

## Multilateralism and Diplomacy Day for Peace

The [United Nations recognizes April 24<sup>th</sup> as International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace](#). This day promotes the importance of diplomatic dialogue, international cooperation, and multilateral efforts in maintaining global peace and stability. The UN General Assembly officially designated April 24<sup>th</sup> as the Diplomacy Day through [Resolution A/RES/73/127](#), which was adopted on December 12, 2018. The resolution emphasizes the need for nations to work together diplomatically to address global challenges such as conflict resolution, sustainable development, and human rights protection.

The choice of April 24<sup>th</sup> aligns with the founding principles of the United Nations and highlights the role of diplomacy in preventing conflicts and fostering collaboration among nations. It serves as a reminder that multilateralism, where multiple countries come together to find common solutions, is essential for a more peaceful and prosperous world. Countries have historically come together through diplomacy and multilateral efforts to address global challenges and promote peace and prosperity. Here are some notable examples:

1. **The UN and Peacekeeping Missions:** The UN was established in 1945 to prevent future conflicts through diplomacy and cooperation. Its peacekeeping missions have been key in stabilizing post-conflict regions, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, Cyprus, etc.
2. **The European Union (EU) – Economic and Political Unity:** The EU was founded after World War II to promote economic cooperation and prevent further European conflicts. It has since evolved into a political and economic union that fosters peace, prosperity, and human rights across the continent.
3. **The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015):** Over 190 countries signed this global treaty to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development. The agreement exemplifies how nations can work together on global challenges.
4. **The African Union (AU) and Peace Initiatives:** The AU has facilitated peace talks and conflict resolution in several African nations, such as mediating in South Sudan's civil war and promoting stability in the Sahel region.
5. **The G20 and Global Economic Stability:** The Group of 20 (G20) brings together major economies to address global financial crises, economic development, and trade stability, ensuring a more balanced and cooperative global economy.

As of April 2025, several longstanding conflicts continue to impact global instability:

**Number of Armed Conflicts:** According to the [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#), there are over 120 ongoing armed conflicts globally, which involve over 60 states and 120 Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs).

**Global Displacement Figures:** The [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#) reports that by the end of 2023, approximately 117.3 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations. This number is projected to exceed 120 million by the end of April 2024, indicating a continuous upward trend in global displacement.

**Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:** Since 1948 (77 years). Rooted in territorial disputes and national aspirations following the establishment of Israel.

- \* **Myanmar Civil War:** Since 1948 (77 years). Armed conflicts between the military government and various ethnic groups seeking autonomy.
- \* **Sudanese Conflicts:** Since 1955 (70 years). A series of civil wars and regional conflicts driven by ethnic, religious, and resource-based tensions.
- \* **Colombian Conflict:** Since 1964 (61 years). Involves government forces, leftist guerrilla groups like FARC and ELN, right-wing paramilitaries, and drug cartels.
- \* **Kashmir Conflict:** Since 1947 (78 years). Territorial dispute between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region. Ongoing skirmishes and insurgencies, both nations claiming the region.

Sources: [United Nations](#); [International Committee of the Red Cross](#); [International Rescue Committee](#);



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[April](#) marks the vibrant arrival of spring—a season of renewal, growth, and blossoming. Deriving its name from the Latin word *aperire*, meaning "to open," April captures the spirit of nature awakening, symbolizing new beginnings and the hopeful promise of brighter days.

Historically and culturally, April has long been celebrated as a time of rebirth. In Roman mythology, it was dedicated to Venus, goddess of love and beauty, reflecting the blossoming vitality of the natural world. In Christian tradition, Easter, commemorates resurrection and spiritual renewal, reminding us of hope, faith, and new life. Across cultures, April also hosts ceremonies and festivals that honor the Earth's renewal, encouraging us to reconnect with nature and embrace the rhythms of life.

