



КАМБАНИ ЗА МИР
Национална инициатива за детско творчество и мир
„Камбанен звън огласява мира“



PEACE BELLS

National Initiative for Children's Creativity and Peace

“The Bell Chime Resounds for Peace”

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE

“The Bell Chime Resounds for Peace”

National Initiative for Children's Creativity and Peace

Marking 21 September 2026 – the International Day for Peace

1. What is the initiative?

“The Bell Chime Resounds for Peace” is a Bulgarian national initiative for children's creativity and peace, bringing together children, schools, kindergartens, community cultural centres, creative groups, cultural and educational institutions, communities and municipalities in Bulgaria and abroad around two shared messages:

“Peace is My Choice.”

“Peace is Our Choice.”

The initiative is held **under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms Iliana Iotova**, and is supported by the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria and other high-level public institutions in Bulgaria.

Its purpose is to inspire and unite people, institutions and communities in a broad public expression of **children's voices for peace** – through the ringing of bells, a minute of silence, drawing, song, words, music, dance, theatre, school initiatives, volunteering and other community activities.

Our long-term goal is to help establish 21 September – the International Day of Peace – as an annual, widely recognized and nationwide observance in Bulgaria, bringing together children, educational institutions, municipalities, cultural organizations and local communities around the universal value of peace.



2. Why is it important?

In a world in which children increasingly hear words such as war, fear, division and insecurity, the initiative places another choice at its centre – **the choice of peace, humanity, empathy and kindness.**

It is a peaceful, educational, cultural and humanitarian invitation and firmly affirms its **non-political, non-religious and non-ideological character.**

The idea is to give children the opportunity to express, in their own way, what peace means to them, how they can carry it within themselves and bring it to life among their friends, at school, within their families, in their communities and in the world.

3. How will the initiative unfold in 2026?

In 2026, the initiative will develop in two main directions:

1. Central Event

On **21 September 2026**, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, the central event will take place at the **Bells Monument Complex (“The Bells”), Sofia**, with the participation of children, students, children’s ensembles, creative groups, guests and partners.

2. National “Week FOR PEACE 2026”

From **18 to 25 September 2026**, schools, kindergartens, community cultural centres, cultural organizations, communities and municipalities are invited to organize their own initiatives for peace on a day, at a time and in a format that is convenient for them.

The initiative may be held in coordination with the central event through the shared symbolic moments and the **“White Canvas for Peace”**, or in an independently chosen format on another suitable day within **“Week FOR PEACE 2026”** – for example, an exhibition, school lesson, concert, literary reading, theatre performance, peace message, volunteering initiative or another creative activity.

4. Shared Symbolic Moment – A Key Moment of the Initiative



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On **21 September 2026**, all participants – children, students, teachers, parents, citizens and communities – are invited, wherever they may be, to unite through a shared symbolic gesture:

11:59 a.m. – One Minute of Silence

As a sign of respect, humanity, empathy and our shared aspiration for peace throughout the world.

12:00 noon – Shared Bell Chime / Unified Message for Peace

This may be the sound of a school bell, a hand bell or a musical signal, accompanied by a short message chosen by the school or community.

In this way, **Bulgaria will send a strong and united call for peace to the world – in spiritual and symbolic harmony with the Peace Bell at the United Nations Headquarters.**

“White Canvas for Peace”

The shared symbolic moment may also include a **“White Canvas for Peace”** – a large white canvas or simply a white sheet of paper for a personal message.

Everyone – **from a child to the President** – may write or draw their own message for peace:

“Peace is My Choice.”

“Peace is Our Choice.”

5. Who stands behind the initiative?

The initiative was created by the civic movement **“Peace Bells”** and is now developed and institutionally represented by the **Peace Bells Foundation**, registered in 2026 as a non-profit legal entity for public benefit.

In 2024 and 2025, the “Peace Bells” civic community organized two informal pilot events for children’s creativity and peace at the Bells Monument Complex.

They created an exceptional atmosphere of joy, closeness and togetherness and encouraged a sense of solidarity and empathy towards the values of creativity and peace.

These events also affirmed one of the initiative’s central messages – that:



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Peace depends on all of us and is not solely the result of political or institutional decisions. It is built every day through personal choice, human relationships, empathy and collective action.

Founder and Visionary: Elena Klisarska
Chairperson of the **Peace Bells Foundation**
klisarska@peacehub.bg
LinkedIn: **Elena Klisarska**

6. How can schools and communities participate?

Schools and communities can participate by organizing their own initiative for peace on any convenient day between **18 and 25 September 2026**, or by joining the shared symbolic actions on **21 September**.

Official information, registration and the interactive map of events are available at:

www.peacehub.bg /Bulgarian version only/

You can contact us at:
info@peacehub.bg

Peace is My Choice. Peace is Our Choice. Peace depends on all of us.

PEACE BELLS FOUNDATION

Public Benefit Foundation

Sofia, Bulgaria

www.peacehub.bg

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