International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Journée internationale pour l’élimination de la discrimination raciale
21 March 2018

Racial discrimination is a poison, our diversity is a strength (*)

"Since 1966, on the initiative of the United Nations, 21 March has been dedicated to the fight against racial discrimination. The date was chosen to commemorate the victims of a peaceful protest which was bloodily repressed by the police in apartheid South Africa. That was half a century ago, and the apartheid system has since been officially demolished, but racism still causes widespread damage. From insults and humiliation to hate crimes and massacres, from difficulties gaining access to employment to institutionalized racist practices, racial discrimination takes many forms which are at times dramatically brutal and at others sly and underhand.

However, ultimately they all stem from the same dangerous ignorance. This is why, beyond the reinforcement of legal arsenals and sanctions, racist ideology can only be combated effectively with the weapons of the mind. Through science, firstly, which reveals the dishonesty of racist thinking and exposes its social, ideological, political and historic mainsprings. Through education, secondly, which teaches that no person is worth less than another, and that diversity is an asset which we must respect. Through culture, finally, the only means by which we can replace deadly social hierarchy with a world shaped by awareness of belonging to a common humanity.

These three pillars, these three human inventions through which humanity has raised and found itself, form the basis of UNESCO and define its mission. This year’s theme for the Day, as set by the United Nations, "Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination", thus resonates perfectly with this mission.

The many collaborative projects set up all over the world in the last few years, with experts and local and international politicians, with schools, museums and civil society organizations, all bear witness to our commitment to the fight against racism.

The long-term project, "The Slave Route", launched in 1994, is still ongoing and has worked decisively towards a better understanding of the slave trade. The partnership established in 2014 with Juventus Football Club reaffirmed the urgent need to fight against all forms of discrimination in sport. Last year, it was under the patronage of our Organization that the exhibition "Us and Them – From Prejudice to Racism" was launched at the Musée de l’Homme in Paris.

We intend to pursue this fight tirelessly, particularly through the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities supported by UNESCO, which since its establishment in 2004 has proven to be a platform to share experiences, all over the world, so as to improve policies to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion.

It is only through these efforts that we will indeed be able to build a world where no one is regarded as inferior, and where, as fervently hoped by philosopher Achille Mbembe, "the reality of an objective common destiny can outweigh attachment to difference". (*)

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(*) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – 2017
(1) Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2018) [English, French]
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UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
In 1966, the date of 21 March was proclaimed International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the United Nations General Assembly in commemoration of that day in 1960 when, during a peaceful demonstration against the Apartheid pass laws, 69 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa. More on the United Nations website and on our website.

**Key documents and landmarks**

*United Nations 2018 theme*
Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination

Reports of UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance[2015][2014 – 1 - 2]

2011
10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

2009
Durban Review Conference

2001
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

1995
Declaration of Principles on Tolerance

1979
Resolution proclaiming the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination

1978
Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice

1978
Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, apartheid and incitement to war

1966
Resolution proclaiming 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

1965
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

1960
Convention against Discrimination in Education

1948
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR)

The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), formerly known as the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, was launched by UNESCO in 2004 following the call made for a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa in 2001.

Through ICCAR, UNESCO encourages international cooperation between cities to strengthen advocacy for global solidarity and collaboration, and promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination, by sharing good practices, knowledge and expertise, and by advancing joint action through the development of participatory city-level policies and initiatives.

The cities participating in the Coalition commit themselves to two principles: adherence to an ethical and political Charter; and adoption and implementation of a Ten-Point Plan of Action. In order to respect the specificities and priorities of the different areas of the world, a regional approach has been adopted. So far, networks have been set up in Africa (2006), the Arab region (2008), Asia and the Pacific (2007), Canada (2007), Europe (2004), Latin America and the Caribbean (2006), United States of America (2013). ICCAR is currently composed of seven regional and national Coalitions, with each Coalition responding to the specific priorities and challenges set out in its Ten-Point Plan of Action.


The Ten-Point Plan of Action. A showpiece

The Ten-Point Plan of Action is at the heart of the Coalition principles. It consists of the ten following commitments:

1. Greater vigilance against racism
2. Assessing racism and discrimination and monitoring municipal policies
3. Better support for the victims of racism and discrimination
4. More participation and better informed city dwellers
5. The city as an active supporter of equal opportunity practice
6. The city as an equal opportunities employer and service provider
7. Fair access to housing
8. Challenging racism and discrimination through education
9. Promoting cultural diversity
10. Hate crimes and conflict management

Brochures

- European Coalition of Cities against Racism - 2011. SHS.2008/WS/6 REV. Also available in French [Coalition européenne des villes contre le racisme].
- The Arab region - 2009. SHS/2009/PI/H/1. Also available in French [Coalition des villes arabes contre le racisme, la discrimination, la xénophobie et l’intolérance].
- Plan d'action en dix points de la Coalition africaine des villes contre le racisme et la discrimination - 2008. SHS/2008/PI/H/5.
- Coalition africaine des villes contre le racisme et la discrimination - 2006.
- Towards an inclusive society: Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific - 2006. TH/2006/PI/H/8 REV.

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Creating inclusive and equitable cities

Document prepared by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, with contributions from UNESCO.

Enhancing equity and inclusion requires knowledge of how people from diverse backgrounds experience urban areas. By recognizing and working with groups most at risk of exclusion, we can begin to close the gaps in opportunities and outcomes. Initiatives like the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) are effective tools in achieving not only local and national goals, but also global ones. CCMARD is one way that Canada is giving shape to Agenda 2030 to secure a sustainable future. Reinforcing the global infrastructure so that cities and towns can share and learn from one another multiplies effects and leaves no one behind. Given the urgency of the issues we are facing, this is a timely strategy.

Also available in French [Vers des villes inclusives et durables].

Other related recent documents

- Coalition of Arab cities against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. Roadmap (April 2017-April 2018). Also available in French. 2017, 2 p. SHS/TSD/INC/2017/03
- The Arab Coalition of Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance. Guidelines and terms of reference of the lead city. Also available in French. 2017, 2 p. SHS/TSD/INC/2017/05
- The Tunis Declaration: the Arab Coalition of Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance. Also available in French. 2017, 2 p. SHS/TSD/INC/2017/01
- Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination (APCAD). Regional perspective paper. 2016, 5 p. SHS/2016/PI/H/4
- Bologna Declaration: towards global solidarity and collaborative action for inclusive and sustainable urban development. April 2016. Also available in French and Spanish. 2016; 4 p.; SHS/2016/ICCAR/BD/01
- Coalición Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Ciudades contra el Racismo, la Discriminación y la Xenofobia: perspectivas regionales. Also available in English. 2016, 4 p. SHS/2016/PI/2
- Coalition des villes arabes contre le racisme et la discrimination. Perspectives regionales. 2016, 4 p. SHS/2016/PI/5
- European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR). Regional perspective paper. 2016, 5 p. SHS/2016/PI/H/6
- Sharing good practices in promoting urban inclusion and non-discrimination. Also available in French and Spanish. 2016, 3 p. SHS/2016/PI/H/5
- The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination. Also available in French. 2016, 5 p. SHS/2016/PI/3
- Europäische Städtekoalition gegen Rassismus. 2015, 4 p. SHS/2015/PI/H/3

Find more on the Coalition

Inclusive and Sustainable Cities series

This new UNESCO series on urban inclusion and sustainability - an international priority reflected in the United Nations the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - will publish innovative material on how sustainable and inclusive cities can transform our world for the better.

How to integrate refugees and migrants in cities?

Cities welcoming refugees and migrants. Enhancing effective urban governance in an age of migration. Inclusive and Sustainable Cities series, no. 1

How to integrate refugees and migrants in cities? Cities are on the frontline of efforts to foster the well-being of refugees and migrants. This publication identifies and analyses trends and approaches by municipal authorities, with a focus on Europe. Among other important findings, the publication confirms that despite growing literature and the multiplication of converging actions, the gaps in the knowledge base of local authorities, in exchanges and in networking, have only partially been addressed. At the same time, it notes an encouraging convergence towards the promotion of ‘welcoming cities’ and illustrates the commitment of ECCAR and the broader platform of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR to promoting human rights and gender equality-based approaches.