This month, we are especially pleased to recognize Multilateralism and Diplomacy Day for Peace, a timely celebration of unity and cooperation. We welcome Mr. Yverick Delorme Cyril, Head of Mission at the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti in Miami, back to our community. We also salute all nations observing their National or Independence Days in April, celebrating their enduring sovereignty and aspirations for peace and progress.

As we journey through this season of transformation, may we open our hearts to new possibilities and renew our commitment to building a brighter, more connected world.

As always, please be safe.

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# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Meet the new Head of Post of the Haitian Consulate in Miami, Florida



**Mr. Yverick Delorme Cyril** is the new Deputy Consul General / Head of Post, Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti – Miami, Florida. On April 16, 2025, Mr. Cyril was appointed Deputy Consul General and Head of Post at the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti in Miami, Florida. This appointment marks a continuation of his distinguished career in diplomatic service, characterized by a series of progressively responsible roles within Haiti's foreign affairs and domestic governance structures.

### Professional Experience:

- \* Deputy Consul General / Head of Post, Consulate General of Haiti in New York, NY
- \* Consul, Consulate General of Haiti in Miami, Florida
- \* Counselor, Embassy of Haiti in Havana, Cuba
- \* Vice Consul, Consulate General of Haiti in Miami, Florida
- \* Mission Officer, Prime Minister's Office of Haiti
- \* Mission Officer, Ministry of Interior and Territorial Collectivities, Haiti
- \* Consular Agent, Consulate General of Haiti in Miami, Florida
- \* Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Haiti

Mr. Cyril is an alumnus of the Protocol School of Washington®, where he received specialized training in international protocol, etiquette, and diplomatic procedures. His extensive experience and academic background underscore his commitment to representing Haiti's interests and fostering international relations.

## Ready for REAL ID?



The [Transportation Security Administration](#) (TSA) has confirmed that, beginning on May 7, 2025, it will officially implement the enforcement of the [REAL ID Act at all TSA security checkpoints](#) across the United States. This long-anticipated deadline, established by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), signifies a pivotal step in standardizing and strengthening the identification process for domestic air travel. From that date forward, all air travelers age 18 and older will be required to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another TSA-approved form of

identification—such as a valid U.S. passport or military ID—when passing through airport security screening.

### What is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established minimum security standards for the issuance of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. The legislation was a direct response to recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which identified the use of fraudulent identification as a serious security concern. Since then, the Department of Homeland Security has worked with states and territories to roll out secure issuance processes and enhanced credential features. A REAL ID-compliant card is typically marked with a star in the upper portion of the card, signifying that it meets federal standards.

**Key Information for Travelers:** TSA has provided the following guidance to ensure travelers are prepared:

- \* Non-REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses or state-issued IDs will no longer be accepted at TSA checkpoints for domestic flights after May 7.
- \* Travelers must bring an alternate acceptable form of ID—such as a passport, DHS trusted traveler card (e.g., Global Entry), or a military ID—if they do not have a REAL ID.
- \* TSA PreCheck® members are not exempt from this requirement; all passengers must comply regardless of PreCheck status.
- \* Non-citizens voluntarily self-deporting on international flights will not be denied boarding under this provision.
- \* According to TSA, approximately 81% of U.S. air travelers already present acceptable forms of identification, and this number is expected to rise as the deadline approaches.

### Nationwide Coordination and Readiness

Federal authorities have been working closely with state departments of motor vehicles (DMVs) to facilitate public education campaigns and streamline application processes. This final enforcement date follows several delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which created backlogs at DMV offices nationwide. However, TSA and DHS leadership stress that the May 7 deadline is firm and will not be extended again. Visit [tsa.gov/real-id](https://tsa.gov/real-id) for the most current information and a list of acceptable alternative forms of ID.

