

# Intercultural Understanding Guide: Latin American Culture

## **Geographic context:**

Latin America is a geographical region that includes several countries or territories: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama; Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay; and Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

## **Language:**

- Spanish and Portuguese are two predominant languages spoken by people.
- Indigenous languages also persist, for example Quechuan and Aymaran.

## **Religion and Ethnicity:**

- Roman Catholicism being the predominant faith due to the influence of Spanish and Portuguese colonization.
- Indigenous spiritual practices and Afro-Latin religions like Santería and Candomblé also have a presence.
- The specific composition varies from country to country: many have a predominance of mixed European and native American, or mestizo, population; in others, native Americans are a majority; some are dominated by inhabitants of European ancestry; and some countries' populations are primarily mulatto. Black, Asian, and zambo (mixed black and native American) minorities are also identified regularly.
- White Latin Americans are the largest single group, accounting for more than one-third of the population.
- The current population of Latin America and the Caribbean is approximately 600 million.

## **Communication style**

- Latin Americans tend to be expressive and passionate in their communication style.
- Latin Americans tend to be direct in their communication style.

