

# IJB Thinks 15

## The Diversity Issue



May 2010



**Are you  
different or  
am I?**

# Boundaries of freedom

## Editor's Note

“200 page report released by French parliamentary committee to ban women from wearing niqab (burka'a) in Public places in France.” When one reads headlines like this, one can't help but wonder... How much do we really know about niqab?

I have often been asked what I thought of the niqab. Maybe it's due to the fact that most people would identify me as an independent, Egyptian, Muslim woman so they get curious. However, neither my nationality nor religious beliefs are a factor in what my personal opinion is of women who decide to wear this get-up.

### Significance of niqab in Islam

The Qur'an does not ask women to completely cover themselves. In fact, the concept of the veil (only showing a woman's face, hands and feet) is still up for negotiation on whether it is clearly stated in the Qur'an or not. In Islam there is something called *Sunnah*, which is following the habits and practices of Prophet Muhammad (*PBUH*) and his family. At the time when Muhammad (*PBUH*) was living, there was a lot of resistance towards Islam. His wives' and daughters' lives were constantly in danger, so they used to cover themselves completely including their faces so they are not identifiable. Muslim women at the time used to do the same so they can help protect the wives and daughters of the prophet. Nowadays, when women choose to wear niqab it is due to *Sunnah* and not because the Qur'an asks Muslim women to wear it.

### Why do women wear it?

In some cases, women are forced by their families or husbands to wear the niqab. In other cases it is a personal choice. Some women feel the niqab protects them from unwanted attention. Others do it because they want to behave like the prophet's wives and daughters since culturally they are considered role models. In the most cases though when women are fighting for their rights to wear the niqab it is because it was their personal choice to wear it, not because they were forced to. Of course if they hang out with other people with strong beliefs supporting wearing the niqab, there might be peer pressure involved in the decision. Having said that though, haven't we all experienced peer pressure that led us to make certain decisions in our lives? Like choosing to drink or smoke? So this isn't really that different.

### How niqab is perceived in Europe and Egypt:

In some cities in Belgium and Germany women are not allowed to wear the Niqab. In the Netherlands, the *Party of Freedom* in 2006 was pushing to ban the niqab in the civil service and schools. In France and England there are committees and parties pressuring their governments to take a legislative step towards a ban.

Ironically enough, in Egypt, where the majority of people are Muslim, there is also debate over niqab. There is no ban against niqab in the country, and you see women wearing it all over the streets. In spite of that there have been some controversies of private entities that do not allow women to wear it in their work place, schools and universities. In the American University in Cairo there was a ban against Niqab, but after a lawsuit filed by some students the University was forced to lift that ban. Last October Al-Azhar University, the biggest Islamic University in the world, started banning niqab in female only classrooms and dormitories. The supreme council of Al-Azhar does not oppose the niqab, which it said only a minority of Muslim scholars considers an obligation, but it opposes "imprinting it on the minds of girls."

Socially, opinions vary. Some people believe it is an important part of being Muslim and they implement it. Others believe it's the right way as well but decide they are not willing to do it. While others think it's downright wrong and unnecessary.

I know a girl who is my age, went to school with me and our families know each other and she became very interested in religion and decided to wear the niqab. Now she is married and has two children and she is very happy with her choice. Therefore it's not always forced, and women who choose this lifestyle have every right to do so. I'm not saying I personally agree with this, or that I would ever want it for myself. However, who am I to say that my lifestyle and the way I dress is "right" and the way that girl dresses and chooses to live her life is "wrong"?

If you agree with the above statement, then let me ask you another question; in countries that support freedom of choice and expression, why is the question of whether or not we should ban niqab even on the table? Why is it that in Europe women have the right to wear practically nothing on the street if they choose to, but when it comes to being covered it suddenly becomes an issue? Who is the government to tell people what they can and cannot wear or how they choose to express their religious beliefs? Who are we as citizens to decide that for fellow citizens?