Watch video

Forthcoming issues in the same series

✓ Cities welcoming refugees and migrants. A handbook
✓ Inclusive cities for 2030. Towards an enabling environment for urban inclusion

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Fighting racism and discrimination. Identifying and sharing good practices in the international coalition of cities

This report features more than 50 good practices from more than 38 cities of the Coalition have adopted to prevent and combat racism and discrimination. The purpose of this good practices report is two-fold. First, it draws together a collection of good practices in anti-discrimination of Member Cities so that they can inspire and inform the policies and practices of other cities. Second, it uses major themes related to the different roles and domains of cities to inform and, indeed, encourage critical reflection on anti-discrimination work in these areas. By reflecting on the reasons why each practice works, the report shows the applicability of the initiatives and the potential for their transferability to another jurisdiction.

Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination. Toolkit summary

This Toolkit is designed to be used by municipalities that have already joined the Coalition, those considering joining, as well as by community organizations and citizens encouraging participation by their municipality. It is designed to be user friendly, adaptable to local communities’ needs and helpful to municipalities at all stages of their CCMARD (Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination) involvement.


In the framework of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, UNESCO published in 2005-2010 a series of studies carried out to collect and analyse practices and cases. The Discussion Paper Series presents the results of these studies and aims at assisting municipalities in better formulating policies and stimulating the debate in this area.

Other titles in this series

- Un lexique du racisme : étude sur les définitions opérationnelles relatives au racisme et aux phénomènes connexes (1, 2006)
- Study on measures taken by municipalities and recommendations for further action to challenge racism through education (2, 2006)
- Indicators for evaluating municipal policies aimed at fighting racism and discrimination (3, 2005)
- Study on measures taken by municipalities and recommendations for further action to achieve greater vigilance against racism: Commitment 1 of the Ten-Point Plan of Action (4, 2006)

Urban policies and the right to the city. Rights, responsibilities and citizenship. MOST policy papers, new series MOST-2

This document reports on the various experiences and normative instruments that have led to a shared vision of the concept of the Right to the city. It identifies and studies the five basic concepts to which the concept of the right of the city appeals: freedom and autonomy of all citizens, participation and democracy, transparency in city administration, celebrating cultural diversity and the fight against poverty.

International public debates. Urban policies and the right to the city / Débats publics internationaux. Politiques urbaines et le droit à la ville. Human Settlements and Socio-cultural Environment series, no. 57

Cities are engines of economic growth and afford the greatest opportunities for social progress and development. They also have very high rates of inequality and poverty concentration. Current world urbanization and globalization trends involve nothing but the urbanization of poverty and social exclusion. This book, premised on these facts, contains the encouraging results of several initiatives and strategies that have laid the foundations of good governance and participatory urban planning in various cities throughout the world. It reviews a selection of municipal, national, regional and international instruments that contribute to the development of human rights in the city.

Bilingual English/French.

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

New forms of discrimination have arisen, as a result of various scientific developments and the process of globalization. To curb these new threats and the outbreak of violent inter-ethnic conflicts in many parts of the world in recent years, the international community decided to convene in 2001 in Durban, South Africa, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. This historical Conference was organized to give new impetus to the combat against these scourges in modern societies. It provided a forum for examining crucial questions regarding not only the protection of fundamental human rights but also the promotion of understanding, coexistence, and cooperation among individuals and peoples. In close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNESCO actively participated in the Durban Conference, which undoubtedly was the high point of the Third United Nations Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which ended in 2003 (Strengthening the Fight against Racism and Discrimination, 2009, pp. 6).

Landmarks
- 10th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (September 2011).
- Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001).
- Durban World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001)

Strengthening the fight against racism and discrimination. UNESCO’s achievements from the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to the 2009 Durban Review Conference

The Durban Review Conference provided UNESCO with a first important opportunity to communicate on the results achieved by the Organization in the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination over the last seven years. This document aims to present an overview of the concrete action undertaken by the Organization in all its fields of competence since 2001, including information on specific responses to the Durban Programme of Action. Also available in French [Renforcer la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination: les réalisations de l’UNESCO de la Conférence mondiale de 2001 contre le racisme, la discrimination raciale, la xénophobie et l’intolérance qui y est associée à la Conférence d’examen de Durban de 2009].

Struggle against discrimination. Studies on Human Rights Series

This book explores some of the central themes linked to racism, xenophobia and discrimination. Seven authors from Africa, Asia, the Arab States and North America denounce the different forms of discrimination encountered in certain countries and regions around the world: xenophobia, racism, racial discrimination, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Three years after the Durban World Conference on Racism (2001), in which UNESCO played an active part, these phenomena remain at the centre not only of current affairs but also of the overall Human Rights debate.

UNESCO against racism

Because racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are so often the causes of war in the minds of men, UNESCO has always placed the struggle against racism at the heart of its action. Over the years, UNESCO has set standards, encouraged dialogue and mutual understanding, and conducted research in the social and human sciences; above all, our Organization has endeavoured to inculcate the values of human rights, non-discrimination, peace, democracy, tolerance and international understanding through education. Also available in French [L’UNESCO contre le racisme].

United to combat racism: Selected articles and standard-setting Instruments

The struggle for the elimination of all forms of discrimination conducted by the United Nations system from the moment of its creation is a very important element in the efforts of the international community to assure full implementation and observance of human rights. Racial discrimination, violation of rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, minorities, indigenous people, immigrant workers or aliens should be also seen as the cause for serious conflicts and danger for international peace and stability. As the Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states so convincingly: “…recognition of the inherent dignity and of equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”.

More information on the Fight against Discrimination
See also UN Let’s Fight Racism! campaign

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
More references on Racial Discrimination and Human Rights

**Challenging inequalities: Pathways to a just world. World Social Science Report 2016.** Social Sciences Studies series
Economic inequalities in income and wealth, social inequalities in health, education and access to welfare services, gender and racial inequalities, cultural and religious discrimination, barriers to political participation, all are main instances of inequalities, global in scope, often intertwined and influencing each other.

The next few years comprise a key moment in which social science must up its game to address and challenge inequality, in alliance with other actors who are already raising their voices. The time is now.

Co-published by UNESCO and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), in cooperation with UK Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

French and Spanish versions forthcoming.

Summary available online (English, French, Spanish)

Special attention was given to the scourge of racial discrimination in the following articles:

- **Horizontal inequalities**
- 'Leaving no one behind': the challenge of intersecting inequalities
- Untangling economic and political inequality: the case of South Africa
- The Invisible hands of racial inequality in the USA
- Perceived inequalities among Lebanese nationals and Syrian refugees. Postcard
- The Spatial patterning of exposure to inequality and its social consequences in South Africa progress
- The Role of aspirations in the exclusion of Peruvian indigenous children
- Inequalities and protests

**The power of sport values / Le pouvoir des valeurs du sport**
Equality, inclusion, respect, and fairness are core values triggered by sport.
This photo book is a bilingual collection of the best 15 entries of UNESCO’s photo contest on the power of sport values, selected from over 300 photos submitted by young photographers from 76 countries all around the world. Be it in South Sudan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Bangladesh or Cuba, sport provides joy, helps inclusion and strengthens social mobilization. Sport can act as springboard for social transformation, as a gateway to rounded development, and as a facilitator for inclusive and responsible citizenship. Not only is sport a bridge between individuals and nations, it can also be an active tool for overcoming stereotypes, rising above exclusion, and fostering citizenship.
Multilingual English/French
Also available in English/Portuguese [O poder dos valores do esporte]

**Colour? What colour? Report on the Fight against Discrimination and Racism in Football**
The existence of racism and discrimination in football is not a secret, but it is a shame on the game. Although much is already being done, both observers and experts feel too many problems persist and measures to tackle them have not been effective enough.
This report, commissioned by UNESCO within the framework of UNESCO’s partnership with Juventus, focuses on discrimination and racism in professional football and to some extent the amateur clubs that funnel into the leagues. It provides an overview of the historic and theoretical background and reports on the state of affairs on the ground. It also summarizes what has been done and is being done to mitigate racism and discrimination in domestic and international football, how the effects of these actions may be evaluated, and which new avenues for further, complementary action are promising.
Available in English, French [Couleur ? Quelle couleur ? Rapport sur la lutte contre la discrimination et le racisme dans le football], Spanish [Color ¿Qué color ? Informe sobre la lucha contra el racismo y la discriminación en el fútbol], Italian [Colour? What colour? Relazione sulla lotta contro la discriminazione e il razzismo nel calcio] and Russian [Цвет? Какой цвет? Доклад о борьбе спроявлениями дискриминации и расизма в футболе].
Racismo e discurso na América Latina

The main theme of the book is the racist speech inlaid and disguised in Brazilian social practice and in other countries of the American Continent. Camouflaged by tenuous euphemisms, the term “racism” is considered inappropriate by those who try to hide it under the social inequality phenomenon. What can be observed today is that racism exists and many of its subjacent prejudices and ideologies are acquired, confirmed and exercised through speeches. In a time of discussion of integration of important parts of marginalized populations through education, it turns essential to identify the barriers that hamper this inclusion.

