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UNESCO Lists of intangible cultural heritage and Register of best safeguarding practices



Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a cultural tradition observed by numerous peoples, Nowruz is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities.

UNESCO Lists of intangible cultural heritage and Register of best safeguarding practices

UNESCO - Culture - Intangible Heritage - Lists and Register - Inscribed elements

66. <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index>

Lists of intangible cultural heritage and Register of best safeguarding practices

The Committee meets annually to evaluate nominations proposed by States Parties to the 2003 Convention and decide whether or not to inscribe those cultural practices and expressions of intangible heritage on the Convention's Lists.

The List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (see criteria) is composed of intangible heritage elements that concerned communities and States Parties consider require urgent measures to keep them alive. Inscriptions on this List help to mobilize international cooperation and assistance for stakeholders to undertake appropriate safeguarding measures. During the period from 2008 to 2014, the Committee inscribed 28 elements on the List.

The Register of Best Safeguarding Practices (see criteria) contains programs, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and the objectives of the Convention. During the period from 2008 to 2014, the Committee selected 12 programmes, projects and activities for the Register.

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (see criteria) is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate the diversity of the heritage and raise awareness about its importance. In 2004 the Committee incorporated 90 elements (formerly proclaimed 'Masterpieces') into the Representative List and from 2008 to 2014, it inscribed 204 new elements for an overall number of 314 elements on the Representative List.

By clicking on the inscribed elements below, you can discover the nominations, photos and videos, together with Committee decisions and evidence of community consent.

Full text search:

Year:

Country:

all inscribed need of urgent

List:

Display by:

2014¹ - 2012² - 2011³ - 2010⁴ - 2009⁵ - 2008⁶

2014		
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity		
Aftrang folk song in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	
2012		
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity		
Aftrang, lyrical folk song in the Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	
Gallujayn rituale di Malhad-e Ardehal in Kalkan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
2011		
List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding		
Naqqal, Iranian dramatic story-telling	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
Traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lanj boats in the Persian Gulf	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
2010		
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity		
Pahlavani and Zoorhaneh rituals	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
Ritual dramatic art of Ta'ziya	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
Traditional skills of carpet weaving in Fars	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
2009		
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity		
Novruz, Nowruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nooruz, Nevruz	Azerbaijan - India - Iran (Islamic Republic of) - Kyrgyzstan - Pakistan - Turkey - Uzbekistan	
Radf of Iranian music	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
2008		
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity		
Duduk and its music	Armenia	
Iraqi Maqam	Iraq	

Direct link: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00011#tabs>

UNESCO Director-General's Message for 2015



International Day of Nowruz 21 March

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UNESCO Director-General's Message for 2015

Nowruz marks the New Year and the arrival of spring across many countries of Western, Central and Southern Asia, the Caucasus, the Balkans and other regions. This age-old celebration of diversity, dialogue and solidarity brings together peoples of many different cultures, religions and languages, joining families and communities together.

Celebrated across so many borders, Nowruz has given rise to a rich horizon of customs, rituals and festivities that are often associated with nature and fertility. The songs, dances, festive meals and other social practices that form an integral part of Nowruz provide vivid demonstration of the creative diversity that UNESCO seeks to promote in all of its work. In 2009, Nowruz was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity – one year later, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution recognizing 21 March as the International Day of Nowruz.

The fundamental values of Nowruz are those of peace and solidarity, reconciliation and good-neighbourliness. This is a celebration of diversity on the basis of tolerance and harmony with nature, promoted and carried from generation to generation, within and between communities. These messages are especially important today, in this turning point year for the Millennium Development Goals and as States shape a new global sustainable development agenda. The intangible cultural heritage of humanity is a wellspring of confidence and belonging – it is a source of strength and creativity for the benefit of all.

In these uncertain and turbulent times, let us all embrace the values of Nowruz and carry forward its message of peace, harmony, tolerance and reconciliation.

Irina Bokova

Direct link: <http://www.un.org/en/events/nowruzday/2015/unesco.shtml>

United Nations General Assembly Resolution

23 February 2010

International Day of Nowruz



International Nowruz Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/64/253 of 2010, at the initiative of several countries that share this holiday (Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan).

