



# World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

**MAY 21**

## What is World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development?

In the wake of the September 11 terrorists attacks in 2001, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. This reaffirmed the need for intercultural dialogue to prevent segregation and fundamentalism.

On December 20, 2002, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

In 2011, the "Do One Thing For Diversity and Inclusion" campaign was launched by the United Nations in partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations

in recognition of this special day. The campaign encourages people around the world to *do one thing* in support of cultural diversity and inclusion.

For the 10th anniversary of World Day for Cultural Diversity in 2012, the campaign aimed to:

- Raise awareness worldwide about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion.
- Build a world community of individuals committed to supporting diversity with real and every day-life gestures.
- Combat polarization and stereotypes to improve understanding and cooperation among people from different cultures.

The campaign works through a dedicated Facebook page, serving as a platform for people around the world to share their experiences through posts and videos.

For more information about World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversity-day/index.shtml>



### Why is World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development important to Manitoba?

There are over 150 countries represented and 148 languages spoken across Manitoba. The many contributions made by ethnocultural communities have helped shaped Manitoba into the province it is today.

Our cultural diversity is a source of pride, and we are privileged to live a province rich in heritage and cultural harmony.

World Day for Cultural Diversity is a chance for Manitobans to recognize and celebrate our unique cultural diversity.

### Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

The Declaration is constituted by 12 Articles. Article 1 states that "As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for the nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations."

Objectives of the Declaration include:

- Fostering the exchange of knowledge and best practices that are most conducive to the safeguarding and promotion of cultural diversity.
- Making further headway in understanding and clarifying the content of cultural rights as an integral part of human rights.
- Safeguarding the linguistic heritage of humanity and giving support to expression, creation and dissemination in the greatest possible number of languages.

For more information about the Declaration, visit:

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=13179&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13179&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### Things you can do to celebrate World Day for Cultural

- Visit an art exhibit or a museum dedicated to other cultures.
- Invite people in the neighborhood of an other culture or religion to share a meal with and exchange views on life.
- Rent a movie or read a book from an other country or religion other than your own.
- Invite people from an other culture to share your customs.
- Read about the great thinkers of other cultures.
- Visit a place of worship other than yours and participate in the celebration.
- Learn about traditional celebrations from other cultures.
- Explore music of an other culture.
- Spread your own culture around the world through the UN's Facebook page and learn about other cultures.

There are thousands of things that you can do to celebrate, **are you taking part?**