Affirmative action. International Social Science Journal (183)

Action against racism and discrimination is central to contemporary perspectives on human rights and social justice. Yet while policy makes extensive use of vocabulary and even of concepts derived from social science, considerable uncertainty remains among specialists about the basis, implications and practical effects of policy measures that have become routine. From this perspective, affirmative action is of central significance. It appears to be a matter of straightforward common sense that specific remedial measures should be targeted at the victims of discrimination. In fact, a comparative analytical perspective shows how complex are the issues at stake and how simplistic or even misleading common sense can be. Also available in French [Agir contre le racisme et la discrimination], Arabic [ال'action الإيجابية] and Chinese [《肯定性行动》].

Race et Histoire - Race et Culture. Collection La bibliothèque du philosophe

Twenty years after the release of his book “Race and History”, an impressive and revolutionary manifesto on the idea of progress and cultural diversity, Levi-Strauss published a second volume on race and culture. The present book, prefaced by his student Michel Izard, gathers the two texts in one volume. Also available in Chinese.

Race, science and society. The race question in modern science

1975, 92-3-101155-3; 92-3-101079-4 (paperback); 0-04-301073-3; 0-04-301000-0 (paperback); 0-231-03908-5; 0-231-03910-7 (paperback).

Four statements on the race question

1969, COM.69/II.27/A. Also available in French [Quatre declarations sur la question raciale] and Spanish [Cuatro declaraciones sobre la cuestión racial].

Human rights: Questions and answers. Human rights in perspective series

This book presents an overview of the scope and content of international human rights law, procedures to monitor its implementation, organizations and institutions working for human rights, major international events, as well as new developments and challenges. It also offers a brief commentary on the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights explaining their meaning and providing examples on their practical implications. Some of the topics dealt with include discrimination, segregation, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. A permanent feature of this publication, and one of the reasons of its success, are the cartoons of Plantu, a well-known French political cartoonist and a devoted human rights activist. His inspired illustrations add the force of art to the cause of human rights (6th updated ed.). Also available in Greek and Korean. (First published in 1981 and translated into over 30 languages; the 5th edition exists in English, French, and Arabic).

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
The UNESCO Courier articles on racial discrimination

Since its inception in 1948, the impact of this iconic magazine has been far-reaching, enthralling readers across the globe. Covering a vast array of topics, its contributors have included the biggest names in their fields. UNESCO's actions against racism have been on the top of the agenda since the beginning – the Courier has always provided a powerful platform for debate and discussion of this dangerous and widespread prejudice that continues to blight our world. (ISSN: 1993-8616).

Also available in [French] [Le Courier de l'UNESCO a 70 ans! Une lecture inspirante], [Spanish] [El Correo de la UNESCO a los 70 años: una lectura inspiradora], [Arabic, Russian, Chinese] [Le racisme mondialisé], and [Portuguese] [O Correio da UNESCO chega aos 70 anos! Uma leitura inspiradora]

Why Racism?

Once founded on the traditional notion of “race”, racial discrimination today comes in many guises, whether based on one’s colour, nation (xenophobia), ethnic belonging or caste. This dossier looks at its roots and impact on indigenous groups and black communities in Latin America, the lowest castes in Asia, and foreigners in Africa and Western Europe. Echoing the World Conference against Racism (Durban, South Africa, August 31-September 7), we strive to give a voice to the hundreds of millions of victims around the world.

- [A return to nature] - pp. 36-37. Also available in [French] [Le racisme mondialisé] and [Spanish] [El racismo mundializado].
- [The rise and fall of the laboratory racist] - pp. 21-23. Also available in [French] [Fortune et decadence du racisme scientifique] and [Spanish] [Auge y caída de las teorías racistas].
- [Stuck at the gate of paradise] - pp. 24-26. Also available in [French] [Fausses notes dans la samba brésilienne] and [Spanish] [Prejuicios en el paraíso multirracial].

- [Racism is mutant] Xenophobia and racism are intellectual constructs that have taken root in the human mind over the centuries. Legal measures are proving inadequate, as they only touch the visible tip of the iceberg. An intellectual strategy is needed, in order to reach into the historical and cultural depths of these plagues, and to eliminate them from the minds of humans - pp. 9-10. Also available in [French] [Le racisme est un mutant] and [Spanish] [El racismo es un mutante].
- [The ubiquitous shadow of racism] - pp. 11-14. Also available in [French] [Le racisme sous le masque] and [Spanish] [El Racismo Enmascarado].
- [Human dignity in question] - pp. 19-20. Scientific progress can sometimes catch ethicists unawares. This was the case with the cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1997 and, today, with cybrids and nanotechnologies. The philosopher and anthropologist Georges Kutukdjian, author of the article “UNESCO and Bioethics”, published in our magazine in 1994, takes a look at the latest challenges for bioethics. Also available in [French] [La dignité humaine en question] and [Spanish] [La dignidad humana en cuestión].

In defence of Durban: Racism is back on the agenda - The UNESCO Courier, 2001, pp. 10-12.
Also available in [French] [Si ! la conference de Durban a été un succès…] and [Spanish] [¡Sí! Durban ha sido un éxito].

Race and prejudice

“Racism is the expression of a system of thought which is fundamentally anti-rational. Hate and racial strife feed on scientifically false ideas, and live on ignorance? They can also derive from scientifically sound ideas which have been distorted or taken out of context, leading to false implications. To demonstrate these errors of fact and reasoning, and to spread knowledge of the conclusions reached by different scientific disciplines; UNESCO convened in 1946 a meeting of scientists from different countries to draw up a declaration on the nature and significance of racial differences. The text prepared by these experts and published by UNESCO in 1950 was well received by the public, but drew some criticism from anthropologists and geneticists who considered that it caused confusion between race as a biological fact and the idea of race as a social phenomenon” (by Georghi F. Debetz). Also available in [French] [Les races et le racisme].

Fallacies of racism exposed. UNESCO publishes Declaration by world’s scientists - The UNESCO Courier, 1950. Also available in [French] [Les savants du monde entière dénoncent un mythe absurd… Le Racisme].and [Spanish] [Las falacias del racismo. La UNESCO publica una declaración que denuncia los prejuicios raciales].

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Racism and Xenophobia in the context of Migration

Being in one way or another perceived as ‘different’, migrants often encounter hostility: they are sometimes used as scapegoats, and may face racism and xenophobic violence. (United Nations Convention on Migrants’ Rights Information kit).

The United Nations Convention on Migrants’ Rights

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families aims at guaranteeing the equality of treatment for migrants and nationals. It does not create new rights for migrants but fosters the respect of human rights for migrants in fields such as: living and working conditions, freedom of thought and of expression, access to information on one’s rights, participation in trade unions, and right to fair legal procedures. The Convention is innovative because it encompasses both documented and undocumented migrants: without encouraging more liberal migration policies, it stresses that even irregular migrants are entitled, as all human beings, to the protection of their human rights. The Convention is therefore the most comprehensive international treaty in the field of migration.

United Nations Convention on Migrants’ Rights

Information kit on the International convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. SHS.2005/WS. Also available in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish

Migration without Borders

Migration without borders. Essays on the free movement of people. Social Science Studies series

Once upon a time there was a world without borders. International migration is high on the public and political agenda of many countries, as the movement of people raises concerns while often eluding states’ attempts at regulation. In this context, the ‘Migration Without Borders’ scenario challenges conventional views on the need to control and restrict migration flows and brings a fresh perspective to contemporary debates.