Sources: [Transportation Security Administration – REAL ID](#)

# AVIATION, CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL TIDBITS

## Culture, Etiquette and Protocol

### World Penguin Day



[World Penguin Day](#) is celebrated annually on April 25<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the northern migration of Adélie penguins in Antarctica. This observance, initiated at McMurdo Station, an American research center on Ross Island in 1972, aims to raise awareness about penguin conservation and environmental challenges. Penguins, flightless seabirds, are primarily found in the Southern Hemisphere, with the largest populations in Antarctica. Despite common belief, not all penguins have habitats in cold climates. One species can even be found north of the equator.

Penguins, with their endearing demeanor and profound social structures, symbolize endurance in some of the planet's harshest climates and are a testament to how animals adapt to survive and thrive. Their cultural behaviors — from gift-giving to communal childcare — reveal a depth of intelligence and social complexity that inspires admiration and scientific curiosity worldwide.

#### Interesting Cultural and Social Behaviors:

##### Complex Courtship Rituals & Stone Gifting Lovers

- \* Penguins engage in elaborate courtship behaviors, including vocal displays, mutual preening, and synchronized movements. Some species, like the Adélie Penguin, present stones as symbolic "gifts" to potential mates to build or reinforce nests.

##### Lifelong Pair Bonds

- \* Many penguin species, including the Emperor and Gentoo penguins, are known for forming long-term monogamous relationships. These bonds are reinforced each breeding season through distinct vocalizations that mates recognize even after months apart.

##### Colony Living and Communal Care

- \* Penguins are highly social, often nesting and living in large colonies called rookeries that can number in the tens of thousands. This proximity offers protection against predators and environmental hazards. In species like the Emperor Penguin, males famously incubate the eggs on their feet under a flap of skin (the brood pouch) for months during the harsh Antarctic winter while females hunt at sea.

##### Crèche Formation

- \* In many species, chicks form groups known as crèches while their parents forage. This "penguin kindergarten" offers protection through safety in numbers and helps regulate the chicks' body temperature through huddling.

##### Vocal Communication and Recognition

- \* Penguins have highly individualized calls that allow mates, parents, and offspring to identify each other in the chaos of densely populated colonies. Their vocalizations serve functions ranging from mate attraction to warning others of predators.

##### Adaptation to Climate Challenges

- \* Some penguin species exhibit new migratory patterns and changes in breeding behavior in response to climate change, showcasing their remarkable resilience and adaptability.

Sources: [British Antarctic Survey](#); [National Day](#).

## Aviation Briefs & Facts

### Hot New Travel Trends

In today's evolving travel landscape, several exciting trends are shaping how people experience the world. Travelers are seeking deeper connections, sustainable practices, and more meaningful journeys. Here's a closer look at some of the most compelling developments:

**Astrotourism and Noctourism** - Rediscovering the Night Sky: Astrotourism centers around stargazing, astronomy events, and celestial phenomena, offering travelers the rare opportunity to reconnect with the universe under pristine, unpolluted night skies. **Noctourism** invites travelers to explore the unique sensory richness of the nighttime world through guided night walks, nocturnal wildlife tours, and cultural night festivals. Both forms of tourism often promote environmental conservation, cultural heritage appreciation, and a deeper awareness of nature's delicate balance.

**Calmcations** - Escaping the Noise: Calmcations are vacations designed around serenity, mental wellness, and self-care. In response to modern life's stress and overstimulation, travelers seek quiet retreats, spa resorts, mindfulness getaways, and slow-paced environments that focus on relaxation and rejuvenation.

**Coolcations:** Chasing the Chill: As global temperatures rise, Coolcations have emerged as an alternative for travelers eager to escape the heat. These trips prioritize destinations with cooler climates, such as the Arctic, northern Europe, and alpine regions.

**Dealcations:** Traveling Smart: Driven by inflation, rising costs, and the growing accessibility of digital travel tools, Dealcations focus on economical travel strategies. Travelers increasingly leverage discounts, travel apps, flexible itineraries, and loyalty programs to make travel more affordable without sacrificing quality.

