

## Students learn about diversity on Tolerance Day

UNESCO in partnership with UNIC commemorated the International Tolerance Day through a four-day series of engagements, engaging with approximately 1800 primary school children at six schools across Windhoek.



From 13 to 16 November, learners were presented with the concept of tolerance and engaged in rich discussions on diversity, inclusion and stereotypes, allowing them to reflect and question how to change their perceptions and behaviors. The learners also participated in a group activity, delving deeper into diversity as an asset for communities, individuals' unique roles in society and the positives of difference.

The purpose of the sessions was to increase the knowledge of young learners on how tolerance is a cornerstone in our daily lives, which is a notion deeply linked the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions".

The United Nations is committed to strengthening tolerance by fostering mutual understanding between cultures and peoples. This is imperative on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the UNESCO Declaration of Principles of Tolerance. These are more important than ever in an era when violent extremism and radicalism are on the rise and conflicts are widening.

Tolerance recognizes universal human rights and the fundamental freedoms of others. In that sense, we must accept the fact that people are naturally diverse. Only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in each region of the world.

"All cultures are different, but humanity is a single community, sharing values, a past and future. All people are different, and this is a strength for all societies, for creativity and innovation", stated the Director-General of UNESCO.

*"Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human."*