**Holidays and Annual Observances for Program Planning Purposes\***

**Calendar Year 2020**

**\* This document is for reference only.** The observances listed are provided solely for reference and consideration as American Spaces conduct strategic program planning. This document does not provide an exhaustive list of important observances or priorities. The purpose of this document is to help with planning around U.S. holidays, observances, and key policy priorities.

(1) The Office of American Spaces recommends that American Spaces staff collaborate with their Public Affairs Sections (PAS) for program planning. We do not recommend that American Spaces conduct programs around ALL of the themes/dates below; **rather, American Spaces should work with PAS colleagues to determine the themes and programs that fit with U.S. Embassy/Consulate priorities and goals.**

(2) The calendar presented below is NOT an exhaustive list of possible program dates/options. For additional programming possibilities that may be appropriate for local or regional programs, you may also consider the United Nations Calendar of International Days: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>

**January**

* **Jan 1: HOLIDAY** – New Year’s Day
* **Jan 20: HOLIDAY** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Observed on 3rd Monday in January)
* **U.S. State of the Union Address**
* **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**
* **Jan 11:** National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness
* **Jan 16:** National Religious Freedom Day
* **Jan 20:** International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN)
* **Jan 25:** Lunar New Year

**February**

* **Feb 17: HOLIDAY** – Washington’s Birthday/Presidents Day (Observed on 3rd Monday in February)
* **National African- American History Month / Black History Month**
* **Feb 2:** World Wetlands Day
* **Feb 4:** World Cancer Day (UN)
* **Feb 6:** International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (UN)
* **Feb 11:** International Day of Women and Girls in Science (UN)
* **Feb 20:** World Day of Social Justice (UN)

**March**

* **Women’s History/Empowerment Month**
* **Irish-American Heritage Month**
* **Mar 1:** Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS)
* **Mar 3:** World Wildlife Day (UN)
* **Mar 8:** International Women’s Day
* **Mar 21:** International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN)
* **Mar 21:** International Day of Forests (UN)
* **Mar 21:** International Day of Nowruz (UN)
* **Mar 21:** World Poetry Day (UN)
* **Mar 22:** World Water Day (UN)
* **Mar 24:** World Tuberculosis Day (UN)

**April**

* **National Arab American Heritage Month**
* **Jazz Appreciation Month**
* **Apr 2:** World Autism Awareness Day (UN)
* **Apr 6:** International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (UN)
* **Apr 7:** World Health Day (World Health Org)
* **Apr 12:** International Day of Human Space Flight (UN)
* **Apr 18:** International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day) (UNESCO)
* **Apr 21:** World Creativity and Innovation Day (UN)
* **Apr 22:** Earth Day
* **April 23 –** **May 23:**  Ramadan
* **Apr 25:** World Malaria Day (UN)
* **Apr 26:** World Intellectual Property Day
* **Apr 30:** International Jazz Day (UN)
* **Air Quality Awareness Week** (annual initiative started by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 10+ years ago; usually begins at the end of April going into first week of May)

**May**

* **May 25: HOLIDAY** – Memorial Day (Observed on last Monday in May)
* **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**
* **Jewish American Heritage Month**
* **May 3:** World Press Freedom Day (UN)
* **May 9:** World Migratory Bird Day (UN)
* **May 17:** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia (IDAHOT)
* **May 29:** International Day of UN Peacekeepers (UN)

**June**

* **LGBTI Pride Month**
* **Caribbean American Heritage Month**
* **Jun 5:** World Environment Day (UN)
* **Jun 8:** World Oceans Day (UN)
* **Jun 19:** International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN)
* **Jun 26:** International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (UN)
* **Jun 26:** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (UN)
* **Jun 27:** Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (UN)

**July**

* **Jul 4: HOLIDAY** – U.S. Independence Day
* **Jul 4**: International Day of Cooperatives (UN)
* **Jul 11**: World Population Day (UN)
* **Jul 15:** World Youth Skills Day (UN)
* **Jul 18:** Nelson Mandela International Day (UN)
* **Jul 26:** Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act
* **Jul 28:** World Hepatitis Day (UN)
* **Jul 29:** International Tiger Day (created in 2010 at St. Petersburg Tiger Summit)
* **Jul 30:** World Day against Trafficking in Persons (UN)

**August**

* **Aug 9:** International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (UN)
* **Aug 10:** World Lions Day
* **Aug 12:** International Youth Day (UN)
* **Aug 19:** World Humanitarian Day (UN)
* **Aug 20:** World Mosquito Day
* **Aug 23:** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (UN)
* **Aug 26:** Women’s Equality Day (American observance on passage of 19th Amendment)
* **Aug 29:** International Day Against Nuclear Tests (UN)

**September**

* **Sep 7: HOLIDAY** – Labor Day (Observed on 1st Monday in September)
* **Sep 8:** International Literacy Day (UNESCO; Sep 8)
* **Sep 11:** Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance (Sep 11)
* **Sep 15:** International Day of Democracy (UN; Sep 15)
* **Sep 15 – Oct 15:** National Hispanic American Heritage Month
* **Sep 17 – 23:** Constitution Day/Week (American observance on adoption of Constitution)
* **Sep 21:** International Day of Peace (UN)
* **Sep 22:** World Rhino Day
* **Sep 27:** World Tourism Day (UN)
* **Sep 28:** World Rabies Day
* **Sep 29:** World Heart Day

**October**

* **Oct 12: HOLIDAY** – Columbus Day (Observed on 2nd Monday in October)
* **Oct 1 – 31:** Daniel Pearl World Music Days (an international network of concerts using music to reaffirm commitment to tolerance and humanity)
* **Oct 2:** International Day of Non-Violence (UN)
* **Oct 4-10:** World Space Week (UN)
* **Oct 5:** World Habitat Day (UN; observed on 1st Mon in Oct)
* **Oct 11:** International Day of the Girl (UN)
* **Oct 13:** International Day for Disaster Reduction
* **Oct 16:** World Food Day (UN)
* **Oct 17:** International Day for Eradication of Poverty (UN)
* **Oct 23**: International Snow Leopard Day
* **Oct 27:** International Religious Freedom Day (recognizes passing of Religious Freedom Act of 1998 in USA)

**November**

* **Nov 11: HOLIDAY** – Veteran’s Day
* **Nov 26: HOLIDAY** – Thanksgiving (Observed on 4th Thursday in November)
* **National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month**
* **National Entrepreneurship Month**
* International Education Week (joint initiative by U.S. State Dept and Dept of Ed; Timing TBD)
* **Nov 2:** International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (UN)
* **Nov 3:** U.S. Election Day (Observed on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November)
* **Nov 16:** International Day for Tolerance (UN)
* **Nov 16-22:** Global Entrepreneurship Week
* **Nov 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance
* **Nov 20:** Universal Children’s Day (UN)
* **Nov 25:** International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism (UN)

**December**

* **Dec 25:** **HOLIDAY** – Christmas Day
* **Dec 1:** World AIDS Day (UN)
* **Dec 2:** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)
* **Dec 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities (UN)
* **Dec 4:** International Cheetah Day
* **Dec 5:** International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (UN)
* **Dec 9:** International Anti-Corruption Day (UN)
* **Dec 9:** International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide (UN)
* **Dec 10:** Human Rights Day (UN)