**Ecotourism and Regenerative Travel:** Traveling with Purpose: Ecotourism promotes responsible travel to natural areas, aiming to conserve the environment and support local communities. Regenerative travel goes a step further, encouraging travelers and operators to leave destinations better than they were found—restoring ecosystems, and fostering cultural preservation.

**Workcations** - Redefining Work-Life Balance: With remote and hybrid work models becoming the norm, Workcations blend professional duties with leisure travel. Professionals are increasingly choosing to work from scenic or international locations, extending trips for exploration once work hours are done.

**Ancestral Tourism and Heritage Travel:** Journeys to Our Roots: Advances in DNA testing and genealogy research have fueled interest in Ancestral Tourism. Travelers are embarking on journeys to discover their family origins, explore ancestral homelands, and connect with cultural legacies in deeply personal ways.

**Culinary Travel** - A Taste for Adventure: Culinary Travel is now a significant motivator for global exploration. Food tourists seek authentic, local dining experiences, participate in cooking classes, explore food markets, and savor regional specialties.

**Climate-Conscious Travel:** Sustainability in Motion: Climate-Conscious Travel reflects growing awareness around environmental impacts. Eco-minded travelers are choosing low-carbon transportation options, supporting sustainable accommodations, and making itinerary decisions that align with minimizing their ecological footprint.

Source: [Travel Pulse](#).

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## April is Earth Month



[Earth Month](#), birthed from the dynamic environmental movements of the 1970s, has matured from a single day - Earth Day on April 22 - into a whole month of environmental advocacy. Earth Month started as a movement to resist the abusive and negligent consumption of leaded gas by Americans. This climate crisis started with air pollution brought about by the emissions of massive, inefficient automobiles. In 1962, [Rachel Carson published the book "Silent Spring,"](#) which became a "New York Times" bestseller, and raised awareness of the effects of pollution on all living organisms. The book was the turning point in people's environmental consciousness.

In January 1969, several witnesses saw a [massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California,](#) which caused major destruction to the environment. This captured the attention of Senator Gaylord Nelson who wanted to use students' passion and energy for anti-war protests for ecological activism, particularly regarding air and water pollution. This idea inspired a group of activists to dedicate themselves to encouraging all Americans to be proactive and environmentally conscious. They named their initiative Earth Day, which

immediately caught the attention of the media and since a day isn't enough to achieve the desired results regarding climate solutions, Earth Month was created. This was first celebrated on April 4, 1970.

By 1990, Earth Month became a [global event after 200 million participants from 141 countries joined the initiative.](#) By 1992, the United Nations became actively involved too, which further enhanced the organization's visibility. Today, Earth Month is widely recognized as one of the most important monthlong observances in the world.

Earth Month centers around a call to grow our environmental consciousness. As such, this observance provokes vital discussions on climate change, deforestation, pollution, and the ever-present water crisis. It's an invitation to scrutinize our planet's environmental strife, dig into its root causes, preserve the delicate balance of its ecosystems, and explore the many solutions we hold in our hands. The establishment of Earth Day sparked a wave of environmental legislation, contributing to the enactment of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. These substantial policies laid the groundwork for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In observance of Earth Month 2025, it is imperative to acknowledge the multifaceted challenges confronting our planet. These challenges, spanning overpopulation, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, poverty, and natural disasters, are deeply interconnected and demand comprehensive, coordinated responses.

