers) by promoting Rotary Peace Fellowships and supporting peace fellow candidates through the application process. To date, nearly 1,000 peace fellows are working in over 100 countries to create a more peaceful world. Rotary Peace Centers programs are found at:

* University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England
* Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
* Duke University/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA
* International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
* The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
* Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

**ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS AT WORK**

* **Anne Kjaer Riechert** (Denmark to International Christian University, 2010-12) is founder and managing director of ReDI School of Digital Integration, in Berlin, Germany, which helps create job opportunities for refugees by teaching them computer coding skills. Riechert also founded the Berlin Peace Innovation Lab in collaboration with Stanford University. The Lab brings nongovernmental organizations together with entrepreneurs, people working in technology, and start-up companies. As an outgrowth of the lab, she co-founded Refugees on Rails, a school that teaches computer coding to refugees. “The people who are coming here are escaping from terrible situations in their home countries – I feel a great responsibility for taking care of my future friends and colleagues,” Riechert says.
* **Summer Lewis** (United States to University of Queensland, 2011-12) worked with coffee-farming communities in Latin America, then co-founded True Roots Consulting in Mexico to foster social responsibility programs. One of her firm’s first partnerships is with a family gardens project in northern Mexico. The Rotary Club of Torreón Centenario has supported the project for several years and is working to expand and more effectively manage it, with the help of Lewis’ firm. “People ask how one little project in one little community makes a difference,” says Lewis. “But think about all the Rotary clubs carrying out projects in communities. Now you’re talking about changing the world.”
* **Sachin Rane** (India to Chulalongkorn University, 2013), a police officer, recently worked as a crime investigation officer at the UN Headquarters in Juba, South Sudan, which has long suffered from civil war. Now back in India, he investigates economic offenses like fraud. “After the training that I received in the Rotary peace course, I have become more people-oriented rather than a rigid law enforcer,” Rane says. “I try to study the causes that lead to an incident.”

**ROTARY PEACE PROJECTS**

* The **Central Asia Water Symposium** brought together water professionals from countries sharing the Aral Sea basin, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. There has been little regional planning for water management for the affected countries. Accordingly, these countries are adversely affected to varying degrees by mismanagement, resulting in the potential for conflict. Funded by a global grant, the symposium provided participants a framework to engage in dialogue to better understand the benefits of cooperation. Professional working relationships were established to enable the represented countries to start working together. A follow-up symposium is planned to include potential funding sources for solutions to regional infrastructure issues.
* The **Judo Project** is helping establish a culture of peace and reducing the incidence of physical and verbal abuse among students ages 5-18 in Timóteo, Minais Gerais, Brazil. Through the use of martial arts and integrated conflict resolution programming, the project promotes ethical and moral values, encourages mutual respect, and enhances listening and communication skills, enabling students to interact peacefully with each other. Workshops also provide guidance to parents, guardians, and teachers. Nearly 170 students benefited from the first phase of the project, and 200 are now participating. The global grant-funded effort continues to operate with the support of the Timóteo Municipal Council of Children and Adolescents.

**FIND OUT MORE**

Check out ways to take action and tips for success in the [Areas of Focus guide](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/rotarys-areas-focus).

Support the [Rotary Peace Centers](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/support-peace-centers), recruit peace fellow candidates, and promote the program.

Browse [Rotary Showcase](https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/search_project.aspx#area_of_focus=5a49b16b-8dc8-4e19-b0f8-fa092c9976d4) for peace-building projects.

Sponsor a project on [Rotary Ideas](http://ideas.rotary.org/).

Learn about [Rotarian action groups](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/rotarian-action-groups-flier) that are working in peace and conflict prevention/resolution and the other areas of focus.

The Secretariat’s contacts for this area of focus are Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Manager Rebecca Crall and Programs and Grants Manager Victor Barnes.

Send general questions to RotarySupportCenter@rotary.org.

1. [UNHCR 2015](http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)