[Rowan El Shimi](#) | IJB Thinks Editor

**In this issue of IJB Thinks, we will attempt to take a look at how we look at people who are different from us in terms of their culture, beliefs, sexual orientation and even look at how our organisation is different from others and question whether it should be.**

## What's inside

### Think Pieces

"Living within diversity" By Francisco Pavão

"HetroNOrmalcy" By Maru Ayam

"Interns in Cairo" By Laura Zunica & Mathilde Monel

"Diversity is dying" By Tore Bang Heerup

### Bursting out of the bubble: LMO Cooperation

"CISV & the Council of Europe" By Marietta Möhlen

### Things we stumble into

"Diversity wins Britain's Got Talent" Courtesy of Nic Hargreaves

### Diversity at Regional Training Forums

### IJB Thinks & Thanks

# Living within diversity

On how JB Portugal interacts with different cultures

[By Francisco Pavao](#)

Some days ago during an activity JB Portugal had on how to be a more active citizen, I had a very interesting conversation with my friend Odair about that theme. We realised that being active doesn't only apply to an action or to certain skills or attitudes we have every day, but being active is also related to the knowledge we have and share with others.

We started our reflection by thinking about the knowledge we would like to share with JB Portugal. We realised that every time we ask someone from CISV to describe diversity, almost everybody starts talking about a CISV Camp where you can find someone from the USA, Brasil or Sweden, with different habits and cultures. This idea is obviously right, but do we really need to participate in a CISV camp to understand what diversity is? The answer is obviously no. If we look around we can find diversity everywhere.

With this idea in mind we began planning a project for JB Portugal about intercultural communication in Lisbon. The main idea is to get to know the community of immigrants in a specific neighborhood in Lisbon, Martim Moniz. This place is very well known because it is where people from China, India and all over África live. As a consequence, many Portuguese people don't really like to pass through this place. We want to give the opportunity for JB'ers to know a little bit more about the culture of these people and share our culture with them, as well as understand how people from different backgrounds and cultures can share the same city and same places. For instance, when you are travelling by subway in Lisbon, if you look around you can easily find a bunch of people from different places in the world, but still living in the same place.

The main goal of this project, is to give the chance to CISV participants to get to know and learn more about the people living in Martim Moniz, so they can help in building a truly diverse and plural society where everybody counts.



The meaning of Diversity is not only related to cultural background. It is also related to values and ideas that we all have.

Some weeks ago, the portuguese government approved a law in parliament that legalises marriage between homosexual couples. Although the law passed several deputies voted against the opinion of their party. This attitude mirrors the ideas discussed in society. People were for or against homossexual marriage independently of the opinion of their parties, of their peers, friends or family.

In February, during a training weekend some people from JB Portugal had a discussion on this topic. It was interesting to see that people who work together for the same goals in CISV and who are very good friends, had such different opinions

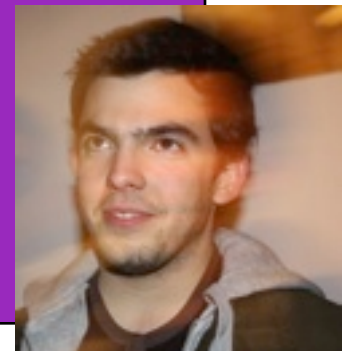
The result of this mix of ideas and perspectives was amazing. I remember that the people who were for homosexual marriage, believed that the others were descriminating against homosexuals. During the discussion, it became clear that the definition of marriage was the big issue for those who were against the marriage. For these people the idea of marriage is a religious concept, so the link between homossexuls can not be called "marriage".

In the end, I believe no one changed their point of view, but they all understood the others' opinions and they all understood that we can live together, despite our differences.

Societies are diverse. We need to know how to live peacefully with people who are different from us. People who come from different countries or simply who have different beliefs and values.



Francisco is the senior NJR of Portugal and he studies Math in Lisbon. His last name means Peacock in Portuguese and somehow he always thinks people hear it as something else. He is part of Quality Lab of the IJB Committee and next time you catch him will be at IJBC 2010 in Berlin!



## 2010 - CISV Year of Diversity

Update Number 1 - 16 February 2010

Hi Rowan

Each year we focus our activities on one of our four Peace Education content areas. So, for instance, in 2009, we asked each of our programmes to develop one activity around Human Rights. This year, we will be concentrating on Diversity; in 2011 on Conflict and Resolution and in 2012 on Sustainable Development.