This book explores the analytical issues raised by ‘open borders’, in terms of ethics, human rights, economic development, politics, social cohesion and welfare, and provides in-depth empirical investigations of how free movement is addressed and governed in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia. By introducing and discussing the possibility of a right to mobility, it calls for an opening, not only of national borders, but also of the eyes and minds of all those interested in the future of international migration.


Migration, free movement and regional integration. Social science studies series

In 2015, more than 244 million people were living away from their country of birth. Many of these had chosen a new residence within the frontiers of organizations within their own region, where human mobility has been increasingly stimulated by regional integration – a global trend interwoven with economic liberalization and enlarged markets. This publication documents from a cross disciplinary perspective the different approaches to free movement by some thirty regional organizations in Africa and the Middle East, the Americas and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, and Asia and the Pacific. It also presents a comparative review of the various measures taken and the obstacles encountered, to highlight current and emerging trends.

Beyond the research community, these findings will be essential to decision-makers from the organizations under review and the United Nations system, as well as to policy-makers and civil society actors.

Published UNESCO and United Nations University – Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS).

Migration as a development challenge. Analysis of root causes and policy implications. MOST Reports.

MOST: Management of Social Transformations, 2017. 20 p. MOST/REPORTS/2017/1

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
The International Convention on Migrant Workers’ Rights is one of the UN’s main human rights treaties. It sets a standard in terms of access to human rights for migrant workers and their families. Although migrant labour is essential in the world economy, the human aspect of migration - and especially migrants’ rights - remains a neglected dimension of globalization. This book provides in-depth information on the Convention, highlighting the opportunities and challenges it presents for states to develop new policies on migration and the treatment of migrants.

Free movement of persons in the European Union and Economic Community of West African States. A comparison of law and practice. UNESCO Migration Studies, 4
This research analyses the legal framework in the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States relating to the free movement of persons. On that basis, it examines how mobility is facilitated or hindered, together with the major problems in realising effective mobility within regions. Part 1 focuses on the European Union, where legislation on the free movement of citizens is very detailed and the principle of free movement is considered to be one of the key policies of the EU. Part 2 of the report focuses on the Economic Community of West African States, starting with an analysis of current legislation and moving on to an evaluation of actual mobility and the constraints and facilitation of such mobility within the system. Part 3 compares the EU and ECOWAS systems in terms of regulations and obstacles to mobility.

The Migrant Workers Convention in Europe. Obstacles to the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: EU/EEA perspectives. UNESCO migration studies 1
The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) entered into force on 1 July 2003, some 15 years after it had been formally opened for ratification in 1990. To date, it has attracted very little support from states. This lack of success becomes all the more apparent upon consideration of the fact that not one major migrant receiving state is among the parties to the Convention. This study proposes an analysis of the reasons for this situation based on a survey carried out in seven countries: Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom. The main focus is the initiatives taken by various actors (political parties, civil society, and unions) to promote the Convention, along with the arguments used by governments to justify their refusal to ratify it as well as the role of European institutions.

People on the move. Handbook of selected terms and concepts
How should we talk about migration? Although a sensitive subject, migration has become a much talked about topic. Among the subjects brought to the fore: the situation of internally “displaced” persons, the dynamics migration-development nexus, or even the consequences of environmental change on human displacement. Faced with an extensive terminology that continues to grow, how can one be sure to use the right word? In order to facilitate access by the general public and of all actors concerned by this major challenge of the 21st century, UNESCO has just published a glossary of the most frequently-used terms to help understand and act in this area. From “assimilation” to “brain drain” and “expulsion”, this book helps to clarify certain aspects within a certain context or reality, and therefore the words used evolve rapidly. Prepared in cooperation with the Dutch NGO “The Hague Process Foundation”, this guide also indicates the terms which should not be used. Words do matter!
DIVERSITIES - ISSN: 2079-6595 / 2010-2014 (formerly International Journal on Multicultural Societies - ISSN: 1817-4574 (1999-2009), more details below) is an online scholarly and professional journal that provides a platform for international, interdisciplinary and policy-related social science research in the fields of migration, multicultural policies, and human rights. (Co-published with Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity - Germany).

Vol. 15, No. 2, 2013: Diversity and small town spaces: Twenty years into Post-Apartheid South African democracy
Vol. 15, No. 1, 2013: Female migration outcomes II
Vol. 14, No. 2, 2012: Language and superdiversities II
Vol. 14, No. 1, 2012: Skilled migration and the brain drain
Vol. 13, No. 2, 2011: Language and superdiversities
Vol. 13, No. 1, 2011: Female migration outcomes: Human rights perspectives
Vol. 12, No. 1, 2010: Depicting diversities


South Africa represents an international site of interest on issues of reconciliation and transformation within a historical context of ethnic hostility, racial segregation and dire mismanagement of diversity. Since 1994, the old apartheid political structures including national government, provincial government and local government have been reformed and numerous laws have been enacted to redress past injustices and to facilitate greater economic and social equity. With the 20 years of democracy being celebrated in 2014, this special edition of Diversities is pertinent to the many questions that will be raised in taking stock of how far South Africa has come in changing the dynamics of segregation, exclusion and oppression that characterized the old dispensation. In particular, the articles collected in this volume speak to spatiality in small town life as a specific dimension of sociality.

The International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS)

- The links between academic research and public policies in the field of migration and ethnic relations, Vol. 7-1, 2005.
- The Impact of government policies on territorially based ethnic or nationalist movements, Vol. 4-1, 2002.

More on International Migration

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

We acknowledge that slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims, and further acknowledge that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity. Declaration of the World Conference against Racism (Durban Declaration, 2001, Paragraph 13)

The Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage

Launched in 1994 in Ouidah, Benin, on a proposal from Haiti, “the Slave Route project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage” pursues 3 main objectives:

- Contribute to a better understanding of the causes, forms of operation, stakes and consequences of slavery in the world (Africa, Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Middle East and Asia);
- Highlight the global transformations and cultural interactions that have resulted from this history;
- Contribute to a culture of peace by promoting reflection on cultural pluralism, intercultural dialogue and the construction of new identities and citizenships.

Tell me about... the Slave Trade. Discovering the World series

The slave trade shattered the lives of millions of people. Many of those uprooted from their land and then bought and sold were children.

This book aims to help young people become more aware of the racism behind the tragedy of the slave trade. At the same time, the slave trade brought with it profound cultural interactions that changed the knowledge and belief systems informing the world’s civilizations. An appreciation of the abiding influence of African cultures on other civilizations will help readers to defeat the prejudices that fuel racism.

2006. 226 pp. 978-92-3-01409-1 (E); 978-92-3-20409-0 (F). UNESCO Publishing
Also available in French [Raconte-moi l’esclavage].

A tool kit on the Slave Routes

Slave routes: A global vision

This toolkit (57 min DVD + booklet) provides an opportunity to place the black slave trade and slavery in a broader context and to shed some light on various important questions that can be raised. What, for example, are the differences and similarities between slave trading in the various regions of the world? How did forms of resistance, measures of abolition and the processes of emancipation of slaves contribute to bring such practices to an end? How did the enslavement of Africans contribute to transforming the modern world? What are the differences and similarities between historical slavery and modern forms of slavery? What is the heritage of slavery? How can new identities and citizen status be built in post-enslavement societies?

Also available in French [Routes de l’esclave: une vision globale] and Spanish [Rutas del esclavo: una visión global]

+ A guide for the use of the DVD-Rom by teachers of the UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPreNet). 2010. 4 pp. Also available in French [Routes de l’esclave: une vision globale, guide d’utilisation du DVD-ROM à l’intention des enseignants du Réseau des écoles associées de l’UNESCO (réSEA) and Spanish [Rutas del esclavo: una visión global, guía para la utilización del DVD-Rom destinada a los docentes de la redPEA].

