

Hey, Come on! Let's Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion today!

By Greg Jenkins, Sr. Partner, Veteran Service Practice inQUEST Consulting

Today is an opportunity to "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion!" Every year on 21 May we celebrate by deepening our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and help to foster our understanding of cultural diversity from around the world.

In 2011, a grassroots campaign "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion", celebrating the annual World Day for Cultural Diversity was launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations-Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

The 2013 campaign, by encouraging people and organizations from around the world to take concrete action to support diversity and inclusion, aims:

- To raise awareness worldwide about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion.
- To build a world community of individuals committed to support diversity and inclusion with real and everyday-life gestures.
- To combat polarization and stereotypes to improve understanding and cooperation among people from different cultures.

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

Why does diversity and inclusion matter? Well...

- Three-quarters of the world's major conflicts have a cultural dimension.
- Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development.
- The global population has more than doubled since the 1950's we're a growing world population of peoples, cultures and perspectives – AND we're still growing!

So what's one thing I can do today?

You can do an unlimited number of activities. Here are just a few ideas:

- Visit an art exhibit or a museum dedicated to other cultures.
- Invite a family or people in the neighborhood from another culture or religion to share a meal with you and exchange views on life.
- Rent a movie or read a book from another country or religion than your own.
- Invite people from a different culture to share your customs
- Read about the great thinkers of other cultures than yours (e.g. Confucius, Socrates, Avicenna, Ibn Khaldun, Aristotle, Ganesh, Rumi)
- Go next weekend to visit a place of worship different than yours and participate in the celebration.
- Learn about traditional celebrations from other cultures; learn more about Hanukkah or Ramadan or about amazing celebrations of New Year's Eve in Spain or Qingming festival in China.
- You can spread your own culture around the world through our Facebook page and learn about other cultures too
- Explore music of a different culture
- Google places, people, religions or cultures its easy and simple to do, and it only takes a minute or two

How do I join the campaign?

- "Like" UNAOC on their <u>Facebook page</u> to start a discussion on their wall, follow their posts and videos or take part in the photo and video contests.
- Tell others about this opportunity today; share it with your networks.
- Organize an event and contact UNAOC http://www.unaoc.org to put your event under the umbrella of the campaign.

Every one of us can do ONE thing for diversity and inclusion; even one very little thing can become a global action if we all take part in it.

Join us in doing ONE thing for diversity and inclusion today. We at inQUEST Consulting and Racing Toward Diversity magazine invite you to take part in this global event with us. Today our ONE thing for diversity and inclusion is to share this information with you. Maybe your ONE thing could be to pass on to others...Thank you very much!

Greg Jenkins, Sr. Partner, Veteran Service Practice @inclusivemove inQUEST Consulting www.inquestconsulting.com

Twitter - http://ow.ly/l3KIL #DoOneThing Facebook - http://ow.ly/l4RGa