

# PLURALISM

Instead of shouting at one another, we must listen to one another and learn from one another. ...The replacement of fear by hope is probably the single most powerful trampoline of progress. When hope takes root, then a new level of tolerance is possible, though it may have been unknown for years, and years, and years.

**Mawlana Hazar Imam**  
**Tutzing Evangelical Academy**  
**Tutzing, Germany**  
**May 20, 2006**

Speech at [AKDN](#)

Tolerance, openness and understanding towards other peoples' cultures, social structures, values and faiths are now essential to the very survival of an interdependent world. Pluralism is no longer simply an asset or a prerequisite for progress and development, it is vital to our existence.

**Mawlana Hazar Imam**  
**New Delhi, India**  
**April 15, 2003**

Speech at [AKDN](#)

Pluralism implies a readiness to listen to many voices—whether we agree or not—and a readiness to embrace a rich diversity of cultures. When our diversity divides us, the results can be tragic. But when we welcome diversity—and the debate and dissent that goes with it—we sow the seeds of stability and progress.

**Mawlana Hazar Imam**  
**International Press Institute's**  
**World Congress**  
**Nairobi, Kenya**  
**May 22, 2005**

Speech at [AKDN](#)



AKDN/Zahur Ramji

One of history's great lessons is that a society can underwrite human progress only when it overcomes its insularity and suspicion of "the other," and instead, looks upon difference as a source of strength. For, while our new century continues to be marred by conflict and tension, the effective world of tomorrow is a pluralist one which comprehends, welcomes and builds on diversity.

That is why I passionately view the struggle against poverty, and respect for the values of pluralism, as two of the most significant tests of whether the 21st Century is to be an era of global peace, stability and progress.

**Mawlana Hazar Imam**  
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**February 12, 2006**

Speech at [AKDN](#)

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