Enslavement. Knowledge assessment fact sheets

Drafted by the members of the International Scientific Committee of UNESCO’s Slave Route Project, the following sheets have been designed as a connecting link between the film (DVD) and the film booklet. The goal is to provide a compendium of knowledge and questions that give food for thought on the content of the film and booklet. 2010. 59 pp. CLT/CPD/DIA/2010/154. Also available in French [Asservir: fiches bilans des connaissances] and Spanish [Reducir a la esclavitud: fichas de control de conocimientos]

+ A Kind of quiz. 2010. 5 pp. CLT/CPD/DIA/2010/155. Also available in French [Une forme de quiz] and Spanish [Una forma de quiz].

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
**Brochures and posters on the Slave Route**

**The Slave Route** (Brochure). 2006, CLT.2006/WS/8. Also available in French [La Route de l’esclave], Spanish [La Ruta del Esclavo], Arabic [طريق الرقيق] and Portuguese [Rota do Esclavo].


**The Slave Route.** Reconciling the duty to remember and historical truth. A Didactic brochure on UNESCO Slave Route Project. 2009, 8 pp. CLT.2009/WS/12. Also available in French [La Route de l’esclave: réconcilier devoir de mémoire et vérité historique], Spanish [La Ruta del Esclavo: reconciliar el deber de memoria con la verdad histórica] and Portuguese [A Rota do Esclavo: reconciliar dever de memória e verdade histórica].

**Breaking the Silence: The Transatlantic Slave Trade (TST) Education Project**

Despite countless efforts, racism, discrimination, intolerance and exclusion still prevail in most societies. *Breaking the Silence: the Transatlantic Slave Trade (TST) Education Project*, carried out since 1998 by the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), tries to provide an answer.

**Breaking the silence. The Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project** (Brochure) UNESCO’s Associated Schools Project Network. This 16 pages’ brochure presents a mosaic of experience, knowledge, ideas and suggestions, with opportunities to explore all aspects of the quest for knowledge and insight. It shows how much can be achieved when people at all levels and across all boundaries are determined to establish a new worldwide triangle of dialogue and solidarity. Also available in French [Briser le silence. le Projet éducatif du réseau sur la traite transatlantique].

**All equal in diversity. Mobilizing schools against racism, discrimination and exclusion** (Campaign kit) This document gathers the opinions and commitment of some 100 schools in Africa, the Americas/Caribbean and Europe that participate in the TST Education project. By deepening their understanding of the past, these schools work towards a better understanding of the present to build a brighter future based on mutual respect and unity in diversity. Also available in French [Tous égaux dans la diversité: mobiliser les écoles contre le racisme, la discrimination et l'exclusion (kit pédagogique)].

**The mulatto Solitude** (Comic strip). UNESCO series on Women in African History This UNESCO series, and its corresponding website, aims to highlight a selection of key women figures in African history. The little we know about the mulatto Solitude is taken from a few lines in *Histoire de la Guadeloupe* (History of Guadeloupe), a book written in the mid-nineteenth century. The following comic strip is an interpretation of her story. The illustrations are based on historical and iconographic research into Guadeloupe and slavery. Also available in French [La mulâtre Solitude].

**Teaching the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Achievements, challenges and perspectives** Final report of the interregional online consultation of the UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPNET), held in December 2010. As part of the ASPNet Transatlantic Slave Trade (TST) Education Project, the consultation main aim was to map current TST practice in participating schools, share existing resources and advice for effective teaching about the TST, and facilitate new cooperation in this project among schools and countries. Also available in Spanish [La enseñanza de la Trata Transatlántica de Esclavos: Logros, retos y perspectivas].

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
International Decade for People of African Descent

The General Assembly, by its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent beginning 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development.”

The main objective of the International Decade is to promote respect, protection and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The decade will provide an opportunity to recognize the significant contribution made by people of African descent to our societies and to propose concrete measures to promote their full inclusion and to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances.

Memory of Peoples series / Collection Mémoire des peuples / Colección Memoria de los pueblos

Some of the most important issues of today’s world – such as development, human rights, and cultural pluralism – bear the unmistakable stamp of the transatlantic slave trade.

Unfinished business. A comparative survey of historical and contemporary slavery

Interest in contemporary slavery has increased dramatically over the last ten years, but there remains a widespread tendency to view slavery in the past and slavery in current society as independent fields of study. This book moves beyond this unhelpful divide, providing the first ever comparative analysis of historical slave systems and modern forms of human bondage. From this standpoint, recent concerns over human trafficking, debt-bondage, child labour and other related problems are analysed in view of the historical strengths and weaknesses of the legal abolition of slavery. By bringing together a range of studies on different aspects of slavery, both past and present, this book provides an innovative platform for promoting dialogue about ways of addressing both contemporary slavery and the enduring legacies of historical slave systems. 2009. 142 pp. 978-92-3-104124-2. UNESCO Publishing

Les codes noirs hispaniques

The “Black Codes” were laws concerning slaves enacted by Louis XIV of France in 1687, by Louisiana in 1724 and by Charles III of Spain in 1764. This book specifically studies the Spanish black codes which were written in the second half of the eighteenth century. These codes gave a legal framework to the slave trade and institutionalized slavery in the Spanish possessions in the Caribbean and in Louisiana. 2005. 480 pp. 978-92-3-203344-4. UNESCO Publishing. Also available in Spanish [Los códigos negros de la América española (1768-1842)].

L’Or et les esclaves. Histoire des forts du Ghana du XVIe au XVIIIe siècle

Écrit dans un style limpide mais avec toute la rigueur scientifique d’un des meilleurs historiens de la traite et de l’esclavage, ce livre bouscule bien des idées reçues : sur la valeur des marchandises importées d’Europe qui n’avaient de pacotille que le nom, sur l’exigence des Africains à propos de la qualité de ces marchandises. Il montre aussi que les Africains ne laissèrent jamais les Européens pénétrer à l’intérieur du continent, opposant la plus ferme résistance grâce à la formation de puissants États. Il décrypte le regard porté par les Européens sur les Africains et la manière dont les jugements exprimés glissent vers le racisme. Il analyse les spécificités de l’esclavage en Afrique, le rôle respectif des Africains et des Européens dans la traite, il décrit avec précision le sort des esclaves. 2005. 536 pp. 978-92-3-203881-1. UNESCO Publishing

The Abolitions of Slavery. From L. F. Sonthonax to Victor Schoelcher -1793, 1794, 1848

The anti-slavery movement, which followed in the wake of the European slave trade, has attracted much less attention than the latter. This is particularly true for the abolition movement in the French colonies. This volume commemorates the first abolition of slavery, proclaimed by Léger Félicité Sonthonax in Saint-Domingue in 1793 and ratified by a decree of the National Convention in 1794, vividly portraying the complex developments that led to the decree of 1848, which permanently abolished slavery in the French domains. It also represents the first critical evaluation of the state of research in France into the history of eradication of colonial slavery. Finally, this volume also contains an important comparative element through the addition of papers focusing on the abolitionist movements in America, Britain and Spain. 2005. 384 pp. 978-92-3-203960-0. UNESCO Publishing. Also available in French [Les abolitions de l’esclavage. De L. F. Sonthonax à V. Schoelcher -1793, 1794, 1848].

Déraison, esclavage et droit. Les fondements idéologiques et juridiques de la traite négrière et de l’esclavage

This book gathers the proceedings of UNESCO’s 1998 Conference held under the aegis of its long-standing “Slave Routes” program on slavery and the slave trade as crimes against humanity. Throughout its pages, nineteen scholars provide a wide variety of high quality and thoughtfully argued papers dealing with legal issues, slavery, the slave trade and its legitimization in Western eyes. 2002. 376 pp. 978-92-3-203864-7. UNESCO Publishing

Montesquieu, Rousseau, Diderot : du genre humain au bois d’ébène. Les silences du droit naturel

Une analyse et une réflexion critique et le point de vue des philosophes des Lumières sur l’esclavage. 2002. 272 pp. 978-92-3-203863-0. UNESCO Publishing

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
From chains to bonds. The Slave Trade revisited
From Chains to Bonds is a collection of essays by experts throughout Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Caribbean that were first presented at the UNESCO Slave Routes conference in Ouidah, Benin in 1994. It highlights the impact that the slave trade has had on the world and lays the foundations for further research in this area. Also available in French [La chaîne et le lien] and Spanish [De la cadena al vínculo]. 2001. 470 pp. 978-92-3-203439-8 (E); 978-92-3-203439-7 (F); 978-92-3-303439-6 (S); UNESCO Publishing

La Traite et l'esclavage dans le monde lusophone - Cahiers des annees de la mémoire, no. 3. L'histoire de la traite portugaise à travers des contributions d'historiens, d'anthropologues, de linguistes et d'autres chercheurs appartenant à différentes régions géographiques concernées par la traite. Ce numéro propose une analyse critique des premières relations commerciales africo-portugaises. Il met l'accent sur la complexité des formes d'esclavage à travers les exemples du royaume du Congo et du nord-ouest du Cameroun. Il invite à une réflexion sur les formes collectives de la mémoire et de l'identité chez les afro-brésiliens et sur la nécessité du travail historique devant l'impossibilité d'accéder à une mémoire unique. 2001. 470 pp. 978-92-3-203833-3; UNESCO Publishing


Sitios de memoria

Legacies of slavery / Héritages de l'esclavage
Forthcoming


Del Olvido a la Memoria series

The main purpose of this series – which is part of UNESCO Slave Route Project and is composed of 4 volumes and a didactical guide - is to document slavery in the Central American countries. The didactical guide provides special support to teachers, including reading guidelines and student activities.

