

United Nations Association

Westminster Branch

Campaigning for a strong, credible and effective UN



The Olympic Truce: it's time to up the tempo

UNA Westminster Branch says it's time to promote the Olympic Truce with more vigour than LOCOG and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are currently showing. As a member of the FCO-led Olympic Truce Stakeholder Group, we have been disappointed by the comfortable Village Fete approach preferred by LOCOG and the IOC. For many months, LOCOG has sought to deny wide use of the Olympic Truce logo shown above (centre). We have argued that this is the only symbol of the Olympic Truce which can gain universal approval. Our analysis of the chronology and opportunities for the Olympic Truce are set out in *The Olympic Truce, historic and universal; for all the peoples. See What we do/other events/2012.*

At the FCO-hosted reception at Lancaster House on 19 June to mark the Olympic Truce, we wore lapel badges as shown here, distributing them to diplomats and others. This initiative was successful and prompted us to launch our own Olympic Truce Facebook page (below) in association with A Ray of



Hope, the Belfast-based organisation which provided the children's choir who sang at the UN60 service at St Paul's Cathedral attended by HM the Queen, organised by UNA Westminster.

In the space of four days, our new Olympic Truce Facebook page has gathered over 3000 followers. By contrast, the official Olympic Truce Facebook site run for the IOC has gathered only 260 followers in six months. We believe this vindicates our decision to break out of the LOCOG straitjacket and share the programme with peoples from round the world. Already, we have contributors from every continent. See <http://www.facebook.com/groups/olympictruce/>

More news of UNA Westminster Olympic Truce initiatives follow.