United Nations General Assembly
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 February 2010
64/253. International Day of Nowruz

Excerpts:

Noting the orientation of Nowruz towards the affirmation of life in harmony with nature, the awareness of the inseparable link between constructive labour and natural cycles of renewal and the solicitous and respectful attitude towards natural sources of life,

- 1. Recognizes 21 March as the International Day of Nowruz;*
- 2. Welcomes the efforts of Member States where Nowruz is celebrated to preserve and develop the culture and traditions related to Nowruz;*
- 3. Encourages Member States to make efforts to raise awareness about Nowruz and to organize annual events in commemoration of this festivity, as appropriate;*
- 4. Calls upon Member States where Nowruz is celebrated to study the origins and traditions of this festivity with a view to disseminating knowledge about the Nowruz heritage among the international community;*
- 5. Invites interested Member States, the United Nations, in particular its relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, mainly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and interested international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to participate in events organized by States where Nowruz is celebrated.*

71st plenary meeting

23 February 2010

Direct link: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/253

UN Secretary-General's Message on the Day of Nowruz

STATEMENT

Secretary-General's message on the Day of Nowruz

New York, 21 March 2010

The General Assembly's decision this year to recognize the International Day of Nowruz is evidence of a growing global awareness of the holiday's significance not only in the regions where it is celebrated but around the world.

For millennia, when the sun crosses the equator and the northern hemisphere enters Spring, peoples in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions have carried out their own special traditions in celebration of Nowruz. These rituals, from repainting homes to visiting friends to preparing symbolic meals, are infused with a spirit of renewal and can inspire not only those conducting them but all people.

As we commemorate this first International Day of Nowruz, I hope countries and people around the world will draw on this festival's history and customs to promote harmony with the natural world and foster global peace and goodwill.

Direct link: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/?nid=4444>

UN Secretary-General's Message for International Observance of Nowruz

19 MARCH 2015

SG/SM/16602-OBV/1438

Secretary-General, in Message for International Observance, Calls Annual Nowruz Day 'Wonderful Opportunity' to Celebrating Cultural Diversity, Mutual Respect

SECRETARY-GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the International Day of Nowruz, observed on 21 March:

The annual observance of Nowruz is a wonderful opportunity for people to join together to celebrate cultural diversity, dialogue and mutual respect. It is a moment of unity and solidarity, within and among societies, that is all the more important at times of strife and division.

This year's Nowruz also takes on special meaning as the United Nations works to shape a new vision for sustainable future and adopt a meaningful universal climate agreement. These priorities for 2015 are in line with the spirit of Nowruz, which promotes harmony with nature and all peoples to foster cooperation for lasting peace.

This ancient New Year tradition coincides with the arrival of spring, giving rise to a rich array of customs, rituals and festivities, from communities in Western, Central and Southern Asia, to the Caucasus, Balkans and other regions. Nowruz is inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

I wish joyous and peaceful celebrations to all. May the spirit of Nowruz live on throughout the year.

Direct link: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm16602.doc.htm>

Nowruz

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Nowruz marks the first day of spring or Equinox and the beginning of the year in the Persian calendar. It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical Northward equinox, which usually occurs on March 21 or the previous/following day depending on where it is observed. The moment the sun crosses the celestial equator and equalizes night and day is calculated exactly every year and families gather together to observe the rituals.

Nowruz is celebrated by people from diverse ethnic communities and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. It is a secular holiday for most celebrants that is enjoyed by people of several different faiths, but remains a holy day for Zoroastrians. It originated in Persia in one of the capitals of the Achaemenid Empire in Persis (Fars) in Iran and is also celebrated by the cultural region that came under Iranian influence.

Direct link to full article: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowruz>

Nowruz Messages of US Presidents



2015 President Obama's Nowruz Message

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2015/03/19/president-obama-s-nowruz-message-iranian-people-english>

President Obama's Nowruz Message to the Iranian People

March 19, 2015 | 4:21 | Public Domain

President Obama sends best wishes to everyone celebrating Nowruz. In his video message, the President speaks directly to the people and leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran about a path of greater opportunity for the Iranian people.

2013 President Obama's Nowruz Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5Y326em4Lk>

President Obama's Nowruz Message to the Iranian People

March 18, 2013 | 3:55 | Public Domain

President Obama sends best wishes to the Iranian people as they celebrate Nowruz. In his video message, the President speaks directly to the people and leaders of Iran about the opportunity to begin a new relationship between our two countries.

The US First Lady Celebrates Nowruz at the White House



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCdxpLw8x_s

The First Lady Celebrates Nowruz at the White House

March 11, 2015 | 5:28 | Public Domain

On March 11, 2015, First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed all to a celebration of the Persian New Year, Nowruz, at the White House.

