Dear District 1600 Rotary Foundation Committee

Gordon Graham here - I was introduced at last weeks RF committee meeting. In brief - I am a former colleague of Henk Jaap and have just completed almost 35 years with Shell, retired since 1 Feb 2022. I am a member of Rotary Club The Hague Metropolitan (RCTHM) since 2019 and I am the leader of their Peace and Justice Task Force. As a native of Northern Ireland - who grew up during “the troubles” - Peace and Justice is close to my heart. Apologies in advance for writing notes in English - I speak and read Dutch but my written Dutch is poor. My wife (Renske) is Dutch and our 3 kids have duel Dutch and British nationality.

I have drafted the attached note for your review and would hope this - with modifications as necessary - could be sent to our District to encourage uptake of the Rotary International Peace Fellowships from our Global network and hopefully from someone resident in our district. I would be grateful for your review of this note and would suggest we issue it to the Rotary Clubs in our district with a cover note written by Henk Jaap.

Any suggestions you have are most welcome.

Kind regards

Gordon Graham

**Introduction**

This note is intended to give you a brief understanding of the Rotary Peace Fellowships process for 2022.  This is fully aligned with Rotary International guidance and as we proceed with the process I will continue to provide you more details.  It is important to note that the endorsement process for potential candidates is run at District level.  Therefore, we will have a role to play as a committee (or designated person from the committee) to endorse any proposed candidates.

In Rotary Club The Hague Metropolitan (RCTHM), we have 2 individuals who are willing to help with the endorsement process by conducting initial interviews with potential candidates. This can be done on behalf of D1600 if required. My role in RCTHM, as the Peace and Justice Task Force leader, has been to ensure we are following the correct process.

**Rotary Peace Fellowships – Key Facts**

·         130 Rotary Peace Fellowships awarded per year - 50 Masters, 80 Professional Development Certificates

·         15-24 months Master's degree including 2-3 months field study

·         12 months program for Professional Development certificates

·         7 Peace Centers - Rotary partnerships with leading universities (5 for Masters, 2 for Diploma)

·         Fellowships are awarded via a competitive process that considers personal, academic and professional achievements.

Fellows earn either i) a Masters Degree ii) a Post Graduate Diploma, in Peace and Development Studies.

There are 7 Peace Centres running the Fellowship programmes:  [Duke-UNC](https://rotarypeacecenternc.org/), USA; [University of Bradford](https://www.bradford.ac.uk/mlss/rotary/), England; [Uppsala University](https://www.pcr.uu.se/education/uppsala-rotary-peace-center/), Sweden; [Makerere University](https://rpc.mak.ac.ug/), Uganda (cert program); [Chulalongkorn University](https://www.rotarychula.org/), Thailand (cert program); [International Christian University](https://rotaryicu.wordpress.com/), Japan; [University of Queensland](https://rotary.centre.uq.edu.au/), Australia.

Rotary’s commitment to peace and the generosity of Rotarians around the world combine to make the Rotary Peace Centers program distinctive and successful. Clubs and districts have the power to shape the next generation of peace leaders by recruiting and nominating peace fellows, and keeping them engaged after the fellowship ends. Districts interview and endorse qualified candidates, which is required before The Rotary Foundation can consider a candidate. Clubs help by recommending and coaching qualified candidates.

**Timeline – Key milestones**

Feb 2022 – commence application process for the 2023-24 Rotary Peace Fellowships

15-31 May – R.I. Staff review applications for eligibility and completeness

June Endorsement interviews

1 July 2022 – District Submits endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation

5-12 July – Endorsed candidates make final edits to incorporate district feedback

**Considerations when seeking potential candidates**

There are strict eligibility criteria which must be met (will be communicated separately).  An application overview, stating eligibility criteria, for potential candidates is available using this [link](https://my-cms.rotary.org/en/document/candidate-application-overview-rotary-peace-fellowships).

Candidates from any location can be referred for a Rotary Fellowship – using the [referral form](https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cP8EInvsT3toZOB) but should be endorsed by a Rotary Club/District in their area to enhance the quality of support to that candidate. For D1600 ideally any endorsement(s) we make are for candidates living in our District.

All Rotary members in our district are able and encouraged to alert suitable persons in their networks of this opportunity. I strongly recommend that those proposing a candidate you should be prepared to assist that candidate with the application process and coaching and support thereafter.  If candidates are not local, please help them to locate a Rotary club in their area for support and endorsement.  (Use the Rotary club locator at this [link](https://my-cms.rotary.org/en/search/club-finder?embed=true)).

Please feel free to address any queries to me at [G\_Graham@yahoo.com](mailto:G_Graham@yahoo.com)

With kind regards

Gordon Graham