1. [Overpopulation and Urban Expansion:](#) The global population has surpassed 8 billion, intensifying demands on housing, food, and resources. This surge contributes to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Urban areas are projected to grow by 2.4 billion people by 2050, exacerbating climate risks and straining infrastructure.
2. [Environmental Degradation and Biodiversity Loss:](#) Human activities have led to significant environmental degradation, including deforestation, pollution, and overfishing. These actions [have](#) accelerated biodiversity loss, with one million species at risk of extinction. Ecosystem collapse threatens food security and livelihoods worldwide.
3. [Resource Scarcity:](#) Resource consumption has tripled over the past 50 years, driven by population growth and overconsumption. By 2025, two-thirds of the global population may face water shortages. Additionally, land degradation is expanding by 1 million square kilometers annually, undermining food security and carbon sequestration efforts.
4. [Poverty and Inequality:](#) Environmental challenges disproportionately affect impoverished communities. Climate change exacerbates food insecurity, health risks, and displacement, hindering poverty alleviation efforts. Addressing these issues requires equitable resource distribution and sustainable development policies.
5. [Environmental and Natural Disasters:](#) Climate change has intensified natural disasters, including extreme weather events, droughts, and floods. In 2024, such events resulted in over 8,700 deaths and displaced 40 million people. These disasters strain economies and disrupt ecosystems.
6. [Desertification and Land Degradation: Drylands now constitute 40% of Earth's land surface,](#) excluding Antarctica, due to increasing aridity. This shift has led to significant economic losses, particularly in Africa and Asia, and threatens agricultural productivity and food security.
7. [Interconnected Global Crises \(Polycrisis\):](#) The convergence of environmental, economic, and social challenges has led to a "polycrisis," where multiple crises interact and exacerbate each other. This complex interplay underscores the need for integrated, systemic solutions to ensure planetary health and human well-being.

These challenges highlight the urgency for global cooperation and sustainable practices. Earth Month serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to implement policies and actions that protect our planet for future generations.

## National Autism Awareness Month



[Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) (ASD) has become a focal point of global health discourse as awareness, advocacy, and innovation continue to transform how societies support and understand individuals on the spectrum. ASD is a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by challenges in social interaction, communication, and repetitive behaviors. However, the term "spectrum" reflects a wide range of strengths and differences, from individuals who require significant support to those who thrive independently and excel in areas such as mathematics, music, or visual arts.

Once shrouded in misunderstanding, autism is now increasingly recognized not only as a developmental condition but also as a different way of experiencing and interpreting the world—a perspective that, when supported appropriately, brings immense value to families, communities, and professional fields across the globe. Globally, there are significant shifts towards increased awareness, improved diagnostic methods, and a greater understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). An estimated 1 in 127 individuals worldwide are on the autism spectrum, totaling 61.8 million people, according to [the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021](#).

### Understanding Autism: A Spectrum of Possibilities

Autism and [Asperger's Syndrome](#) are neurodevelopmental disorders that affect social interaction, communication, and behavior. While the specific diagnosis of Asperger's was removed in 2013, individuals who would have previously received an Asperger's diagnosis are now diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). One of the most important shifts in recent years has been the movement from deficit-focused language to a more inclusive, strength-based approach. This evolution reflects a broader societal change: from seeking to "fix" autism to embracing neurodiversity and valuing the unique contributions of those with ASD.

**Global Advances and Collaborative Efforts:** Around the world, governments, research institutions, and advocacy organizations have made notable progress in the diagnosis, treatment, and inclusion of individuals with autism:

- \* **Early Detection and Intervention:** Countries like the United Kingdom and Australia have implemented national guidelines promoting early screening programs in pediatric care. Early intervention services are now widely regarded as key to helping children with autism reach their full potential.
- \* **Education and Inclusion:** In Sweden and Canada, inclusive education policies support ASD students in mainstream classrooms with tailored accommodations and specialized educators. Such models foster understanding and integration from an early age.
- \* **Technology and Innovation:** Artificial intelligence and assistive technologies are transforming communication for non-verbal individuals. In Japan, robots and AI-based platforms are being used in classrooms to teach social skills to children with ASD, while in the United States, apps such as Proloquo2Go have empowered non-verbal communication worldwide.
- \* **Workplace Inclusion:** Multinational companies like Microsoft, SAP, and JPMorgan Chase have launched autism hiring initiatives that recognize the unique analytical, detail-oriented strengths that neurodiverse individuals bring to the workplace.

