

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1920, the children of Turkey celebrate April 23, *Sovereignty and Children's Day*, as a national holiday, highlighting the date of the founding of the National Assembly in the Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk; and

WHEREAS, many countries, including the United States send groups of children to Turkey to participate in Children's Day festivities where children pledge their commitment to international peace; and

WHEREAS, the importance of April 23 as a special day for children has been recognized by the international community, and UNICEF recognizes the day as International Children's Day; and

WHEREAS, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington organized the first three International Children's Friendship Festivals to bring the positive energy of International Children's Day to our state – fostering cultural exchange and friendship among youth; and

WHEREAS, the third annual International Children's Friendship Festival will feature children's performance groups representing the heritages of China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Scotland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 22-28, 2012, as

International Children's Friendship Festival Week

and April 23, 2012, as

International Children's Day

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 17th day of April, 2012

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