- Las voces de los esclavizados, los sonidos de la libertad, no 4 - 2008. 82 pp.

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Crime without punishment

In Mauritania, the question of slavery is closely linked to women because, traditionally, slave status was hereditary and passed on by the mother. Since 2007, slavery has been a crime under Mauritanian law. But, in practice, it continues in more or less disguised forms while the perpetrators escape prosecution.

This article is an interview of lawyer Aminetou Mint El Moctar who devoted her life to the rights of women, especially single mothers for whom she founded the Association des femmes chefs de famille (AFCF), an organization representing single mothers.

Also available in French [Crime sans châtiment], Spanish [Crimen sin castigo], Russian, Arabic, Chinese and Portuguese.

Le Morne, spelled out - The UNESCO Courier, 2008, vol. 6 - pp. 4-5

Morning, Oppression, Reverie... with these words Mauritian poet Édouard J. Maunick begins to write “Le Morne”, a name charged with emotion, a mountain laden with memory, a sacred place in the history of the maroon communities.

Also available in French [Le Morne, en toutes lettres], Spanish [El Morne, en todas letras].

The shipwrecked memory of the Utile slaves

On July 31, 1761, the French ship L’Utile is shipwrecked on a tiny island in the Indian Ocean. Not long after, the sailors manage to reach Madagascar, but they leave behind the Malagache slaves they had embarked illegally on L’Utile. Only a handful of survivors remain when they are found 15 years later, in 1776. UNESCO reopens this lost chapter in the history of the slave trade.

Also available in French [La mémoire naufragée des esclaves de L’Utile], Spanish [Náufragos de la memoria].

Three continents – one history?

Encounters between civilizations have not always been peaceful, on the contrary. The slave trade, which lasted more than three centuries, is one of the darkest chapters of human history and forged strong and ambivalent bonds between Europe, Africa and the Americas.

- Dialogue among civilizations - pp. 12-20
  Also available in French [Dialogue entre les civilisations], Spanish [Diálogo entre las civilizaciones].

- Retracing the Slave Routes - pp. 13-15
  Also available in French [Le Voyage sans retour], Spanish [Viaje sin retorno].

- Zanzibar: A unique cultural meeting place - pp. 15-17
  Also available in French [Zanzibar à la croisée des cultures], Spanish [Zanzíbar, encrucijada de culturas].

- Haitians and Dominicans: Two peoples, one island - pp. 18-20
  Also available in French [Haïtiens et dominicains: une île en partage], Spanish [Haitianos y dominicanos: dos pueblos para una isla].

200 Years after it was first abolished, slavery: A crime without punishment

Extract - Two hundred years ago revolutionary France abolished slavery, but then a few years later, as if frightened by its own audacity, re-established it. [...] It took another century marked by revolutions, military expeditions and two world wars before the colonial system finally ended, institutionalized racism was defeated and the socialist gulag was dissolved. Does this mean that today at long last respect for human dignity prevails everywhere? Unfortunately, new inequalities are arising as a result of physical constraints and threats, because of terror imposed by individuals or groups, and the exploitation by some of the weakness of others. [...] What is this dark side of man that has always led him to despise, subjugate and debase his fellows? Why is it that for thousands of years inidividuals and in some cases entire peoples have been bought, sold and treated like beasts? And how is it that such a crime against humanity has remained unpunished even since the inception of Human Rights? There is probably no simple answer to these terrible questions. We know, however, that we must never cease asking them.

Also available in French [200 ans après sa première abolition, l'esclavage: un crime sans châtiment], Spanish [200 años después e su primera abolición, la esclavitud: un crimen sin castigo].

Gorée, island of slaves


Also available online in French [Gorée, l'île aux esclaves] and Spanish [Gorea, la isla de los esclavos]. Published in 33 languages and in Braille.

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
The long struggle for liberation. Reflections on the abolition of slavery in Brazil

Also available in French [Histoire d’une libération: il y a cent ans, l’esclavage était aboli au Brésil], Spanish [Historia de una liberación: hace cien años se abolía la esclavitud en Brasil]. Published in 35 languages. Includes a selection in Braille in English, French, Spanish and Korean.

Milestones on the road to freedom - The UNESCO Courier, 1988, Vol. XLI, 10 - p. 38
Also available in French [Jalons], Spanish [Breve cronología]. Published in 35 languages. Includes a selection in Braille in English, French, Spanish and Korean.

The Slave Trade
Also available online in French [La Traite des Noirs] and Spanish [La Trata de Esclavos y sus Rutas]. Published in 27 languages. Includes a selection in Braille in English, French and Spanish.

- Caribbean encounter - pp. 4-46
  Also available online in French [Carâbe aux voix multiples] and Spanish [El Caribe: Voces múltiples de un archipiélago mestizo]. Published in 25 languages. Includes a selection in Braille in English, French and Spanish.
- Slavery and sugar...the bitter aftertaste - pp. 10-14
  Also available online in French [La Plantation: l’exil et le royaume] and Spanish [La Plantación, Crisol de la Sociedad Antillana]. Published in 25 languages. Includes a selection in Braille in English, French and Spanish.
- Toussaint Louverture: Haiti’s tragic hero - pp. 14-15
  Also available online in French [Toussaint Louverture: le précurseur] and Spanish [Toussaint Louverture: El precursor]. Published in 25 languages. Includes a selection in Braille in English, French and Spanish.

Haiti: 150 years of independence. Haiti: 1804-1954
Also available online in French [Haïti, 150 ans d’indépendance] and Spanish [Haiti: Ciento cincuenta años de independencia].

Modern Forms of Slavery and Human Trafficking

Shaking up the grounds for human trafficking on Hispaniola. Female migration outcomes: Human rights perspectives. Diversities
2011, pp. 67-81
Vol. 13, No. 1

Trafficking in human beings. Human rights and transnational criminal law, developments in law and practices. UNESCO migration studies 3
978-92-3-104182-2

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Poverty, gender and human trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa. Rethinking best practices in migration management
This book describes the interconnectedness between human trafficking and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, based on a critical analysis of forced migration processes in relation to human rights abuse. Many aspects of human trafficking remain poorly understood even though it is now a priority issue for many governments. Information available about the magnitude of the problem is limited. While the existing body of knowledge about human trafficking serves for raising public consciousness about the issue, it is still not rigorous enough to lend support to comprehensive programmes for action which address the different dimensions of the problem. The book points out how practices of migration management can benefit from a more holistic approach.
Also available in French [Pauvreté, genre et traite des personnes en Afrique Subsaharienne : repenser les meilleures pratiques en matière de gestion des migrations].

Remembering slavery. International Social Science Journal (188)
Everyone is in some sense the heir, however indirect, to the Atlantic slave trade, which played a major role in structuring the modern world economic system and had effects far beyond those who directly suffered or profited from it. What does this legacy entail today?
This issue sketches some connections between understanding the past and making sense of the contemporary politics of memory. It thereby helps to open a space for debate on a future in which the memory of slavery can be an aspect of self-understanding.

