



Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia

Ροταριανός Όμιλος Λευκωσίας-Ασπέλια



District 2452 | Club 31029

MONTH July: *Start of new Rotary officer's year of Service*

BULLETIN NO. 1

Next Club Meeting on Friday, 15th of July at 13:15

13:15	Arrivals
13:45	President's announcements
14:00	Speech by Dr Antonis Stylianou on "Hope for Children"
14:20	Speech by Anastasia Papadopoulou on "National policy against sexual exploitation and abuse of children"
14:45	Q & A
15:00	Close

Minutes of Club Meeting on Friday, 8th of July 2016:

Present: 12 members and 1 Guest (Mrs Dora Charalambous, Manager KLM/ AIR FRANCE)

Apologies: AG/YD Caterina Kalavas, PP Louisa Coudounaris, SAA Patrick Elston, Rtn Amal el Choury

President Nairy welcomed members as well as the distinguished guest to the meeting and proceeded to make the following brief announcements:

- 1) The Club's handover on Saturday the 2nd of July at DDGE Elena Tanou's house was a great success with everyone enjoying a wonderful evening. Acting treasurer for the night, PP Loucas Vrionides informed the President at the Board meeting that the Club has raised a total of 1,200 Euros.
- 2) PAG Elena Tanou is officially the DDGE for the year 2017-2018.
- 3) PDDG Christina Covotsou Patroklou is officially the DGE for the year 2017-2018.
- 4) President Nairy will establish the norm to have one fellowship evening per month, to encourage young Rotaractors to become Rotarians. Thursday, the 21st of July will be the first Fellowship. More information to follow. As a result, the lunch meeting on Friday, 22nd of July will be replaced by a fellowship dinner.

P.O. Box 16240, CY 2087, Strovolos, Cyprus, www.rotary-cyprus.org/nic-aspelia/

Rotary Club Nicosia-Aspelia Scholarship Fund, Registered Charity no.: 13.36.002.04

President 2016-2017: Nairy Merheje, nmerheje@cytanet.com.cy – Secretary: Ioanna Kyprianidou, joankypr@spidernet.com.cy – Treasurer: Katerina Nicolaidis, katerina.nicolaidis@gmail.com

Secretary Ioanna Kyprianidou presented the first speaker, **Dr Antonis Stylianou**.

Bio

Dr. Stylianou holds an LLB Law degree with honors from the University of Bristol and a PHD in Law from the University of Kent. He is a lecturer in Law at the University of Nicosia and the Director of the Law Clinic of the University. He is a board member in many organizations. He is also a member of Rotary Club Nicosia and the spokesperson of the International Humanitarian organization "Hope for Children".

Speech resume

"Hope for Children" is an NGO (Non-for-Profit Organization) founded in 2008 with branches in 9 other countries. Its areas of expertise include working on policies and laws for the defense, protection and promotion of children's rights (research, grassroots programs, implementation of advisory services and policy making offered to governments and international organizations).

"Hope for Children" believes that the "right to life" is the most important human right in the world. Children also have other rights such as, the right to play, the right to be heard, the right to education, freedom of thought, religion and so on.

"Hope for Children" also works closely with the Ministry of Justice, the Cyprus Police, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Health, the Association for the prevention of family violence, Smile of Child, the SCEP, Council of Europe, UNDP and many more.

"Hope for Children" has the following programs:

- 1) Provision of non-formal education on human rights. This involves activities and exercises for children between the ages of 6 and 13 and it's specially designed for educators working with children.
- 2) "One-in-five campaign" involves the Lanzarote convention (Anastasia Papadopoulou will provide more information about this in her speech). This program has two goals: First, to achieve implementation of the Council of Europe convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, and second, to equip children, their families and societies with knowledge on how to prevent sexual exploitation.
- 3) The "Beat bullying" program aims to promote sensitivity to bullying while encouraging means of detection, prevention and handling of bullying. Two TV spots have been produced to promote ways to respond to bullying, with children becoming role models in standing up against it.

Dr. Stylianou also informed us that there is a phone application you could download on your iPhone or any other smartphone with all the information about bullying and how to handle it. There is also a free telephone line (116111), but, due to financial constraints, it cannot work 24/7. It is operated by psychologists, and social counselors.

- 4) Unaccompanied minors (Children living in Cyprus without their parents).

“Hope for Children” is the 1st NGO that provides shelter 24/7 to unaccompanied minors at their “Home for Hope” housing facility. It provides rehabilitation, integration and durable solution services. It’s funded, approved and closely collaborates with Social Welfare Services. It offers nutrition, education and counseling to children.

