

***Speech of the President of the Hellenic Road Safety Institute  
RSI Panos Mylonas addressing the Scouts during the Joining  
Hands for Road Safety Event in the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout  
Jamboree in Sweden***

***(Rinkaby, Kristanstad Sweden, August 2011)***

Dear Friends,

3.000 years ago Ancient Greeks used to say that in a period of peace young people bury their parents while in a period of war the parents bury their children. I believe that what takes place in our roads nowadays is an undeclared war where parents bury their children. It is the war on asphalt

1.3 million people lose their lives on the roads every year. According to the World Health Organisation global status report road traffic crashes consist the leading cause of death for young people from the age of 15 up to 29 years old, the second cause of death for children from 5 to 14 years old and the third for the ages 30 to 44 years old. I number my own child among these terrible statistics.

Bearing the sudden tragic unfair loss of my son Panos at 22 years of age on March 22nd 2004, I have committed myself to do my best everyday so that we can cut road deaths and injuries, to protect life and health. I also work so that other parents and young people will not experience and feel the loss we - my husband and I felt losing our son and my younger son George who is here with me , aged 17 at the time of the accident, felt losing his brother. I am deeply concerned that this tragic personal issue is a global issue and there is a challenging perspective to help to improve for you, for your families, for the world. This personal issue affects so many people so many countries, it is a global issue and we can together change the figures because when your beloved one becomes a figure in the statistics then it is too late. Behind the figures there are faces, dreams that were not fulfilled and people we miss. Road safety concerns everyone. It is a global issue and it is something we can help to improve.

Being here today I feel very honoured and very much motivated looking at you the young people in the 22nd World Scout Jamboree

in Sweden and I want to bring across the world through you a strong message of hope and confidence for this huge problem of the massacre of young people on the roads. This plague of road deaths and injuries has to stop. None of your mothers should be in my position.

In the Greek Road Safety Institute "Panos Mylonas", which was founded following the unfair and tragic death of my son, we have helped put in place a foundation stone in contributing to a major and global initiative to reduce and prevent road traffic crashes. There is immense value to society in working to make our roads safer.

I wish to thank you for the encouragement through your interest in our road safety active workshops. I wish to thank my old friend and scout John Lawlor, Head of Contingent of Scouting Ireland, the Scouts of Ireland and Greece for such a constructive collaboration working together before and during this Jamboree and I wish to express my gratitude for UNECE that has embraced this promising initiative together with WOSM for our program "Scouting for Global Road Safety".

Sweden is ranking highest in road safety in the world and Scouting is the largest youth organisation of the world; I see no better chance than the 22nd World Scout Jamboree held in Sweden to bring a strong message to the world for peace on the roads against the war on the asphalt. Starting here, today, and holding hands together with a pledge in memory of those killed on the roads and a promise to do our best for Road Safety because it is a human right - the right to life and health - for our country, for every country for the globe.

Working together we can make roads safer for better days to come through learning, changing, saving lives...

Together we make it loud: Road Safety for a better world! Scouting for Global Road Safety!

Thanking you from my heart I believe in you, I believe in Youth and I believe in the Scouts for creating a better world!

*Vassiliki Danelli-Mylonas*

*President of the Greek Road Safety Institute - RSI Panos Mylonas*