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Dear friends of IIPT,

As spring arrives, bringing with it the enduring promise of renewal and rebirth, we're reminded that our world is also facing unprecedented challenges. Amidst global turmoil, it's more crucial than ever that we, as peace seekers, share our vision for a more harmonious world. This is your invitation to join the conversation and share in this newsletter the inspiring work your chapter or community is doing to promote peace through tourism.

We're excited to announce a special event in Turkey this April, inaugurating a new peace park – a celebration that's always a highlight for our IIPT community. Below, Gail Parsonage, President of our Australian Chapter, shares her report on their peace-promoting initiatives.

Your Editor, Bea Broda



Photo: The proposed site

A New Peace Park

2IIPT in collaboration with Birol Arslan Mayor of Kepez, Canakkale Turkiye, will be establishing an IIPT Olive Peace Park at the memorial site of the Mesudiye Battleship Monument, Canakkale, part of our Global IIPT Peace Park Initiative. The event will take place on the 23rd April 2025 which is the National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Turkey and is dedicated to all the world's children – keepers and creators of the future.

The origin of the National Day goes back to April 23, 1920, during the War of Independence in Turkey. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to chart the future of a new Turkish Republic. The day was proclaimed a national Holiday in 1921 – marking the first National holiday of the new Turkey.

So how, did a public holiday become associated with Children's Day? The world owes it to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He was an immortal war hero of WW1 and an extraordinary leader and peacemaker and the founder and first President of the Turkish Republic. In 1927, he dedicated April 23 to Turkey's children to recognize that they are the future.



Most people wishing to attend the Peace Park ceremony have already made their plans and bookings, but here is the planned schedule of events:

- April 20** – Make your own way to the hotel in Istanbul
- April 20-22** – Istanbul accommodation **10 Karakoy Hotel** or similar
- April 21** – IIPT Istanbul Conference & 2025 Goals & Objectives
- April 21** – Sunset Bosphorus cruise
- April 22** – Transfer from Istanbul to Canakkale (approximately 4 hours)
- April 22-25** – **Double Tree by Hilton Canakkale** or **Kolin Hotel Canakkale**
- April 23** – Full day IIPT Olive Peace Park dedication followed by tea-coffee & soft drinks informal meeting with the locals. Dinner at the Iris hotel Canakkale
- April 24** – Visit of the local region (details to be advise)

April 25 – Participation at the annual Gallipoli Anzac Commemorations (5.00 am in the morning)

April 25-26 – **Hampton Inn Arnavutkoy** (near Istanbul international airport)

The next newsletter will feature stories and pictures of this historic event.

Highlighting Peace through Tourism



Juergen Steinmetz is a longtime friend and supporter of IIPT, and he featured a series of articles related to peace earlier this year. If you missed this series, the following are some of the links that will take you to the stories. IIPT continues to be grateful to Juergen for his conscientious and continued support.

[“Peace & Tourism”](#)

[Perspectives sure to reset the](#)
[industry mindset in 2025 and](#)
[beyond](#)

[Tourism, Peace and](#)

[Fairness: Why SMEs Matter](#)

[A Lot More?](#)

[From Iran: Why Do We Need](#)

[Peace and Tourism?](#)

[It's Time Leaders Walk the Talk](#)

[in Making Peace Through](#)

[Tourism a Reality](#)

Affiliates to Learn About

The Joan B Krok School of Peace Studies is accomplishing something quite unique in offering peace studies within a large university. (San Diego.) With the motto “Knowledge to Lead Change,” their goal is “to end cycles of violence and shaping more peaceful and just societies through innovative teaching, ideas and research.”

GRADUATE DEGREES

Courageous Changemakers Belong Here



In the last decade, the Kroc School has welcomed more than 30 international leaders, including four Nobel Peace Prize Laureates: His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Leymah Gbowee, Shirin Ebadi, former president of Poland Lech Wałęsa and former United States President Jimmy Carter. Our guests increase awareness and invigorate audiences, motivating action to build inclusive, peaceful and thriving communities around the world. Prospective students can view our Multimedia Hub for on-demand webinars and other admissions-related events.

To have a look into what they're doing and to find out more about the classes offered, here is a link to their website:

sandiego.edu/peace

What Everyone is Up to: Commemorating a Man of Peace

African Diaspora Tourism (ADT) would like to take this time to honor the legacy of former president Jimmy Carter. Upon the death of a beloved former president who just died at the age of 100, having a few months ago celebrating his birthday at the Fox Theater in Atlanta, ADT commemorates his life and works. President Carter was a world humanitarian who lived his entire life serving others. He was a man of God who often taught Sunday school in his hometown Plains, Georgia.

Kitty J. Pope, ADT publisher, an Atlanta resident says that he was held dear in the hearts of Georgians who fondly remembers the former president and peanut farmer as a caring man. "I have always honored him as a man of

integrity and one of greatest international humanitarians which is why I wanted him to be included in peace conferences like the IIPT Conference in South African several years ago along with Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi,” says Pope. “Though in a different way, his life was in service to others just like these men. “I’m impressed how Carter, through his work with Habitat for Humanity, built houses for poor people with his own hands, his own blood, sweat and tears.”



Despite his status and fame, he remained down-to- earth, a servant of the people who used his platform as president toward the betterment of mankind. He was a champion for Civil and Human Rights and supported equality and opportunities for all people. He did so much to bring peace to the world and tried to broker peace between countries. All the work that he did for the public and charities speaks for itself.

President Carter was a brave man who dedicated his life to empowering people all around the world. For all of his humanitarian and peace efforts, he deservedly received the Nobel Peace Prize. It is my hope that all can do something to help make the world a better place using President Carter as an example. We at African Diaspora Tourism will continue to honor his legacy. Our deepest condolences to the Carter family and loved ones around the world. Rest in Peace our forever President, a job well done.

And Finally

Jake Hauptert is a colleague of mine who runs the Transformational Travel Council, an organization and website worth checking out. Their motto is “Catalysing Tourism for Self and Safety, Human-Centered Innovation and Regenerative Community Development.”

transformational.travel

I am going to steal his ending from a recent newsletter of theirs, as it is timely and relevant as ever:

“Here's to YOU, the bridge-builders, the hand-holders, the light-bringers, those extraordinary souls wrapped in ordinary lives who quietly weave threads of humanity into an inhumane world.
They are the unsung heroes in a world at war with itself. They are the whisperers of hope that peace is possible. Look for them in this present darkness.
Light your candle with their flame. And then go. Build bridges. Hold hands.
Bring light to a dark and desperate world. Be the hero you are looking for.
Peace is possible.
It begins with us.” — **L.R. Knost**

Thank you for reading our newsletter – It is our hope that this information will help keep the movement of global peace going forward, and encourage you to email me items that you think will be of interest to our readers to editor@iipr.org

For more information and to donate to IIPR visit iipr.org
