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Press Release

Belfast pupils to represent the Northern Ireland at 2018 The Global Peace Games

TWENTY key stage 3 and 4 pupils from Belfast will represent Northern Ireland at the 2018 The Global Peace Games, at the Peace Village, Flanders, Messines, Belgium, site of the 1914 First World War Christmas Truces.

15th to 20th September 2018

Hosted by the Peace Village, the event will bring young people across Europe together with the aim of creating peace makers of the future. Schools from Italy and Belgium will also take part. The children from the Belgium schools will represent countries from across the globe, many from war torn countries.

The National Children's Football Alliance (NCFA) invited children that participated in The Peace Fields Project and twinned with the Cregagh Green playing field Belfast (George Best pitch), with Flanders Peace Fields. 20 young peace ambassadors from different schools are taking part in the highly prestigious event which commemorates The First World War and celebrates peace, through play. The GPGs takes place over The United Nations, International Day of Peace, 21st September.

Funded by UEFA's Foundation for Children and the European Union's Erasmus+', the games will provide a platform for the young ambassadors to help form and lay the foundations for an annual GPGs, for schools and clubs to twin their respective playing fields with Flanders Peace Field, where over a 100 years ago German and Allied soldiers stepped out of their trenches and momentarily escaped the horror of war by playing football with a ball and jackets for goalposts.

Pupils from North Ireland, Belgium and Italy will visit several significant battle sites and take part in international games and forums, debating the role of sport at home, in the community and at war.

In the 100th anniversary year of the Vote for Women we are delighted that the following ambassadors will be attending the GPG's OPENING CEREMONY

Alison Rose British Ambassador to Belgium

Pauline JACQUES Personal Assistant & Events Manager to Ambassador Alison Rose | British Embassy Brussels
Avenue d'Auderghem 10/Oudergemselaan 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Email: pauline.jacques@fco.gov.uk - Tel: 0032 (0) 2 287 6207 - FTN: 8316 6207

Helen Nolan Irish Ambassador to Belgium

Anna Osypchuk Executive Assistant to the Ambassador Embassy of Ireland
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Along with **Paul Breyne**, Commissioner-General of the Commemoration of the WW1.

Ernie Brennan, NCFA CEO, said, "This is a once in a lifetime experience for young people to help form a legacy in the 100 years commemoration. Playing football games on the most poignant field in the world of football will inspire young peace makers of the future and we should never forget the essence of playing football in its simplest form."

Schools interested in taking part in the Global Peace Games need to complete the Peace Field Project (PFP) which twins their designated area of play with Flanders Peace Fields. The PFP enables young people and communities to learn about their heritage, which the centenary commemorations provide, through engagement in a comprehensive programme of activities, culminating in a commemoration event where the school playing fields will be designated as Peace Fields.

For more information about the Global and Peace Games and The Peace Fields Project and how your school or club can twin their playing areas with Flanders Peace Field visit www.childrensfootballalliance.com

Notes for Editors

- The NCFA was established in 2008 to enhance children's development through the medium of football by way of the sharing and dissemination of information and the practical application of the knowledge acquired. www.childrensfootballalliance.com
- The NCFA's core aim is to **protect childhood through play** and to promote and advance children's unalienable right to engage in football play appropriate to their age and needs. One of its core objectives is to promote and spread best practice through practical application and football for fun workshops. Current NCFA projects include: National Children's Football Week; International Children's Football Week; Summer off the Streets and the Family Skills Project in partnership with Family Lives <http://familylives.org.uk/>
- Interviews with Paul Cooper (NCFA National Projects Director) + 00 44 (0)7875283093.

•Backgroundinformation:

[http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/FOOTBALL PEACE working_group.html](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/FOOTBALL_PEACE_working_group.html)

For more information please contact: info@thecfa.co.uk

<http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com>