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# **IMCES** Institute for Multicultural Counseling & Education Services

A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE DPI/NGO WITH ECOSOC STATUS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**To: Fellow Americans**  
**From: Dr. Tara Pir, CEO/President**

## **My Proposal to make Juneteenth a National Holiday** **– an inspiration toward an inclusionary and just society!**

### ***What is Juneteenth?***

**Juneteenth**, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Cel-Liberation Day, is the celebration of ending slavery in the United States. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation legally ended slavery on January 1, 1863.

The implementation of this significant event took many delays to reach different states in the nation. In fact, the news reached Texas, over two years later.

Commemorating this day, now, is like using a two-sided-mirror: one side of the mirror reflects the depth of the historical violation of human rights; the other side of the mirror can motivate us to envision a future of a just society with inclusionary practice.

In order to move from idea to action, in my capacity as CEO, I provided the day off for the staff of our organization, challenging them to use the time for reflection, inspiration, and actionable advocacy plan. This led to brilliant proposals of meaningful activities in observation of the holiday.

I am proposing **Juneteenth** as a national holiday to be recognized in every domain in our social structure as an opportunity for everyone – children and adults from our diverse community - to generate ideas and participate in activities with the aim of raising awareness about the value of freedom and social justice.

This is a call for *active* participation - to replace the historical passivity of silence and complacency that have contributed to the continuation of injustice in our country.

I encourage everyone to join me in supporting this meaningful recognition.

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