- 5) Eradication of child poverty is a campaign to provide the essential items to children to go to school and it works throughout the year.
- 6) Child protection alert is a system set up in collaboration with Google, the police and the Ministry of Justice. It announces when children go missing.
- 7) There is also a hotline for missing children (116000). It operates closely with the Police (24/7) and it’s funded by the European Commission.

Conclusion: If we want a healthy society we need healthy children.

President Nairy presented the second speaker, **Anastasia Papadopoulou**.

Bio

Ms. Papadopoulou holds an MA degree in history from the University of Edinburgh and an LLB in Law from the University of Cambridge. She completed her L.P.C at the College of Law in London. She is the writer of many articles published in the press and is a senior member of the NGO “Hope for Children” and many other organizations dealing with the sexual abuse of children.

Speech resume

Ms. Papadopoulou discussed the Lanzarote Convention which provides an explanation about sexual abuse in children. Sexual exploitation and abuse of children is a social problem. If no collective action is taken, merely punishing criminals is not enough.

The convention’s purpose is to protect the victims with the setup of special procedures to deter criminals from committing the crime in the future, train children, teachers and policemen in sexual abuse and exploitation as well as to spread this to the society at large.

The Government must implement a national policy on sexual abuse; four ministers who are currently appointed for this include the Ministers of Health, Justice, Welfare and Education. A policy will be drafted so that it could be implemented in the future.

The most important thing is prevention. Education must be provided in order to prevent sexual abuse from happening:

- 1) Educate children on some things which are wrong
- 2) Inform where someone can go for help
- 3) Provision of sexual education. It will be compulsory at schools in September for children from the age of five
- 4) Fight pornography
- 5) Protect children from the dangers of the internet

No formal complaints are made because of fear of stigma. Now there is anonymity of the child. Most to the cases of sexual abuse come from close relatives and friends and the number one concern should always be the welfare of the child.

“Home for Children” was established in Denmark, with its main mission to protect sexually abused children from public exploitation in court hearings and police questionings.

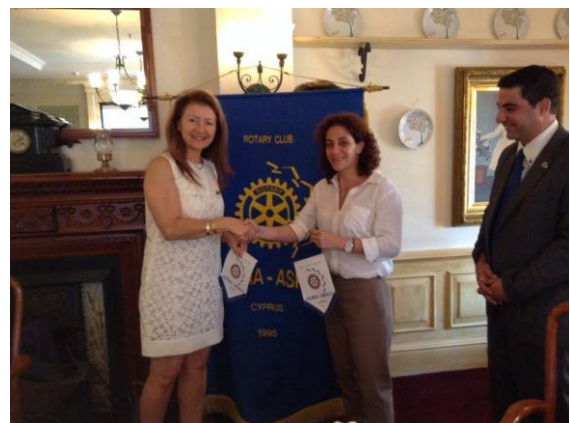
A campaign is organized to stop exploiting children as sexual objects in beauty contests, dance and singing competitions and so on. People who have suspicions that sexual abuse/exploitation is taking place, are highly encouraged to report it or else they could be treated as an accessory to crime.

Conclusion: Problems must be recognized and dealt with, in a trained and professional manner if we really want to see positive results.

Afterwards, a lengthy Q & A followed. During this session, IP Chris Ellinas recommended a joint meeting with other Rotary Clubs, to publicize the subject, invite the two speakers again as well as companies that could sponsor and make it into a big event.

The winner of the raffle was RFD Goran Svensson.

Meeting concluded: 15:25.



Ioanna Kyprianidou
Secretary of Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia
2016-2017

Programme

Aspelia Calendar 2016/2017

July

(Start of new Rotary officers' year of Service)

02 Saturday	Handover party at PAG Elena Tanou's residence. Price: 20 euros (food and drinks). Visitors welcome. For reservations, please call 96840728
08 Friday	Lunch meeting at the Fontana salon at 13:15. Guest speakers, Anastasia Papadopoulou and Dr Antonis Stylianou from Hope for Children. They will talk about "Hope for children" and "National policy against sexual exploitation and abuse of children". Price: 20 euros. Visitors welcome.
15 Friday	Lunch meeting at the Fontana salon at 13:15.
21 Thursday	Fellowship evening at a restaurant/tavern. More information in due course.
22 Friday	Lunch meeting replaced by a fellowship dinner.
29 Friday	Lunch meeting at the Fontana salon at 13:15. Club Assembly. Members Only.