

Harmony Week –

Team meeting segment



Hold a multicultural lunch or morning tea and encourage staff to bring food from their culture to share.

Welcome

Happy Harmony Week! Thank you for coming to this special Harmony Week morning tea/lunch. I'd like to say a special thank you to everyone who brought food along. Today, we are going to celebrate our diversity and get to know a bit more about one another.

Acknowledgement of Country

To begin with, I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

[We recommend mentioning the Traditional Owners of the land you are on by name. See www.aiatsis.gov.au/map-indigenous-australia.]

The Salvation Army – Statement of inclusion

Harmony Week is an important one for The Salvation Army Australia. As an organisation, we value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. And we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.

The Bible says, "God so loved the world" (John 3:16, RGT). As both a church and charity, we believe all people are loved by God and are worthy of having their needs met. We love unconditionally, because God first loved us. Everyone is welcome to find love, hope and acceptance at The Salvation Army.

Activity — Learn to say, "Hello"

Invite individuals to teach the group how to say, "Hello!" in their first language. Practice together as a group. (If your group members only speak English, come prepared to share at least five ways to say "hello" in different languages.)

Activity – Get to know each other: 'speed dating' style

- Ask everyone to stand in pairs — two lines facing each other
- Give each person a sheet of paper that has the team members' names on them with two lines next to each name
- Allow 30 seconds per round
- In 30 seconds, the pair must discover one thing they have in common with their partner and one difference, and note these on their list.
- After 30 seconds, everyone in one line must move one place to the right — the first person moving to the other end of the line
- Ask each team member to say one thing that they learnt from the activity or one thing that surprised them

Close

That concludes the formal part of our lunch/morning tea, but please continue to enjoy the food and practice those greetings. As a team, we celebrate our diversity today.



Optional extras:

Here are some extra elements for you to include in your gathering if you wish.

Prayer – Diversity Blessing

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,
Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.
May the Son who teaches us to care for stranger and foreigners,
Go with us as we try to be good neighbours in our communities.
May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,
Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.
[– Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood](#)

Values statement

The values of The Salvation Army Australia are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Respect
- Diversity
- Collaboration

Scripture readings (NLT)

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptised into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
¹⁶ for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on Earth.
He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see —
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.
¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.
He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.
So he is first in everything.
¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
²⁰ and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in Heaven and on Earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.
Colossians 1:15-20

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female.
For you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28

Quotes

Diversity is about all of us and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together.
Jacqueline Woodson – American children's book author

Diversity and inclusion, which are the real grounds for creativity, must remain at the centre of what we do.
Marco Bizzarri – Italian business executive

Inclusivity means not just 'we're allowed to be there,' but we are valued. I've always said: smart teams will do amazing things, but truly diverse teams will do impossible things.
Claudia Brind-Woody – American business executive

Unity, not uniformity, must be our aim. We attain unity only through variety. Differences must be integrated, not annihilated, not absorbed.
Mary Parker Follett – American academic

Good leadership requires you to surround yourself with people of diverse perspectives who can disagree with you without fear of retaliation.
Doris Kearns Goodwin – American biographer

We all have the ability to promote a culture of acceptance and inclusion — and that is something I believe every leader has a responsibility to do. It starts with having a dialogue until we are all comfortable and no longer have the fear of saying the wrong thing.
Inga Beale – British businesswoman

Diversity is a fact, but inclusion is a choice we make every day. As leaders, we have to put out the message that we embrace and not just tolerate diversity.
Nellie Borrero – American executive leader

Template for 'Getting to know each other' activity

Name	One thing we have in common	One Difference

