

The Democracy Forum Dispatch



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Date 2024-12-06 14:42

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DEMOCRACY FORUM DISPATCH

friend—yesterday at The Obama Foundation’s third annual Democracy Forum, we heard from an array of experts about the importance of pluralism, or the concept of engaging meaningfully across differences.

Putting these ideas into practice can seem daunting, especially in our increasingly divided and diverse society. But it’s necessary in order to make progress and strengthen our democracy.

That’s why we’re keeping yesterday’s conversation going! **Read on for some inspiration about how to practice pluralism, highlights from the Democracy Forum, and more:**

Obama Leaders weigh in on pluralism

We recently asked changemakers who have participated in the Obama Leaders program what pluralism means to them. Take a look, then [let us know how pluralism—the concept of engaging meaningfully across differences—shows up in your life!](#)



“For me, pluralism means including everyone and giving them the space to share their experiences without judgment.”

Fanta Cire Diop
Leaders Africa 2023



“Pluralism is about designing and participating in spaces that allow peaceful and considered resolution of differences between folks and communities holding different beliefs.”

Alan Wu
Leaders Asia-Pacific 2019



“Pluralism at its core is acknowledging diversity as a strength rather than a point of contention.”

Tasha R. Mousseau
Leaders USA 2023



“[Pluralism] acknowledges that human limitations exist, but through inclusive collaboration and mutual respect, we can overcome barriers and drive positive global development.”

Sameera Chukkapalli Holmes
Leaders Europe 2022

Pluralism in pop culture

Movies, TV shows, music, and other media can help us understand more about pluralism by showing examples of people from different backgrounds engaging meaningfully and gaining understanding.

Here are some shows, movies, and songs we think demonstrate some of the ideals of pluralism, [share some examples you think of and we’ll compile a list to share with this community!](#)



LISTEN

Respect – Aretha Franklin
We're all in This Together – The High School Musical Cast
Defying Gravity – Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo
Girl, so confusing (remix) – Charli XCX and Lorde
For Good – Idina Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth
Raised Right – Reyna Roberts



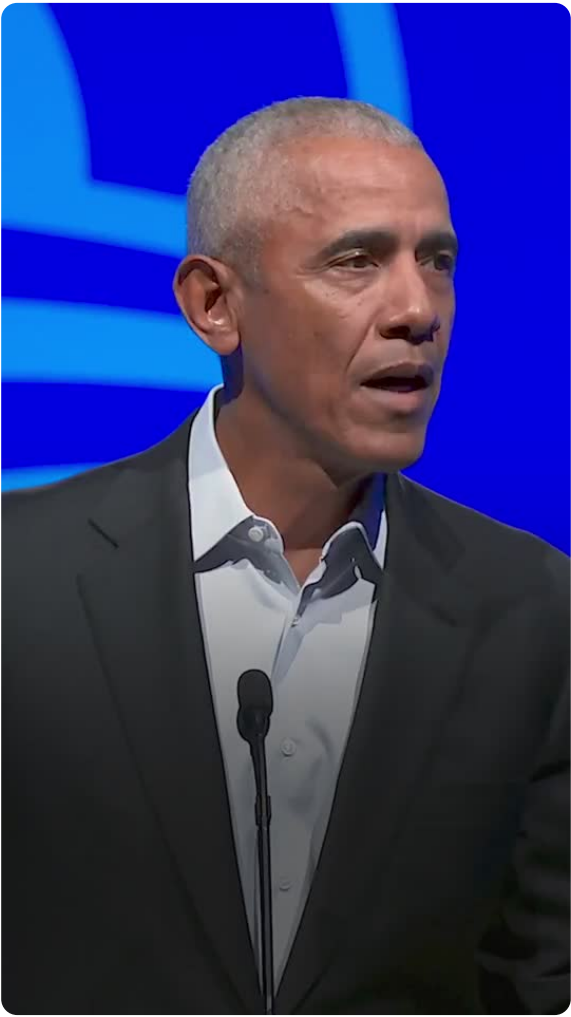
WATCH

Will & Harper
Parks and Recreation
The Intern
Sister Act
Mean Girls
Welcome to Wrexham

Share a clip from the 2024 Democracy Forum

Follow any of the buttons below to easily share a clip of President Obama's Democracy Forum speech to your social media channels!

Watch: President @BarackObama spoke at the 2024 @ObamaFoundation #DemocracyForum on how pluralism can strengthen democracy.



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Pluralism toolkit: bring pluralism home!

We put together a collection of resources to help you take the next step of putting the ideals of pluralism into action. [Learn more from some of the organizations that participated in the Democracy Forum and get inspired to live out these values in your daily life!](#)

Practical Pluralism: A Toolkit for Action

Here is a collection of resources, strategies, and actions to guide your next steps.



[Learn more](#)

Shop for loved ones and support the Obama Foundation's work

During the Democracy Forum we launched our latest collection of Obama Foundation merch! Take a look at our gift guide for some inspiration, then [order your gifts by December 12 to make sure they arrive in time for Christmas!](#) Every purchase you make will support our mission and enable us to continue our work in 2025.

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1. Inspire the **young changemaker** in your life to jot down their ideas with [“The power of we” notebook](#) and [sticker pack](#).
2. Help your **Gen-Z sibling** stay out of the sun in style with a [bucket hat](#).
3. Support your **friend** whose New Year’s resolution is to drink more water with a [water bottle](#) sourced by a local Chicago artist.
4. Embellish your **sibling or friend’s** school bag with a fun [pack of pins](#).
5. Help grow your fashion forward **friend or family member’s** t-shirt collection with colorful new [logo](#) and [slogan](#) t-shirts.

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