Message of President GEORGE W. BUSH
on Nowruz in an Interview with VOA Persian Service

03/20/08

I send greetings to those celebrating Nowruz.

For the millions of people who trace their heritage to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, India, and Central Asia, Nowruz is a time to celebrate the New Year with the arrival of spring. This cherished and ancient festival brings together family and friends to reflect on what has come before and celebrate a season of new beginnings.

Our country is proud to be a land where individuals from many different cultures can pass their traditions on to future generations. The diversity of America brings joy to our citizens and strengthens our Nation during Nowruz and throughout the year.

Laura and I send our best wishes to all those celebrating Nowruz, both here in the United States and abroad. May the year ahead be filled with peace and many blessings.

GEORGE W. BUSH



The U.S. Senate Nowruz Resolution



U.S. Senate Passes Nowruz Resolution by Unanimous Consent

March 19, 2010, Washington, D.C. - Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and John Cornyn (R-TX) today introduced a bipartisan resolution honoring the Iranian New Year in the U.S. Senate.

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

“Recognizing the historical and cultural significance of the Persian Nowruz holiday is an important and long-overdue milestone,” said Senator Menendez.

“Nowruz is both an ancient Persian ritual and a moment of renewal that celebrates life.”

The U.S. House of Representatives Nowruz Resolution



<https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-resolution/267/text>

On March 15, 2010, the House of Representatives passed the Nowruz Resolution (H. Res. 267)

384 Representatives voted for adapting this historic Resolution

The House of Representatives, U. S.

March 15, 2010

Whereas Nowruz marks the traditional Iranian New Year, which originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years;

Whereas Nowruz, meaning a “New Day”, occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring;

Whereas Nowruz symbolizes a time of renewal and community, it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year;

Whereas Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300,000,000 Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions;

Whereas Nowruz is celebrated by more than 1,000,000 Iranian-Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Baha’i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds;

Whereas the people of Iran have a long history of celebrating Nowruz and are congratulated for their bringing in of the New Year;

Whereas Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual's thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community;

Whereas the United States is a melting pot of ethnicities and religion and Nowruz contributes the richness of American culture and is consistent with our founding principles of peace and prosperity for all;

Whereas in 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian-Americans carry today;

Whereas Nowruz serves to remind the United States of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of society in the United States;

Whereas Iranian-Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including as government, military, and law enforcement officials working to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States;

Whereas Iranian-Americans are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding citizens, many of whom are Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Zoroastrian faiths; and

Whereas the Iranian-American community continues to enrich the tapestry of the diversity in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

- (1) recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz;
- (2) expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to society in the United States in observance of Nowruz; and
- (3) wishes Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran and all those who observe this holiday a prosperous new year.



MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES
GENEVA
SWITZERLAND



US Mission Geneva

Message to the Iranian People on Nowruz

<https://geneva.usmission.gov/2015/03/20/message-to-the-iranian-people-on-nowruz/>

Press Statement

John Kerry

Secretary of State

Washington, DC

March 19, 2015

It is my distinct pleasure to join President Obama in wishing a joyous and healthy Nowruz to all who celebrate around the world, throughout Asia and the Caucasus, to the Persian Gulf region, and to everyone celebrating here in the United States.

For centuries millions of people have gathered each year to rejoice in the arrival of Spring and partake in traditions that mark the vernal equinox as the beginning of a new year.

As I noted in my Nowruz greeting last year, the United States and Iran have endured many harsh winters. But now, with the coming of Spring, we can all embrace this opportunity to move toward a better future.

It is my sincere hope that if Iran's leaders make the right choices – the necessary choices – in the ongoing nuclear talks, that this new year and this new Spring will mark a better future both for the Iranian people and for the world.

This Nowruz, as you reflect on the preceding year and look forward to a new one, may the spirit of reconciliation mend past differences and the spirit of hope lead the way towards new growth and opportunity.

Nowruz Mobarak!

Letter of Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader



Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader

February 24, 2015

It is my great pleasure to bring you greetings on the occasion of the Organization of Iranian American Communities' Nowruz Celebration! How wonderful to come together with representatives from states across the nation to celebrate the beginning of this beautiful spring season.