Want to know more about CISV and Peace Education?



Want to get your very own personalised email with Diversity related updates and resources each month from Denise and Kiran in the International Office?

To subscribe click [here](#).

# HetroNormalcy

On taking an active second thought regarding the words we use

By [Maru Ayam](#)

As I write these lines, I should be celebrating the third anniversary of my romantic relationship. But no, there are no special plans in store for this special day, since not only is this relationship a romantic one, but a long-distance one too... That, however, is a completely different story. All I can say (and will say) is that, when it started, I always referred to this person as my 'boyfriend'. Today, I try not to do that. Not because we fight, because I'm scared of commitment or because the love faded away - I'm ticking off the *none of the above* option on this one. I changed the way I refer to this person because, over the past year, I gained an awareness that made me consciously change my attitude towards love and sexuality: **heteronormalcy**.

I happen to be so passionate about this topic that I have many thoughts pressing on the sides of my head, pleading me to be put into words. I'll attempt to articulate them as best as I can. Also, I might not use the most sophisticated of terms. There are definitely way more intellectual articles to be read on this topic - but I felt like writing a piece in simple language, using common examples of how our identities relate to this concept. And last but not least, I would like to examine how CISV deals, or fails to deal, with it.



## Us, Others and the words we use: an example

As a child, I was told that when referring to the genocide of European Jews during World War II, I was to refrain from using the word *Holocaust*. *Holocaust* means "a burnt offering". Having been raised in a Jewish family and community, I was always reminded that what happened then and there was by no means an offering. It was systematic mass murder. Instead of *Holocaust*, I was encouraged to use the term *Shoah* (שואה) - a Hebrew word that means 'calamity', designated exactly for this happening. Nowadays, it's included in most English dictionaries.

We tend to be sensitive to certain words that affect Us, and those like Us. If a person is able to, by the subtleness of a word, imply that someone's relatives sacrificed themselves during the Nazi regime, it can be quite upsetting. This is a very blown out of proportion example of how the words we use can have different connotations to different people.

However, let's be realistic; I can't go around saying 'Shoah' and expect people to understand it. It's a bit ridiculous. Even if this is the politically correct term for what it describes, the people who advocate for it are a minority. I'm not saying that minorities can't make changes as I think they can and, in fact, they should. Nevertheless, it is also harder for a minority to circulate a term among wider audiences, for a minority to reach the Others and make them become aware of their wants or needs.

## Us, Others and the words we use: heteronormalcy

Most heterosexual people call their 'significant others' their boyfriends or girlfriends. This is a convention in most societies, especially in those where a language with grammatical gender is spoken (for example, in Romance languages, an oven is male and a door is female - yes, quite arbitrary, I think so too!).

However – why should I be telling the whole wide world about my sexual orientation? Or on the other hand... why shouldn't I? I don't believe that by saying we have a 'boyfriend' or a 'girlfriend' we're committing a crime, not at all. However, it is through asking others if they have a boyfriend/girlfriend that we're pushing people into *awkward corners*. At an individual level, we're assuming that they are heterosexual, and at a group level, we're assuming that that's the norm. The reinforcement of these *awkward corners* or *norms* is what most of us do every day, in different settings and regarding different issues. This doesn't mean that we are mean or that we have bad intentions towards Others – but we can't look away from the fact that we might not be as inclusive as we think we are, or as we'd like to be.

Minority or majority: I am addressing all audiences! If we gained this awareness of how language can affect groups, and change our attitude towards it, we could contribute to making a more comfortable environment for everyone. Nowadays, I refer to my boyfriend as my 'partner' most of the time – and I find it quite entertaining that, because of that, many classmates thought I was a lesbian. I'm glad to be part of a community where that's a normal question to ask, and where people have the freedom of expressing their sexual orientation with no big elephants in the room.

