

# Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribe

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW GOOD TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON HOST

The World's Newspaper

Monday, August 9, 2004

## *The Universal Forum of Cultures considers immigration as a source of social enrichment*

**A permanent intercultural dialogue area will be created in Barcelona**

Joseph Lachmann  
*Herald Tribe Service*

The congress on "Cultural and intercultural diversity in the globalisation era", held this week in Barcelona with 500 attendants from over 140 countries, within the framework of the Forum of Cultures, has sent the world a message declaring that, in view of the current globalisation process based on the predominance of modern western culture, there is a need for profound intercultural dialogue to ensure harmony, not in spite of, but because of cultural differences.

In this respect, they confirmed the importance of reconsidering migratory movements as a positive factor in social transformation. New multi-cultural societies have to be created, where immigrant minori-

ties have no need to become integrated into the cultural majority, but help to form a new, culturally diverse, social reality. The aim is to build a nation of communities, instead of a society of citizens, so that the planet, instead of a group of isolated cultures or a uniform cross-bred society, becomes a variety of worlds within a world.

In this respect, one of the congress's greatest victories has been an agreement to create a permanent area for encounters between cultures, to promote this cultural dialogue between western culture and other cultures and civilisations, with regards to fields as varied as values, the economy, politics, social organisation, science, education, ecology or religion.

This area will also help Catalonia, the society that has developed the Forum of Cul-

tures, which is already the home of citizens from Morocco, Gambia, the Philippines, Pakistan, China the Dominican Republic and up to a total of 110 countries. The Catalan government's new immigration policy, defined by the Department of Immigration in collaboration with unions and social movements, already has a place in this new concept of an intercultural society.

In order to promote a culturally diverse society, a series of policies have been deployed to fight the poverty and social exclusion that often go hand in hand with immigration, provide the resources required for the development of different communities in Catalonia, and, above all, encourage intercultural encounters (from popular events to university studies).

News item 20 inspired by the Proposals Booklet: *Intercultural cultural diversity in the era of globalisation*, coordinated by Agustí Nicolau Coll

**Collection of Desirable News (1)** inspired by 25 Proposals Booklets of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World, [www.alliance21.org](http://www.alliance21.org)

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