



**LLANGOLLEN**  
**International**  
**MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD**

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***Nominated for 2004 Nobel Peace Prize***

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

**"A BEAUTIFUL, BRILLIANT WORD"**

I stand before you today as a representative of my community. I stand before you clothed, healthy and safe in the knowledge that I have a future. But there are millions of children throughout the world who are not safe, who are doubtful of their future, who are dying from our ignorance, our conflicts, our selfishness. There are children in this world whose families have been torn apart by disease or war. These children live in abject poverty while we in Britain enjoy the spoils of their countries. There are children in this world who cannot read or write. They go out to work to feed themselves rather than being educated. There are children whose Fathers have been killed in a conflict that was not their own.

There are children who are dying of diseases that have been virtually eradicated here. But make no mistake; there are children here, in this supposedly developed country, who are victim to our ignorance. There is conflict on our doorstep and everyday there are soldiers sent away to fight a war which isn't our own. We hear about these conflicts on the news but the children of these conflicted countries experience it firsthand.

I am grateful to live in a country which isn't torn apart by war, a country where violence is taken to be an occurrence rather than a daily routine. I can go home tonight without fear, I can go to my kitchen and eat 'til my heart is content. I can go to the Doctor whenever I feel ill. There are children who do not DARE to go and to play in their streets, who are starving to death or dying of a disease which we in Britain take to be a common sickness. Surely as a 'developed' country, we can stop this. We can feed the world, we can cure the world, we can save the world from war.

I believe there is a word for this. There is a word that allows for poverty to become extinct, for war to be eradicated and famine to cease to be. There is a beautiful, brilliant word for this term. That word is PEACE

LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD 2009 PEACE MESSAGE  
WRITTEN BY ALEX PASLEY, LLANGOLLEN