



FAMILY REFLECTIONS PROGRAM



DIAMOND JUBILEE  
1957 • 2017

# Culture, Diversity, and Pluralism in Islam

## December 2017

### Activity: Pluralism Mind Map

#### Purpose

To unpack the concepts of culture, diversity and pluralism. How do we make these concepts relevant

#### Description

We hear Hazar Imam talk about diversity and pluralism in almost every speech and Farman. Look up these words in the dictionary and watch Hazar Imam's address to the Canadian parliament (link below) where he talks about these concepts.

Next, take a piece of paper and begin to draw a mind map. Start by drawing two circles. In one circle write "diversity" and in the other "pluralism." Start to draw lines from the circles and write in characteristics, descriptors, feelings or behaviors associated with that concept. Use your imagination. Different color pens or markers can be helpful in building a mind map. Use whatever medium you want—words, pictures cut from a magazine, drawings—to create your mind map.

Keep building the mind map until you've exhausted your thoughts.

#### Reflection and discussion questions

1. Identify where the connection points are between the two concepts on your mind map—what do they have in common? How are they different? Did your lines criss-cross at any point? If so, where? Why?
2. Think about how you've identified diversity and pluralism in your mind map—how might culture fits into these concepts?
3. Think about why it is sometimes difficult to practice pluralism. What are the barriers to accepting differing perspectives, ideas and beliefs?
4. Brainstorm ways you can practice pluralism in your everyday actions. Of that brainstormed list, what is one thing that can you do, in a very practical way, to model pluralism?
5. The Aga Khan Academies offer International Baccalaureate (IB) programs. The IB mission statement is "to encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right." How does this concept connect to pluralism? Why do you think Mawlana Hazar Imam opts to use and advocate for the IB system in the Aga Khan Academies?
6. Invite a friend over and take 30 seconds to tell them about pluralism and what it means to you. Ask them to ask you questions and respond with the information and knowledge you have. Think about how that felt. If it was difficult, what can you do you to make it easier?

#### Resources

##### Links to speeches

- <http://www.akdn.org/speech/his-highness-aga-khan/address-both-houses-parliament-canada-house-commons-chamber>
- [https://www.icc-icc.ca/site/site/uploads/2016/11/LaFontaineBaldwinLecture2010\\_AgaKhan.pdf](https://www.icc-icc.ca/site/site/uploads/2016/11/LaFontaineBaldwinLecture2010_AgaKhan.pdf)
- <http://www.6degreesto.com/article/aga-khan-acceptance-speech/>

##### Useful links

- [www.pluralism.ca](http://www.pluralism.ca)
- <http://www.tonybuzan.com/about/mind-mapping/>
- <http://pluralism.org/what-is-pluralism/>

##### Share your experiences:

Please text or email your experience and feedback to [JubileeInfo@usaji.org](mailto:JubileeInfo@usaji.org).

Please include the words Family Reflections Program in the subject line of your e-mail.