Searching for best practices to counter human trafficking in Africa. A focus on women and children
This report discusses the concept of best practices as applied in the campaign against human trafficking, with particular emphasis on women and children in Africa. It identifies key actors, including international organizations and bilateral agencies engaged in the struggle against human trafficking, and discusses their roles as channels of ideas and practices. It traces the main areas of relevant expertise – migration, human rights protection and crime control – and shows how beliefs about causative aspects as well as valid intervention are translated into action in the field. The report also highlights the experiences of ten NGOs in Africa engaged in the campaign against the trafficking of women and children and discusses their strengths and weaknesses.

Read also Unfinished business. A comparative survey of historical and contemporary slavery. 2009, 978-92-3-104124-2
(More details in the “Memory of Peoples series” section in this document).

300 Titles ...or more, to know more: bibliographical and documentary orientations
300 Titulos... o más, para saber más: orientaciones bibliográficas y documentarias
CLT/CPD/DIA/2010/156.

Policy Paper series on Human Trafficking


More on UNESCO Slave Route programme
More on UNESCO Fight against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue

The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

Adopted by the 31st Session of the General Conference of UNESCO on 2 November 2001, this Declaration states that the defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity and fundamental freedoms. This means also that no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights, nor to limit their scope. In times of uncertainty, all must reaffirm their commitment to tolerance and dialogue on the basis of respect and understanding. Available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic

Can a democracy legitimately exclude anyone from citizenship?
Introducing Democracy: 80 questions and answers / الديموقراطية: أسئلة واجوبة
[Question no. 25, pp. 53].

Teaching respect for all. Implementation guide
Teaching Respect for All is a joint UNESCO-United States of America-Brazil project launched in January 2012 to counteract discrimination both in and through education. Acknowledging that discrimination is on the rise worldwide, Teaching Respect for All promotes an educational response to counter discrimination and violence through strengthening the foundations of mutual tolerance and cultivating respect for all people, regardless of colour, gender, class, sexual orientation, national, ethnic, or religious orientation/identity. Teaching Respect for All has chosen to focus efforts on the formal and informal classroom, targeting learners of 8-16 years old, and aims to build curiosity, openness, critical thinking and understanding among youth learners, thus equipping them with the awareness, knowledge, and skills to cultivate respect and stop discrimination on all levels. Also available in French [Enseigner le respect pour tous. Guide de mise en oeuvre].

Memórias da Ilha da Marambaia. Tradições orais da cultura afro-brasileira
This material is an important research and learning source for educators and students from all parts of Brazil, supporting the implementation of Law 10.639/2003, which requires the inclusion of contents related to African-Brazilian history and culture in curricula of public and private schools. This publication contributes to the development of teaching practices that respect and value the African-Brazilian history and culture and strengthens the potential of educators who in their daily work are effectively contributing to building a more democratic society and a more welcoming and diverse school. The content is based on interviews with residents, conducted by a team from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and by teachers and students of the Levy Miranda School of the Marambaia Island.

Bouba & Zaza accept people’s differences
The Bouba and Zaza series Childhood Cultures, an intergenerational African series of children’s books, freely examines serious subjects. Its stories are set in contemporary African society and portray early childhood and its problems. 2011, 978-92-3-104214-0 (En); 978-92-3-204214-9 (Fr); 978-92-3-704214-4 (Por), 16 p. Available in English, French and Portuguese

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Cultural diversity. International Social Science Journal (199)
This volume attempts to explore the horizon of cultural diversity and examines it in relation to questions of cultural rights, multilingualism, post and anti-multiculturalism, media representations of otherness, climate change and biodiversity. Whether reduced to a buzzword or elevated to the basis of new forms of global governance to come, cultural diversity is a social fact and one which still merits interdisciplinary critical attention. Read in particular Cultural diversity and anti-poverty policy, pp. 169-180.

Investing in cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. UNESCO World Report. UNESCO reference works series
At the crossroads of intellectual, scientific and political thinking, this 2nd UNESCO World Report aims to take stock of all that is being said, thought and done in the name of cultural diversity, and tease out the necessary conditions for diversity to become an asset and not a threat, a source of renewal for public policies in service to development, social cohesion and peace. No longer limited to the cultural domain strictly.

Democracy and human rights in multicultural societies
This book examines the political governance of cultural diversity, and more specifically how public policy-making has dealt with the claims for cultural recognition that have increasingly been expressed by ethno-national movements, language groups, religious minorities, indigenous peoples and migrant communities. Its main objective is to understand, explain and assess public-policy responses to ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity. Adopting interdisciplinary perspectives of comparative social sciences, the contributors address the conditions, forms, and consequences of democratic and human-rights-based governance of multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-faith societies.

Le dialogue entre les religions endogènes, le christianisme et l'islam au service de la culture de la paix en Afrique
Actes du colloque international, Cotonou, 20-21 août 2007
Dialogue among endogenous religions, Christianity and Islam in the service of the culture of peace in Africa.
Bilingual French/English.

Guidelines for educators on countering intolerance and discrimination against muslims. Addressing islamophobia through education
Promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity, along with countering all forms of intolerance and discrimination, must today, more than ever, be absolute priorities for the international community, in order to maintain peace and stability at both the global and regional levels. The attitudes and tensions that lead to inter-communal conflict are often deeply rooted in stereotypes and misconceptions, and one of the most pressing contemporary challenges is to promote knowledge about, and understanding of, different cultures. Educators play a fundamental role in meeting this challenge. Published in collaboration with the OSCE, the ODIHR, and the Council of Europe.

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)

The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures embodies a global vision and commitment to unification in diversity. Achieving a true rapprochement of cultures, must be generated and nourished by a culture of peace and nonviolence and sustained through human rights and universal values, such as openness, respect, tolerance, a willingness to engage in dialogue, and the ability to solve conflicts through peaceful means and recognize other’s point of view. Achieving peace through dialogue constitutes a necessary foundation for the stability of our societies which, in turn, enables them to thrive.

The rapprochement of cultures. Roadmap. SHS-2016/WS/02. 30 p. Also available in French [Le rapprochement des cultures. Feuille de route] and Spanish [Hoja de ruta. El acercamiento de las culturas]

Writing peace

Writing Peace is a manual that invites young audiences to discover contemporary writings by introducing them to a sample of them. Its goal is to make the world appear a little closer and a little more familiar. "Writing Peace" encourages children (aged 8 to 14) to become aware of the interdependence of cultures through familiarization with contemporary writing systems, their history, and their borrowings. The manual contains 24 activity sheets. Each section presents the characters of a writing system, an introductory text and historical background, the word “peace” and the word “hello,” the language(s) attached to the system(s), and an activity whose answers appear at the end of manual. 6,000 years after the advent of writing, what do we know about others, their systems of thought, and the transcriptions of their writing systems? How can different writing systems contribute to a better understanding of the world and our place within it? By beginning to learn about these writings and their fascinating beauty, the manual connects children to diversity, thus opening their eyes to the concept of peace and our awareness of it.

How to use this manual

Diversity, dialogue and sharing. Online resources for a more resourceful world

Through the combination of this publication and UNESCO’s e-Platform on intercultural dialogue, UNESCO is at the forefront of mobilizing technology to advance learning and exchange on intercultural dialogue. As we reach the halfway point of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, this report is a particularly timely reference for guiding our future action, making a strong and innovative contribution towards the aspirations of the Decade and Agenda 2030 and providing a reinterpretation of the concept of intercultural dialogue rooted in regional perspectives on diversity. It also gives a broad panorama of the shared theoretical, practical and technical tools and online resources available.

Interculturalism at the crossroads. Comparative perspectives on concepts, policies and practices

This academic compendium, the fruit of collaboration between UNESCO and the ‘UNITWIN Network on Interreligious Dialogue for Intercultural Understanding’, presents the current state of affairs with regard to the interpretation and application of intercultural dialogue in different contexts and parts of the world. The articles in it also seek to highlight today’s challenges in the field of intercultural dialogue, while proposing a set of innovative recommendations, including to UNESCO. Read in particular: Racism, anti-racism and intercultural dialogue, pp. 257-276 and Intercultural dialogue under a multiculturalism regime: pitfalls and possibilities in Australia, pp. 105-125

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
**Muslim-Arab legacy in the West**
This is the catalogue of a travelling exhibition organized within the framework of UNESCO “Muslim-Arab Legacy in the West” project which main aim is to strengthen bonds between and within Arab-Muslim and European societies to enhance mutual understanding through a new reading of history and of the Mediterranean culture.
This project is part of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue (2013 –2016).
*Multilingual English/French/Arabic*

**The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue. Key achievements of Phase I.**
SHS-2016/WS/4. 27 p. Also available in Arabic.