### **CISV and heteronormality enforcement**

Here are some examples of how we enforce heteronormality in CISV. These were taken from the 'Issue Pack' on Sexuality, published by our International Taskforce for Inclusive Practice (ITIP):

- participants in programmes are partnered with one another for special events based on their gender (girls paired with boys), imitating adult heterosexual relationships;
- sleeping arrangements are often determined to keep genders separate from one another, because it is assumed everyone is heterosexual;
- people openly talk about their partner (boyfriend, husband, etc.) when they are heterosexual, but rarely discuss non-heterosexual partners;
- people tell jokes about lesbian, gay, bisexual or asexual people and don't understand that the jokes are offensive and do not promote inclusive practice.



Probably, in a programme setting, we don't even take a minute to reflect over these, but in the context of the pressing issue of heteronormality... doesn't it make sense to change our approach? Are boy-girl dates on casino nights indispensable at Villages? Could we not achieve the programme goals if we had no dates, or same-sex dates, or optional dates?

In CISV we often talk about fighting prejudice and deconstructing stereotypes. We need to move beyond seeing 'nationality', 'religion' or 'ethnicity' as the only places where preconceived ideas can be found. Aren't we stereotyping gender ourselves, when we ask a girl if she has a boyfriend?

To round these thoughts off, I believe that with a small effort, we can contribute towards building an environment where everyone can feel safe to express themselves and explore themselves. Sometimes we do things by inertia, that's true – but in CISV we learn by experience, and experience can definitely show us which are the things we need to do differently.



Maru is the Senior IJR and a candidate for this year's International Executive Committee elections that will take place in Berlin this summer. She lives in Madrid and is happy at the moment to have her partner visiting her. Sing to Maru "All by myself" and discuss Christmas shopping with her and she will love you forever.



## Interns in Cairo

Getting students to experience diversity first hand

By [Laura Zunica](#) & [Mathilde Monel](#)

For us, being European western-minded individuals and living in an Islamic oriented country like Egypt has been a life changing experience. It was tough from time to time, but amazing and fascinating at the same moment. It definitely has been eye-opening.

We are CISVers who learned a lot from the organisation and we related this side of our education to our life in Cairo, while embracing such a different culture. One of the main goals of CISV is building bridges across cultures and this is done through summer camps mainly and also projects on a local level. Even though the CISV experience was rewarding, somehow we always felt we could have gone deeper into the values that CISV taught us and experience them in the "real world" outside of the beautiful "CISV bubble".

With this idea as a starting point we swiftly realised that there is nothing as effective in learn about other cultures, especially such different ones from your own, than by living in another place and immersing yourself in a new environment and experiencing the culture first hand. Cultural experience happens in every single aspect; from the food, to the traditions, the colours, different tastes, language, peoples' costumes and so on.

This is how our project *Interns In Cairo* started: the idea is to offer international students the possibility to live in Cairo for an amount of time between two and six months, being enrolled in an internship position through an application process that can be found on our website <http://www.internsincairo.com/> and we work on matching the request of the student with the appropriate internship position available.

The establishment process has been tough and hilarious at the same time. We went to the Ministry of Investment, to the Chamber of Commerce and many other bureaucratic institutions.



**interns in cairo**  
Internships for International students in Egypt



Whenever we had any questions about the procedures the answer always was "mefish mushkela!" (Translation: There is no problem!). That's funny though, because actually the problems have been endless and the establishment took months. Originally we were told the whole process would take a couple of weeks but one of the cultural things we learned was that in Egypt every month there is a different feast or holiday so people don't work as they must celebrate. "Two weeks" in Egypt means "four months".

We wanted to start the project as NGO, but being western little girls in a conservative country did not help at all. That is when our lawyer told us that we had to run it under the label of "limited liability company". That way in the eyes of the government we wouldn't have been foreigners trying to corrupt the society but just "investors" in the economy of the country. However the content of the project remains the same.

Many people around the world are affected by the stereotypes spread by the media. Some think that if you live in Egypt and you are a woman you must wear the veil and stay in the house. Others believe that they want to bomb the corrupted western society because they are terrorists and want to take over the world spreading Islam. These thoughts stem from ignorance and prejudice. By living here in Egypt, we learnt what a beautiful culture the Egyptian one is, full of love and music. We got to see how beautiful the religious side and the commitment to it of the people is. We also got to see that there are no terrorists blowing up the streets every couple of days.

