

DIVERSITY DAY - MAY 21



"I know there is strength
in the differences between us.
I know there is comfort where we overlap."
-- Ani DiFranco

The tragedy of September 11, 2001 clearly illustrated that serious conflicts can arise over "cultural differences." Shortly after this tragic event, 185 nations unanimously adopted the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity to proclaim that our cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of us. It rejected the claims that a clash of cultures and civilizations is unavoidable, and stressed that intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

What is culture? A culture is a community's language, arts and literature. It is also its values system, traditions, beliefs and way of living. Respecting and protecting culture is a matter of Human Rights. Everyone should be able to participate in the cultural life of their choice. The Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions was adopted in October 2005 to outline legal rights and obligations regarding international cooperation to help protect cultural diversity throughout the world.

Diversity Day, officially known as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, is an opportunity to help our communities to understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony.

Be a Hero for a Culture of Peace

1. Learn about another culture
2. Hold an event celebrating the rich cultural diversity in your community
3. Contribute to organizations working to promote and protect cultural diversity

Organizations for Cultural Diversity

- Coalition for Cultural Diversity (cdc-ccd.org)
- Cultural Commons (culturalcommons.org)
- EdChange (edchange.org)
- International Network for Cultural Diversity (incd.net)
- UNESCO Culture Sector (unesco.org/culture)

For more information: www.peacecalendar.net/diversityday.htm

Be a Hero for a Culture of Peace - cultureofpeace.com

...every act of compassion makes a difference...every day counts for a better world...

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