



Sudan Community Dialogue Guide: National Identity

You can lead a community dialogue on national identity in Sudan using the guide below. These activities are designed to help your audience come together to explore what makes Sudan unique and what role the youth can play in ensuring that human rights are upheld in charting the country's course. Are you ready to be a facilitator?

Total Time: 50 minutes

Introduce Yourself (3 minutes)

- Thank your participants for joining and introduce yourself. Be sure to mention that you are an interested YALI Network member who wants to start an important conversation about national identity in your community.
- Briefly share why you are interested in this topic and chose to organize a community dialogue on national identity in Sudan.

Set Ground Rules (2 minutes)

- Reassure participants that you have invited them to speak for themselves. No one is being asked to speak for their community, denomination, or party, just for themselves.
- Remind participants that the goal of this activity is not to determine which side is right or wrong, but for all participants to listen and learn about where they have different opinions and where they have shared interests, intentions, and goals.

What Does It Mean to Be Sudanese? (10 minutes)

This initial conversation will help structure the conversation around a shared Sudanese identity and what both differentiates the country and brings participants together. Emphasize that in answering the following questions participants should focus on their experiences, feelings, and needs rather than on laying blame.

- What makes someone Sudanese? Is this based on a physical look or a particular value system?
- What are your favorite songs from the revolution? Did these songs seek to bring Sudanese citizens together around a common value system? Can they be used to support efforts to develop a national identity?
- What role does Sudan's flag play in shaping a national identity? Why did people adopt the country's previous flag during the revolution? Does anyone feel that the current flag is not a symbol of freedom to them?

Watch: [Understanding Human Rights: Protecting Human Rights to Benefit All](#) and [Understanding Human Rights: Ensuring the Human Rights of All](#) (15 minutes)



Embracing Our Identity and Ensuring Human Rights (15 minutes)

- How can Sudan both celebrate diversity and build a national identity?
- Does developing a national identity make Sudan stronger in the future? Why?
- In the past, there were instances of specific groups being oppressed or excluded, how can all Sudanese citizens come together to ensure all people in Sudan are represented and included? What does inclusion mean?
- In light of Nelson Mandela's efforts to create a 'Rainbow Nation' and develop a national identity in post-Apartheid South Africa, how can all Sudanese people work to build a more inclusive society across all sectors (economic, education, media, sports)? What challenges did South Africa face? What can Sudan learn from South Africa's experience?

Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Give a brief summary of the ideas discussed over the course of the session, then ask participants to answer the following questions:

- What idea, new understanding or common ground did you find on this topic today?
- Has today's conversation changed your perception of anyone in this group, including yourself?
- What action would you like to take based on today's discussion?

Next Steps

Invite participants to explore these additional resources to further understand conflict resolution and the ways transparency and media literacy can foster a more inclusive society:

- Encourage attendees to take the courses and explore the resources on the [YALIUnites](#) and [YALIChecks](#) pages to join the movement and create a safer society for all.
- Ask participants to sign up for the YALI Network at yali.state.gov.