

# **A Personal Message to the World Peace Flame Walk from HRH Princess Irene of the Netherlands**

Peace starts within yourself; a quote by Thich Naht Hahn, but one that, for most of us, is easier said than done. How do you view the world? This is an important question because our worldview determines how we act. Do you believe that we humans have the right to claim ownership of the Earth, and that we can use nature as if she were ours? Or do you resonate with the worldview that we are a mere part of nature, and that we want to treat her well, much as you yourself wish to be treated, and how in turn you treat other people?

I personally believe in an inter-related worldview, which regards the wellbeing of all life as paramount. We are part of nature.

The climatological crisis requires an urgent reduction of all that damages nature, and compromises and ruins her. An ever-increasing number of migrants will be forced to seek safer living conditions that are precipitated through nature's climatological responses to our actions. Increased pressures will ensue, along with increased conflict. The current crises beg for cohesion, an inclusive mindset and action. People have regarded themselves as superior to 'the other' for far too long, whether it concerns racial prejudice, gender prejudice, or our human superiority in our relationship with nature. We have considered ourselves as being over and above nature with dire consequences. In order to effect peace, we need to prioritize the climate crisis and to use all resources that are available to afford all life on planet Earth the chance to survive; to cease severing the interconnective ties and to seriously contemplate our own individual consumerism.

So yes, indeed, peace starts within yourself. The way you live, your choices and actions. Each and everyone of us is co-responsible for the Earth's future and all that lives. A beautiful responsibility, where love can be your motivation and your compass.

