

TOGETHER, RESPECT, SAFETY, UNITY, AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

According to *Antonio Guterres*, Secretary General of the United Nations

“Our duty to the people we serve is to work together to move from fear of each other to trust in each other. Diversity in all its forms is an asset, not to threat”

### **Learning to Live Together**

- ❖ This is one of the most vital aspects of building a genuine and lasting culture of peace throughout the world.
- ❖ It involves learning to know, learning to do, and learning to be as the basis of living together.
- ❖ It involves developing, broadening or changing perceptions of an attitude towards ourselves and others consequently, the way we believe in our daily encounters and interaction with others.
- ❖ Ability to tolerate, respect, welcome, embrace and even celebrate differences and diversity in people, their histories, traditions, beliefs, values and cultures and use this diversity to enrich our lives.
- ❖ Promote inter-cultural and inter-faith education.
- ❖ Coping with urgent situation of tension, exclusion, conflict, violence and terrorism.
- ❖ Responding constructively to cultural diversity of economic disparity found within and across the state.
- ❖ Enable people to live in increasing pluralistic multi-cultural societies.
- ❖ Provision of peaceful environment for sustainable socio economic development.

Learning to live together involves developing broadening or changing perceptions of an attitude towards our daily encounters and interaction with others.

### **Declared Principles of Tolerance**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO, 1995)declared that there is the need to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of human person, the practice of tolerance and living together in peace with one another as good neighbor.

### **Meaning of Tolerance**

Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is developed by knowledge, openness,

communication and freedom of thought, conscience and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference.

Tolerance is an active attitude prompted by recognition of the universal human rights and fundamental freedom of others. It is the responsibility that upholds human rights pluralism, democracy and the rule of law. It is the acceptance of the fact that human beings are naturally diverse in their appearance, situation, speech, behavior and values and that they have the right to live in peace and to be as they are. It means that one's views are not to be imposed on others. (although this does not foreclose promoting ideals for development of cultures, values and norms)

### **Indicators of Intolerance and Devaluation of Human Person**

The following can be regarded as 'symptoms' or 'indicators' of intolerance

1. **Language:** Exclusive language that devalues, demeans, and dehumanizes cultural, religious or sexual groups.
2. **Stereotyping:** Describing all members of a group as characterized by the same negative attribute e.g. that a tribe are thieves or lazy.
3. **Teasing:** Calling attention to particular human behavior patterns, attributes and characteristics so as to ridicule or insult.
4. **Prejudice:** Judgment on the basis of negative generalization and stereotype rather than on the actual facts of the code or specific behavior of an individual or a group.
6. **Discrimination:** Exclusion from social benefits and activities on primarily prejudicial group.
7. **Ostracism:** Behaving as if the others were not present or did not exist. Refusal to speak to or acknowledge others or their culture
8. **Harassment:** Deliberate behaviour to intimidate and degrade others, often intended as a means of forcing them out of the community, organization or group.
9. **Bullying:** Use of superior, physical capacity or greater number to humiliate others, deprives them or priority status, or priority status, or forces them into particular actions.
10. **Expulsions:** officially or forcefully expelling or denying right of entrance or presence in a place, social group, profession or any place where group activity occurs, including those upon which survival depends such as places of employment or shelter.
11. **Exclusion:** Denying possibilities to meet fundamental needs and/or participate fully in the society, as in particular communal activities.

12. **Segregation:** Enforced separation of people of different ethnic, religious or gender; usually to the disadvantage of one group.

13. **Repression:** Forceful prevention of enjoyment of human rights.

### Consequences Of Intolerance

Intolerance produces the following consequences that have capacity to reduce dignity of people.

- a. **Discrimination.** Curtailment or denial of rights to certain individuals, organizations, groups on the basis of nationality, sex, citizenship, religion, etc.
- b. **Racial/ ethnic discrimination:** Denial or curtailment of human rights on the basis of race or ethnicity.
- c. **Segregation:** Extreme form of racial/ethnic discrimination when one group of people (black, ladies etc.) are separated from other groups e.g. indigene versus settlers.
- d. **Gender discrimination:** This manifest where women compared to men are limited from participation (in employment, inheritance, etc)
- e. **Genocide:** Comprises actions that purposely aim to completely wipe out any national, ethnic or religious group through murder, assassination, prevention of birth, etc.
- f. **Xenophobia:** The hatred and fear of foreigners (strangers). Strangers are often seen as possessing negative characteristics.
- g. **Marginalization:** Action that results in a person or group or ethnic group being forcefully cut off from their traditional, ethnic, national, religious or moral values or collective entitlements and rights.
- h. **Religious fanaticism:** The imposition of particular religious or ritual on all members of the society by force in form of religious discrimination.
- i. **Political oppression:** The ban on open and free discussion and dissemination of political ideas, impossibility of free and fair elections, limitations on the freedom of speech, prosecution of political dissent.
- j. **Exploitation:** Unfair compensation for work done (either through policy of underpayment or over payment to some privileged class.

### Conclusion: How to treat people with respect

The following are expected for living together and respecting others.

- i. Having a respectful mentality: Members of the society should respect themselves and others to enhance cordial living together.
- ii. Treat others how you want to be treated. Respect is a reciprocal relationship.
- iii. Put yourself in other people's shoes. Empathize with others to know how they feel. The more you empathize the more you understand their viewpoints.
- iv. Acknowledge each person's intrinsic [inner] value. No person is worthless.
- v. Communicate respectfully- Be sensitive to others' feelings.

- vi.** Treat people with courtesy and politeness. This is as simple as saying “thank you” or “please”.
- vii.** Listen closely and attentively. Give full attention when you are being addressed.
- viii.** Phrase your comment positively. If you constantly criticize, pull others down, they may not be open to you.
- ix.** Share your opinion when you are asked. While your opinions are valid, people may not actually want your opinion. Your opinion can hurt others, even when you don’t mean to hurt them.
- x.** Handle conflict respectfully. Value other’s opinions, speak kindly, and apologize when you are wrong.
- xi.** Act respectfully: Respect other’s social boundaries, be trustworthy, avoid gossip or hear say and treat all people with respect.

When these are done, we will be able to live peacefully together in safe societies where the human person is respected and dignity is ascertained.