



Nederland



Dear IPA participants of the WC 2018,

During the recent Northern European Forum in Vienna, we were asked by colleagues what they could bring to the WC 2018 as a gift, or if we would prefer donations to a charity organization. At that time we had no idea, but later we found a wonderful subject.

On Saturday, the 22nd of September, we have in our programme an excursion for everybody to visit the town of Gouda. It is a rather small, old Dutch City (granted its city charter 750 years ago), with beautiful monuments and canals, often compared to a small Amsterdam.

In Gouda and several other European towns and cities, there is a project to make visible the houses where Jewish people lived in the Second World War, who were later deported and killed in concentration camps.

In Gouda they adopted this project, as a visual reminder as to what can happen when human rights are trampled on. Gouda's schoolchildren make a yearly tour along these places. They learn about the importance of freedom, peace and Human Rights - one of the foundations of the IPA.

How do they show where these people lived?

It is done by adopting the project of the 'stumbling stones', called the Stolpersteine.

Stolpersteine in the streets show a tragic part of Gouda's history

"A person is only forgotten, when his or her name is forgotten."

Since 2011, Stolpersteine (literally stumbling stones) have been a part of Gouda. Up to now, 238 of these commemorative stones have been laid in the pavement in front of 59 addresses in Gouda. With them we remember 238 of the 387 Jewish citizens of Gouda that were murdered in Nazi concentration camps like Auschwitz and Sobibór during World War Two.

German artist Gunter Demnig designed them to remember the victims of National Socialism.

These Stolpersteine are small concrete blocks measuring 10x10 centimeters, covered by a thin brass layer. Engraved in each stone are the name, year of birth and the tragic fate of a murdered person. The Stolpersteine in front of the buildings bring back to memory the people who once lived there. Each stone begins with: "HERE LIVED".

In 2011, Soesja Citroen, a board member of the foundation 'Stichting Gouds Metaheerhuis' started to organise the laying of the memorial stones. She researches and passes on the stories of the people for whom the Stolpersteine have been laid.

Every Stolperstein costs 130 Euros. Over the next few years they hope to be able to commemorate the names and fates of all the 149 remaining deported Jewish citizens, thus fully visualising this tragic part of Gouda's history.

We think it would be beautiful if we, as the IPA could make a financial contribution.

For that we ask all Sections of the IPA to support this project with a financial donation, so that we can fund more stumbling stones - for instance one stone from each section, if you have the financial opportunity for that.

During the Gala evening we will place a receptacle on the stage for everybody to place their donations in, in an envelope. At the end of the evening we will hand over the total amount collected to the representative of the organization.

Wim Cornelis, act. President of IPA Section, the Netherlands

On www.xplregouda.nl you will find a tour of fifteen addresses in Gouda's picturesque old centre. You will see the names, stories and photos.

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