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## World's largest torch relay for peace connects all European countries from Lisbon to Belgrade

The **Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run** (previously known as the World Harmony Run) is a worldwide torch relay that symbolizes humanity's universal aspiration for a more harmonious world. Now in its third decade, the Peace Run is humanity's largest and longest grassroots effort for peace.

From Lisbon, on 21 February 2014, an international team of runners will carry a flaming torch as a symbol of peace - passing it from hand to hand and heart to heart - eastwards through all of Europe.

The runners will visit school children, community groups, organisations from all walks of life, dignitaries and athletes, sharing with them the ideals of encouragement and support for others and fostering teamwork and peace in our day-to-day lives. The Runners will travel on a **24,000 km journey through 47 European countries** to finish in Belgrade on 7 October.

Peace visionary **Sri Chinmoy** ("Shree Chin-moy") founded the Peace Run in 1987 in a spirit of love, harmony and oneness. Since then the initiative visited over 150 countries and international teams of runners ran far more than 500,000 km. The simple message of the Run – "Yours is the first step!" - has inspired millions the world over.

In 2014 Runs will take place on all continents visiting over 100 countries. Over the coming months runners will do about 100 km a day. One or two vehicles follow the teams of runners as they carry the torch from town to town each day with each runner expected to cover an average of 10 up to 30 kilometres.

Endorsements have come from many world figures, including President Nelson Mandela, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mother Teresa and Carl Lewis.

During the history of the Peace Run in Great Britain, the torch has been held by many prominent people, amongst them Lord Sebastian Coe and Paula Radcliffe. The Queen held the torch at the VE Day celebrations in 1995 and used it to light the Beacon in Hyde Park.

The run is a non-profit event organised and financed entirely by volunteers, which simply strives to encourage goodwill among peoples of all nations. The Peace Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause. Everyone can participate: athletes and non-athletes, young and old alike. Carry the Torch a few steps, a few blocks or a few miles or just come out and cheer the runners as they pass.

To find out more about the Peace Run and the progress of the running teams, visit "News" at [www.peacerun.org](http://www.peacerun.org).

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