We are coming from a CISV educational background and learning from it about intercultural dialogue and understanding. This is our way, as adults, to bring our CISV experience into the world. By taking an active step forward in building bridges across cultures in a different way and giving the chance to youth to come here and experience this beautiful culture and learn from it. We are also giving the chance to Egyptian people that not always have the chance to travel, as Egypt is a developing country with strict rules about visas, to get to know those foreigners and work with them in a professional environment as well as make friendships with them.

We want this project to create an in-depth cultural exchange, inshallah\*.

*\*Inshallah: If god wills. Typical expression Egyptians use when they talk about the future.*

Laura and Mathilde are two good friends who have been living in Cairo for a while. Laura is finishing up her Masters Degree in Law while Mathilde is applying to start hers at some point in the next two years in Paris. Their house is also home to some fish and there used to be three turtles living with them at some point. They also have a little plastic cat called "Marwa".



**Banksy is a Graffiti artist responsible for this piece along with other very interesting ones. Inspiration is everywhere around us. Let's use it.**

[www.banksy.co.uk](http://www.banksy.co.uk)

# Diversity is dying and we are dying with it

By [Tore Bang Heerup](#)

*It is called isomorphism. It is a disease which will slowly kill us if we don't do something about it. However, what can we do? We can't go to the doctor because that will only make it worse, we need to cure this within our organization, but many other organizations have it too and it is highly contagious.*

Organisations such as CISV are constantly met by expectations from the outside world, and we are always doing our best to live up to these expectations. There are many of these examples, and especially for a global organisation as CISV. Like how people expect that NGO's do a remarkable difference in local communities, and how they want to be able to see the difference right away. In CISV we have tried to meet this expectation by creating programs such as Mosaic and IPP, as well as encouraging local JBs to interact with other organisations and their communities.



We all have expectations, and we keep affecting each other with these different expectations, but are they in fact having a negative impact on our organisation?

Due to globalisation we are able to connect people from all over the world. Products made in one country can be purchased in another country on the other side of the world. Big multinational corporations such as Coca-cola or IKEA are having a larger and even bigger role in our lives than we think. Many people choose the Coca-cola brand over a new and unknown brand, because this is what they know. Why would I risk to lose my money on a product that I may not like, when I know that I can get something I like for the same price? In this way globalisation sets some high standards and expectations for us as an organisation. It takes away some of the diversity which exists in the world and makes everything more common all over the world. The world is increasingly becoming less diverse compared to just 50 years ago. Ideas travel from a desk in New-York to a traveller on a train in Sydney, with just a click of an e-mail, and knowledge is being shared on blogs all over.

For some reason this is shown in the work we - in CISV and many other organisations - do. We keep getting inspiration and ideas from each other. If there is an issue that needs to be solved we google it. Within a second we get thousands of hits on how to solve that issue. Many of them with the same procedure. By using the same argument as above with the cola: why would we try a new way of solving an issue, if we know other organisations have had succes with solving the same issue in a certain way? No, of course we choose their way. We might adjust it a little bit to fit us, but we stick to what we know, because we can't afford to lose the resources.

This effect is called isomorphism and comes from a term called institutionalisation (originally from math, but in this sense it is institutionalisation) - more correct institutional isomorphism. It is the effect of which organisations are increasingly becoming more alike. With time organisations become more and more identical, and it is hard to separate one from the other. At the end, people won't notice the difference between CISV and any other peace organization, so how and why would they support us? They will choose to support the big well-known organisation, and let's face it, we are not one of those.

It is a disease and we've got it. It is killing the diversity within NGO's and even the term LMO (Like minded Organizations) is a term which exists and strengthens this disease. If we seek help from consultants or other organisations it will only get worse. I am not even sure if it is possible to cure it. However, our only chance to get cured (and we have to try) is to isolate ourselves, and create a uniqueness to ourselves. We need to diversify from other organisations in order to survive, and it is only done by ourselves, and only together can we make it happen.

Together, let us show the world that we are a unique organisation working for peace education in the best and only way possible. Let them know that CISV is unique and that we are able to make the difference. Let's become Coca-Cola for NGO's!

