



# DEI

## Perspectives

### June 9 is Race Unity Day!

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(she/her/hers)*

Established in 1957, the [Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly](#) created Race Unity Day to combat racism in the United States (U.S.) and promote unity for all.

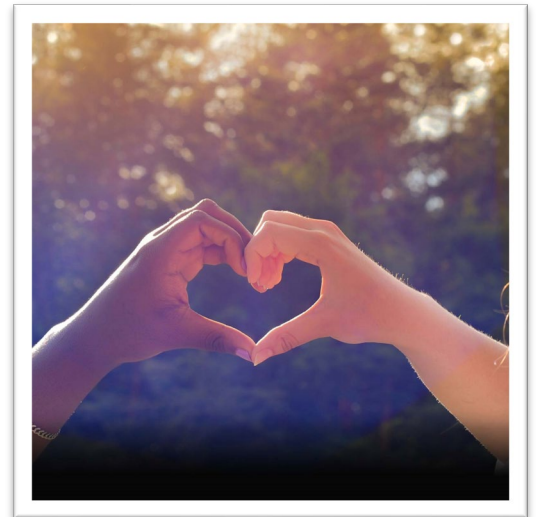
Once known as Race Amity Day, and later changed to Race Unity Day, the holiday is celebrated internationally as an extension of Bahá'í beliefs and principles of racial harmony. The purpose is to recognize and appreciate each other's diversity and come together to make the world a better place.

While the holiday is not a holy day in the traditional sense, some scholars have dubbed the holiday a "civil religion."

Systematic racism continues to plague the country. Racism is not just applicable in cultural settings; it also applies to legal, economic, or political institutions and systems that engage in racial discrimination or encourage inequalities due to race in education, wealth, and civil rights.

### Five Sobering Facts About Racism

1. Black students face prejudice. In the U.S., Black students represented 15 percent of the total student enrollment in the 2015 to 2016 school year, yet accounted for 31 percent of students arrested.
2. Police stops mostly involve Black people. In 2018, 80 percent of the police stops involved Black and Latino people.
3. More students experience racial discrimination. According to a U.S. survey, 15.8 percent of students experience race-based harassment.
4. White Americans do not get arrested as much. White Americans are less likely to get arrested than Black Americans.
5. Racism affects job opportunities too. People with white-sounding names are called for interviews more often than people with black-sounding names.





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### Why Race Unity Day Is Important

- *It promotes racial unity.* Race Unity Day aims to promote harmony among different races. It is a day that reminds us that regardless of our race, we can all live and coexist as one.
- *It has a long history.* This holiday has been celebrated since 1957. The Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly has long known the importance of unity among different races.
- *It promotes peace.* Racial harmony will improve peace in the land, which will hasten the development of the country. This holiday raises awareness of the importance of racial harmony.

### Ways to Observe Race Unity Day

- *Educate yourself.* You can celebrate this holiday by spending the day educating yourself about other races and cultures. Understanding other people's cultures will bring you closer to them and will make you realize how similar we all are.
- *Join up with diverse groups.* Check your community for any educational or socially diverse group that you can join. Joining a diverse group and being on a team with people of diverse backgrounds will allow you to better understand people from different cultures and life experiences.
- *Throw an interracial party.* You might not be able to find an interracial group to join, so another way of being amongst people from different races is to throw an interracial party. A party is always a clever idea to get people to let their guard down and have fun.