

Living together in diversity

An environment where different races live together changes the way you view yourself and the world. When you are surrounded by persons from different parts of the world and from all walks of life, you realise that the world is divided by subtle differences and you start appreciating the great diversity around you.

Recognising diversity means understanding how people's differences and similarities can be mobilised for the benefit of the individual and society as a whole. In society today, diversity is beneficial because it gives people the chance to experience different aspects to what they are normally accustomed to. In fact, each person plays a key role in transforming culture to respect diversity. We learn from people who have different experiences, beliefs and perspectives on life. Diversity thus enriches the educational experience and promotes personal growth and a healthy society.

Diversity has the potential of strengthening a society because the influence from different cultures with various beliefs and ideas gives rise to a society which is more open-minded and dynamic. This creates acceptance and contributes to reduce racism and challenge stereotypes in societies. Therefore, we should celebrate the differences and respect diversity.

For more information contact the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) on 2590 3850, equality@gov.mt or on Facebook.

Diversity:

The variety of experiences and perspectives which arise from differences in race, culture, religion, mental or physical abilities, heritage, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and other characteristics.

Managing diversity involves:

- acknowledging people's differences;
- recognising differences as valuable;
- preventing discrimination and promoting inclusiveness

There never were, in the world, two opinions alike, no more than two hairs, or two grains; the most universal quality is diversity.

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne (1533-92)
French essayist

A society without differences is hard to imagine; thus we should not consider these differences as an obstacle, but should rather see them as an essential part of life.

Council of Europe,
'All different – All equal' Education pack