



**United  
Nations**

**Secretary-General**

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## **“Ring the Bells for Peace and Heritage”**

### **Message from António Guterres**

I welcome and fully support the initiative undertaken by Europa Nostra and its partners to Ring the Bells for Peace and Heritage.

Today, with St Mark's Square and all of Venice as its starting point, the bells at some of the world's most outstanding heritage sites will proudly ring out across Europe. What a powerful and meaningful way to mark this year's International Day of Peace, which coincides with the start of this year's European Cultural Heritage Summit in Venice.

This inspiring initiative has come about in the right place, at the right time.

It appeals to our collective endeavour to nurture peace and to safeguard our cultural heritage throughout the world. Each person, in every part of the world, deserves to live their life in safety and in peace. Sadly, we see all too often, that this is not the case.

Our cultural heritage, the most precious expression of the world's inhabitants, also faces threats – both in times of conflict and in times of peace – and especially due to deliberate destruction, climate change and the negative effects of inappropriate development. We must, therefore, join our forces and our voices, to overcome these threats through resolute and imaginative action.

Let today's Ringing of the Bells for Peace and Heritage become a resounding call to action! We need it now, more than ever before, because we are simply running out of time. As we learn to live with a global pandemic, and as we discover alarming new evidence of the devastating effects of climate change, it is up to us to take urgent action. We need to “build back better” so that we can achieve a more equitable future and a more sustainable world.

So, let the Bells Ring for Peace and Heritage - in Venice and all over Europe! Let the sound of those bells be the sound of hope, the sound of our togetherness, the sound of our solidarity and the sound of our shared determination to build a more peaceful and more humane world, by putting culture and our shared cultural heritage where they surely belong – at the very heart of our endeavour.