

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, every year since 1920, the children in Turkey celebrate April 23 as "Sovereignty and Children's Day" - a national holiday highlighting the date of the founding of the National Assembly in Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk; and large number of countries, including the U.S.A. send groups of children to Turkey to participate in the Children's Day festivities where children pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, the importance of April 23rd as a special day for children has been recognized by the international community, and UNICEF decided to recognize this important day as the International Children's Day – a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children; and

WHEREAS, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington (TACAWA) organized the first five annual International Children's Friendship Festivals to bring the positive energy of International Children's Day to the Washington community through fostering cultural exchange and friendship among youth; and

WHEREAS, the seventh annual International Children's Friendship Festival will be run by the Washington State resident children, and will feature children performance groups representing their heritage from Ahiskan Turks, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Somalia, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States including Native American Quinault Nation in order to broaden horizons of our future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Festival run by children themselves will research and debate their topics in Kid's Forum, learn about supporting the needed families as well as explore power of art through an art show case for a better and peaceful life in our State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the Washington State, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2016 as

The International Children's Day

and the week of April 16 through 23, 2016 as

The International Children's Friendship Festival Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 15th day of April, 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee