

# WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

## (FOR DIALOGUE & DEVELOPMENT)

CELEBRATED MAY 21ST

DECLARED IN 2002 BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. It affirms that "respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security." One year later, World Day for Cultural Diversity was declared!

### What does *culture* mean?

There are many definitions for culture, but the one that best defines culture in this context is from the Merriam Webster dictionary: "the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group."



### What does *diversity* mean?

Diversity, as defined in the Merriam Webster dictionary, is "the condition of having or being composed of differing elements," especially, "the inclusion of people of different races, cultures, etc. in a group or organization."



### **WHY IS CULTURAL DIVERSITY IMPORTANT?**

Well, there are a lot of reasons, but here are a few...



- Increases chances to learn from one another & gain new perspectives
- Creates an environment that is ripe for innovation & chance for change
- Challenges our own beliefs & allows us to have meaningful dialogue
- Provides a space to discuss differences but make connections

Helps dispel negative stereotypes & personal biases

### **SOME RESOURCES**

- UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (<https://tinyurl.com/2s3myc5s>)
- United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity (<https://tinyurl.com/2my66bty>)
- Purdue University - What is Cultural Diversity? (<https://tinyurl.com/ynf8c7sw>)