**The Power of Empathy and Solidarity**

*The power of empathy / Le pouvoir de l’empathie / قوة التعاطف*
29 pages’ brochure featuring 13 photographs and stories selected from the response to UNESCO global youth contest If I were ..., launched on social media in early 2017.
This document demonstrates the capacity and desire of young women and men to create a fairer, more inclusive and peaceful world, using the power of empathy to build a more resilient culture of peace dialogue.
*Multilingual English/French/Arabic.*

*The power of solidarity / Le pouvoir de la solidarité*
45 pages brochure featuring the winning schools of UNESCO Associated Schools Network Global Art Contest Opening Hearts and Minds to Refugees (November 2016).
The main aim of the contest was to raise awareness among children and youth on the rights of, and respect for refugees. Pre-primary, primary and secondary schools were mobilized to encourage their teachers and students to reflect and research about refugees and to express their thoughts and feelings through art works. Their submissions — drawings, collages, paintings, essays, poems and videos — all promote a culture of living together and international understanding that cherishes diversity.
*Bilingual English/French.*

**Pertinencia de las acciones afirmativas y las competencias interculturales para el efectivo ejercicio de los derechos humanos en Centroamérica, Junio 2016. Memoria del encuentro**

**Agree to differ**
This publication bears testimony to the urgency of addressing contemporary challenges through intercultural and interreligious dialogue in order to deepen understanding and cooperation for peace. Through concrete examples, including experiences at the community level from across the world, the publication showcases why cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and responsive democratic governance are vital for the enhancement of mutual understanding, the growth of tolerance, and the building of bridges of mutual respect and dignity. Dialogue is key when it comes to effective policies to harness the power of diversity, the design of new educational curricula or the crafting of new forms of cultural literacy and cultural diplomacy, between societies and within them. Co-published with Tudor Rose.
*Flipbook.*

**Comparative study of textbooks.** Working document in the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue. Summary report
Pursuant to the *Charter of the United Nations* and the *Constitution of UNESCO*, calling for peace between peoples and respect for cultural diversity, several National Commissions for UNESCO have taken the initiative to create the conditions for a Euro-Arab dialogue in the field of education. They launched several studies to highlight stereotypes, misunderstandings and subliminal bias about Arab countries in European textbooks and about European countries in textbooks in the Arab world. This document is the result of this fruitful collaboration.
*Also available in Arabic [دراسة مقارنة للكتب المدرسية في إطار الحوار الأوروبي - العربي] and French [Etude comparative de manuels scolaires. Document de travail dans le cadre du dialogue Euro-Arabe].*

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
(Defining tolerance)

Tolerance does not have a constant meaning, either in space or in time. The present, linguistically based project – which is both lexicographical and discourse-oriented, and invites further investigations of the same kind – fulfills an ethical purpose: to disseminate the sort of knowledge that will promote mutual respect and understanding. Above all, it is a response to questions about culture. There are particular moments in times of peace, or, on the contrary, in times of crisis, when tolerance and its antonyms, intolerance and the intolerable, appear, in every language, to acquire a special meaning, overlaid with ethnic, religious, social and sexual connotations, which eventually exercises a strong influence on how the concept, which has not quite come of age still, is handled. 

Also available in English [Defining Tolerance] and French [Dire la tolerance].

From words to action / Des paroles aux actes / من الأقوال إلى الأفعال

This portfolio on intercultural competences based on human rights proposes a basic tool for capacity building in support of exchange, communication and cooperation beyond cultural, religious and national borders, allowing the emergence of a global citizenship in a safer world. In this perspective, this set of key resources consists of papers by international experts exploring the linkage between respect for cultural diversity and human rights.

Plurilingual English/French/Arabic.


Writing peace / Ecrire la paix / كتابة حروف السلام

Catalogue of the exhibition “Writing Peace” that took place in 2012 in the framework of UNESCO Programme of Action for a culture of Peace and Non-Violence. The objective of the exhibition was to raise awareness on the various forms of transmission of culture and heritage down the ages, and the convergence of values conducive to peace, through a number of alphabets and other writing systems used in a various parts of the world that transcend time and space.

This project was funded through the Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue. Multi-lingual English/French/Arabic.

Arab-Muslim civilization in the mirror of the universal. Philosophical perspectives

The 34 pedagogical cards assembled in this publication elucidate in a detailed way the large intellectual, spiritual, artistic and political foundations on which the Arab-Muslim civilization is based. The cards are of philosophical nature while they also delineate the intellectual figures and key inventions that have marked this civilization. The content has been elaborated by a team of philosophers working in various domains, including philosophy of history, philosophy of religion, philosophy of sciences, philosophy of art, etc., thus ensuring a pluralistic approach. The work also benefited from the collaboration of specialists in didactics and philosophy teaching, and experts in intercultural education, who developed pedagogical guidelines for the ease of use of the cards.

Also available in French [La civilisation arabo-musulmane au miroir de l’universel. Perspectives philosophiques].

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007, as a triumph for justice and human dignity following more than two decades of negotiations between governments and indigenous peoples’ representatives.

Other languages: French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Portuguese.

More on the Declaration on the OHCHR website
More on Indigenous Peoples and UNESCO’s actions

More on Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Diversity

* Message from Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People, 9 August 2017 - English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese

UNESCO Contact: Mimouna Abderrahmane
Teaching Philosophy to Promote Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue

Many conflicts are partially fuelled by a search for identity that takes the form of a retreat into a particular religion or spiritual tradition to the exclusion of all others. Beyond any individual political factors, these antagonistic forms of retreat result from an ignorance of the long history that binds different peoples, their cultures, their religions and their spiritual traditions, together. One of the objectives of philosophical dialogue is to highlight the dynamic interplay between spiritual traditions and their specific cultures by underlining the contributions they have made to each other’s development, through the discovery of common heritage and shared values. (Philosophy, a School of Freedom, see below)

Philosophy: A school of freedom. Teaching philosophy and learning to philosophize. Status and prospects

This innovative publication is based on the results of a worldwide survey and provides ground-breaking recommendations and proposals for the teaching of philosophy and learning how to philosophize at all levels of education, namely pre-school, primary, secondary and higher level, but also outside the framework of formal educational systems. Readers will discover the full significance of giving children and young students access to the support of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for the Culture of Dialogue and Peace. Available in English, French [L’enseignement de la philosophie dans la région arabe], Arabic [تدريس الفلسفة في العالم], Partially in Open Access.

Teaching Philosophy series: a UNESCO collection to understand regional challenges

- Enseñanza de la filosofía en América Latina y el Caribe - 2009. SHS/PH/2009/PI/LAC. Also available in English [Teaching philosophy in Latin America and the Caribbean].
- Teaching philosophy in Asia and the Pacific - 2009. SHS/PH/2009/PI/APA.
- Teaching philosophy in Europe and North America - 2011. 978-92-3-001011-9 (E); 978-92-3-001012-6 (F). Also available in French [L’enseignement de la philosophie en Europe et Amérique du Nord], Open Access.
- Teaching philosophy in the Arab region - 2009. SHS/PH/2009/PI/AR. Also available in Arabic [درس الفلسفة في العالم] and French [L’enseignement de la philosophie dans la région arabe].

The Asian-Arab philosophical dialogues series


Inter-regional Philosophical dialogues. Democracy and social justice in Asia and the Arab World

The first three articles of this volume explore the topic of Philosophical Traditions and Critical Reconstructions in Asia and the Arab World. The next four focus more on Social Justice and Human Rights as Challenges of Globalization. One common observation was that these two regions have an ancient history of cultural exchange along the Silk Road, although globalization has afforded few opportunities for dialogue in recent years. The next topic addressed was that of Comparative Models of Democracy. The final series of papers returns to a consideration of individuals within societies, under the theme Preserving Identity and Preventing Exclusion.