Nowruz marks a new opportunity for Iranian Americans and families around the world to cherish their heritage and culture, reflect on the past year, and move forward to a time of health and happiness in the year ahead. We reflect on the shared humanity that binds us together, from the United States, Camp Liberty, and beyond.

The United States is blessed each day by the leadership and contributions – in the fields of business, law, government, education, medicine, research, the arts, and more – of our thriving Iranian community. Our great nation has been strengthened by the progress and prosperity that the Iranian American community has brought.

Again, please accept my best wishes for a joyous event, a year of peace and prosperity, and a Happy Nowruz! Eid-eh Shoma Mobarak.

best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader



Nowruz Message from Canadian Prime Minister

Prime Minister Stephen Harper on March 21, 2015 issued the following statement on the celebration of Nowruz:

“Laureen and I would like to offer our best wishes to everyone celebrating Nowruz both here in Canada and around the world.

“Nowruz, or ‘new day,’ is a festival that has been celebrated for thousands of years by Persian, Kurdish, Central Asian and Ismaili communities. It marks the beginning of spring and a New Year, and is an opportunity to reflect upon the past year, recognize good fortune, and look to the year ahead with hope. Our Government shares your optimism for the future and will continue to work to help create a year of peace and prosperity for all Canadians.

“Nowruz traditions include a spring cleaning of the home, preparation of the haft-seen table, the gathering of families and friends to share meals and gifts, as well as musical and dance performances. In addition, shortly before Nowruz bonfires are lit and individuals recite a special phrase that helps to symbolically carry away the hardships of the past year with the flames.

“Nowruz is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn about the ancient Persian festival and recognize the important contributions of Iranian-Canadian, Central Asian and Ismaili communities to building a peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous Canada.

“On behalf of all Canadians, I wish everyone celebrating Nowruz a happy and healthy New Year.

“Nowruzetan Pirouz!”

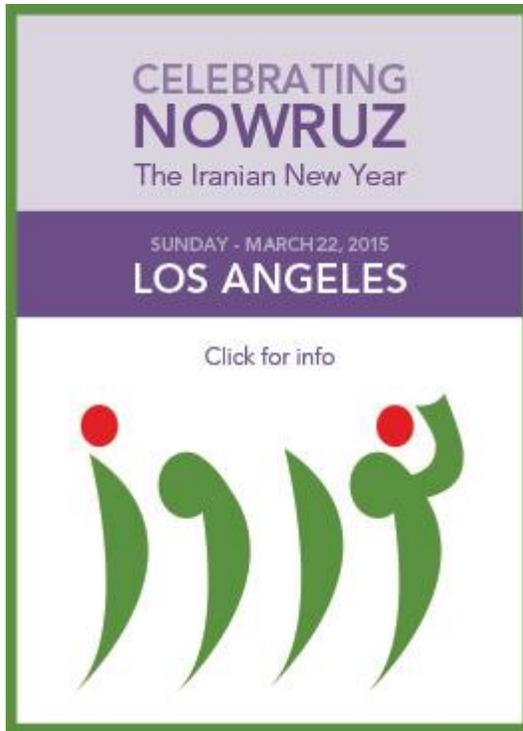
Direct link: <http://simerg.com/2015/03/22/nowruz-messages-from-canadian-prime-minister-stephen-harper-and-us-president-barack-obama/>

Nowruz Celebrations in U.S. and around the World



Nowruz Parade and Festival in New York City





House of Iran Celebrating Nowroz

نوروزتان پیروز باد

Iranian New Year

Food, Music, Dance

March 22, 2015

11:00 A.M-5:00 P.M

Party with DJ Mohsen after 5:00 P.M

Balboa Park, San Diego



جشن نوروز سال ۱۳۹۴ خانه ایران

Nowruz Celebration in England



Thousands attended 2015 Nowruz celebration in London

Nowruz Celebration in Azerbaijan



Nowruz Celebrations taking place in Baku and in many other cities of Azerbaijan

Nowruz Celebration in Afghanistan



Saturday, March 21, marks the first day of the Persian New Year, or Nowruz, year 1394. This event has been celebrated for more than 3000 years and is especially significant for Afghanistan as the country embarks upon a new path of peace and independence.

Nowruz Celebration in China



Nowruz is celebrated not only by Uygurs, but also by Kazaks, Kirgizs and Uzbeks in China's western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



Nowruz Celebration in Tajikistan



A choir singing traditional melodies during a festivity celebrating Nowruz in Tajikistan

Nowruz Celebration poster from Kazakhstan