Tore has the coolest last name ever if you look at it closely enough. He is one of the IJR Candidates for the elections taking place in Berlin this year. He is also part of the Quality Lab in the IJB Committee. Tore truly believes that the world would be a better place if everyone suited up.



**Out now!**

## **IJB & YM Theme**

**Identity & Peace Education**

**The theme packet is available in the JB Library along with information on how to submit an activity to the activity jar.**

**To Download it click [here](#)**

(login: [ijb.guest](#), password: [cisv4all](#))

# CISV & the Council of Europe

## On the benefits and meaning of our participatory status

By [Marietta Möhlen](#)

With Special thanks to Anna Widegren

*CISV International enjoys participatory status at the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO Conference) of the Council of Europe.*

*Agenda Council of Europe (WORK IN PROGRESS) Ver. 0.1*

Sentences like that one always sounded good to me but I never knew what they meant until recently, Do you?

First of all the Council of Europe is a European International Institution based in Strasbourg, France with 47 member countries. The Conference of INGOs (International Non-Governmental Organisations) is recognised as an institution of the Council of Europe and constitutes the “quadrilogue” with the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Anna Widegren, being part of the Organizational Relations Committee (ORC), is the one who is actually representing CISV at the Council of Europe (CoE). CISV is not like a face-to-face partner with the CoE because in the end CISV is an NGO and the CoE an institution with many different bodies. So as an NGO, CISV is part of the International NGO Conference which is the 'voice of civil society' of the CoE.

Basically this means it has a consultative status and active participation in policy making together with other bodies of the Council of Europe. That's great, but why? What is happening in an INGO Conference?

One of the main things is that Expert Council has been established with the task of creating European NGO law and the Committee of Ministers has approved a recommendation in 2007.

An example for European NGO law would be clause VIII:

### VIII. Participation in decision making

76. Governmental and quasi-governmental mechanisms at all levels should ensure the effective participation of NGOs without discrimination in dialogue and consultation on public policy objectives and decisions. Such participation should ensure the free expression of the diversity of people's opinions as to the functioning of society. Ensuring appropriate disclosure or access to official information should facilitate this participation and co-operation.



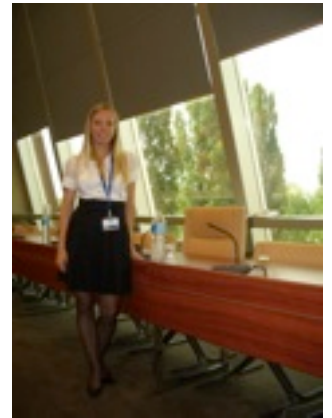
Anna our CISV representative in front of the CoE building



Anna at the Swedish Parliament with the Chair of the Expert Council on NGO law



Anna at one of the meetings



Anna looking foxy

77. NGOs should be consulted during the drafting of primary and secondary legislation, which affects their status, financing, or spheres of operation.  
(Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14)

This means CISV, along with other NGOs, is actually in the position to be part of the process of creating these great laws to define the role of NGOs in the society.

Moreover there are a lot of conferences, seminars and workshops where NGOs, like CISV, are involved when decisions are made. This is in order to make informed decisions and to involve civil society. For example the *Forum for Human Rights Education (HRE) with Youth* is an example of this. Over 200 people attended this forum, the absolute majority from NGOs, discussing issues and ways to improve and support HRE in Europe.

NGOs are invited to these conferences, seminars or workshops where they develop concrete recommendations to the various bodies of the CoE. That being said, CISV definitely has a great opportunity here to take part in decision-making and sharing thoughts and values about how we think the world should look like.

Maybe you will ask your self if you can get involved in a conference, a seminar or a workshop like this where you, being part of CISV, can take part in decision making. The answer is “yes you can”! There is a website you should check out if you are interested in getting more involved: <http://www.salto-youth.net/>. You can also write an e-mail to the ORC at: [orc.list@cisv.org](mailto:orc.list@cisv.org)

So it seems, as we always thought: “Being part of the Council of Europe must be a cool thing” and it really is a big thing as that means we are part of the decision making when it comes to laws we as an NGO will be governed by.

