

RUNNING FOR PEACE



The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus (OSASG) has increasingly embraced sports-based initiatives as a powerful bridge between communities—bringing together people across the island who might not otherwise interact.

For instance, through the Technical Committee on Culture, OSASG supported a Run for Peace in September 2023, organized by the bicomunal running association Runite across the divided capital of Nicosia. Following the success of that event, Runite—with support from OSASG and UNDP—embarked on an even more ambitious initiative: a coast-to-coast run.

The Coast-to-Coast Run

On 23 November 2024, runners set off from Kyrenia/Girne in the north and Larnaca in the south, converging in Nicosia. Spanning over 80 kilometers in several segments, the event welcomed participants of all levels. With around 250 runners from both communities and beyond—including members of the diplomatic corps—this event showcased the power of outdoor sports in bringing people together.

Capturing the Moment

This inspiring journey has been captured in a 10-minute documentary film, *Running for Peace*, which premiered on 11 March in Nicosia to an audience of approximately 100 participants. The screening featured SRSG/DSASG Colin Stewart, representatives from both communities, as well as media, members of running associations, and civil society groups.

Contacts:

📍 Sergiy Illarionov, Head of Office, OSASG – illarionov@un.org

📍 Arnaud Amouroux, Political Affairs Officer, OSASG – amouroux@un.org

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