### Autism Stats & Facts:

- \* 1 in 31 children in the U.S. have autism, up from the previous rate of 1 in 36. Additionally, 1 in 45 adults in the U.S. have autism. In the U.S., about 4 in 100 boys and 1 in 100 girls have autism. Boys are nearly 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls.
- \* Around the world, 1 in 100 children are diagnosed with autism.
- \* 74% of autistic students in the U.S. graduate with a diploma, versus 86% of all students.
- \* Nearly 60% of people with autism in the U.S. are employed after receiving vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. These are state-provided services that help autistic individuals explore possible careers, find a job and secure needed accommodations in the workplace. Furthermore, 70% of eligible autistic individuals in the U.S. receive VR.

**Famous Individuals and Autism Advocacy:** Public figures who identify as autistic have played a critical role in breaking down stereotypes and raising awareness about ASD. Among the most prominent is - [Albert Einstein](#), one of the most renowned scientists of all time, was another remarkable individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). His theories of relativity and his contributions to quantum mechanics revolutionized our understanding of the universe.

[Elon Musk](#) is a visionary tech entrepreneur. His unique perspective and intense focus have played a significant role in his success as the founder of companies like Tesla and SpaceX. Musk's relentless pursuit of innovation and his ability to think outside the box have resulted in groundbreaking advancements in the fields of electric vehicles and space exploration.

[Dr. Temple Grandin](#), a renowned animal behaviorist, professor, and advocate who has written extensively about her experiences with autism. Her life and work have inspired millions and reframed public perception of what individuals with autism can achieve.

[Anthony Hopkins](#), the Academy Award-winning actor, has spoken openly about being diagnosed with autism later in life. His candid reflections have helped highlight the diversity of autism presentations and the potential for success across all domains of life.

The technology industry also owes much to [Satoshi Tajiri, the creator of Pokémon](#), who is believed to be on the spectrum. His imaginative genius and innovative thinking illustrate the creative potential often associated with autism.

Sources: [Autism Speaks](#); [Autism Society](#);

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (APRIL 2025)

- April 1, 1979 - Iran:** The Islamic Republic of Iran was officially established following the 1979 revolution and referendum.
- April 4, 1960 - Senegal:** On this date, Senegal gained independence from France. Initially, Senegal was part of the Mali Federation, which dissolved on August 20, 1960, after which Senegal became fully independent as a separate nation.
- April 9, 1991 - Georgia** declared independence from the Soviet Union. Previously, Georgia had declared independence from Soviet Russia on May 26, 1918, but the Soviet Union re-annexed it in 1921.
- April 16 (1940) - Denmark:** This date marks the birthday of Queen Margrethe II, celebrated nationally as her official birthday.
- April 17, 1946 - Syria:** On this day, Syria declared complete independence from France after French troops withdrew. Syria had been under a French mandate since World War I.
- April 18, 1980 - Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe gained independence from the United Kingdom on this date. Under British rule, the country was previously known as Rhodesia.
- April 26, 1964 - Tanzania:** Union Day commemorates the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar on April 26, 1964, forming the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The country was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania on October 29, 1964.
- April 27, 1960 - Togo:** On this date, Togo gained independence from a French-administered United Nations trusteeship.
- April 27, 1961 - Sierra Leone:** On this day, Sierra Leone gained independence from the United Kingdom.
- April 27 (1967) - The Netherlands:** King's Day (Koningsdag) celebrates the birthday of King Willem-Alexander. It was previously celebrated on April 30 in honor of former Queen Juliana, but was moved to April 27 after King Willem-Alexander's accession.
- April 27, 1994 - South Africa:** Freedom Day marks the first post-apartheid democratic elections held in 1994.

## Global Protocol Professionals Gather in Miami, Florida (July 21 - 25, 2025)

### Global Protocol Professionals Gather in Miami, Florida

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