### Acronyms guide

**LMO:** Like Minded Organisation  
**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organisation  
**INGO:** International NGO  
**CoE:** Council of Europe  
**ORC:** Organisational Development Committee  
**HRE:** Human Rights Education  
**CISV:** Building Global Friendship

*(Acronyms aren't always what they seem are they?)*

This beautiful German girl is the IJB liaison for ORC. She is also part of the IJB Committee and the Senior NJR for Germany. She studies in Munich. Marietta likes brownies and Belgian chocolates.



## Diversity wins Britain's Got Talent!

It seems CISV is not the first group to use "Diversity"

Submitted by [Nic Hargreaves](#)

"In 2009, the group won the third series of Britain's Got Talent. All the judges heavily praised their performances throughout the competition, with Banjo's choreography being described as 'genius' by [Amanda Holden](#).

After receiving 'Yes' votes from all three judges in their audition, Diversity went on to compete in the first semi-final on 24 May 2009 winning the judges' vote against [Natalie Okri](#).

In the final, on Saturday, 30 May 2009, Diversity were announced as the winner, beating [Susan Boyle](#) and Julian Smith (who came 2nd and 3rd respectively).

As winners of the competition Diversity went on to perform before the [Queen](#) at the [Royal Variety Show](#) on 7 December 2009.<sup>[6]</sup> Subsequently, Diversity was nominated in the Dance section of the final South Bank Show awards.<sup>[7]</sup>

*Wikipedia*



Nic is GB's current Trustee, and will hopefully be sitting next to the editor in plenary. Nic used to be GBJB's NJR, an EJB team member and the last known ReCo of the European JB region. He makes amazing Yorkshire Puddings. He is also on the IPP Committee.



# 2010: Year of Diversity

## What has been going on so far?

Every year CISV international will be using one of our content areas as a focus. 2010 is the year of Diversity. To kick it off each RTF taking place this year had a session on Diversity. We tackled it in Great Britain, Italy, Brasil, Mexico, Vietnam and Sweden. Below you can find pictures from around the globe of people engaging with diversity.



To read more about Diversity and the four other content areas you can find them in the CISV Passport and Big Ed. You can find these along with many other interesting activities and tools on the [CISV Library](#)

You can also follow what CISV is doing in relation to diversity on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#). We encourage you to follow these groups, get updated and plan your own diversity related activities in your JB or Chapter. Remember: Identity is a theme you can use to engage in diversity.



Diversity Activity and wall in APRW in Vietnam



Diversity Activity and wall in RTF in Mexico



# IJB Thinks & Thanks

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results”  
-Albert Einstein

## Top 5 websites I've stumbled upon this time

[Article on why we travel in The Observer](#)

(Thank you [Cecily Rawlinson](#))

[Internet Distractions](#)

(Thank you [Ze Baptista](#))

[Karo's Photography Blog](#)

(I actually stumbled into her blog,  
How weird is that?)

[Annoying Facebook Friends](#)

[How to avoid losing your camera](#)

## IJB Thanks...

ORC for giving endless support and cool pictures for the article

Francisco, Laura and Mathilde... our first time writers

Maru, Tore and Marietta for always supporting IJB Thinks with their input

Nic Hargreaves... just because he made me smile

Cande, Maru and Sarah... for their RTF photos

Denise & Kiran.... for their awesome emails and diversity videos

## Letters to the Editor

**Debbie Schmulewitz:**

Congrats on the new issue!!!  
Maru and you look lovely in the picture!  
We did have fun and eat a lot in Antigua!

**Axel Fonte:** Mi amor, I loved this issue, congratulations on making it so cool and entertaining ;) Besos!

**Marie Roussier:** Congrats for IJB Thinks, It's always awesome to read it! I hope everything is going well for you Rou ! When am I seeing you?

Thanks for the feedback guys! And a huge thank you to Nick Trautmann for mentioning the last issue twice on [CISV From the Balcony!](#)

Any more thoughts?

Just email!

[ijbthinks@ijb.cisv.org](mailto:ijbthinks@ijb.cisv.org)

## What the IJR's are thinking today...

**Maru**

There are so many talented musicians in the world. Befriend one!



**Rou**

I bloody care about finding a way to stop the Egyptian population from growing. ideas?