

The Year of Tolerance

Wrap-up Report



Overview and Summary Statistics

The Year of Tolerance Portal moved throughout the United Arab Emirates for a month in 2019 transcending political barriers and cultural divides.



OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY STATISTICS

- > The UAE was represented by 5 Emirates: Abu Dhabi; Dubai; Sharjah; Ajman; and Ras Al Khaimah
- > Each site activated a different community in the UAE, from shoppers in Dubai's City Walk to students at Ras Al Khaimah's HCT University
- > The Tolerance Portal hosted hundreds of unique moments of connection, including a Shared Meal, an interfaith dialogue with religious leaders, and a presentation of the Document of Human Fraternity to educators in Gaza.

The Portal embodied the message of the Year of Tolerance. At five sites throughout the country, the event gave people in the UAE a chance to learn alongside communities around the world. In doing so, the Portal spread a message of tolerance and introduced people in the UAE to the work of the Year of Tolerance.

**70**

hours of active connections

**43**

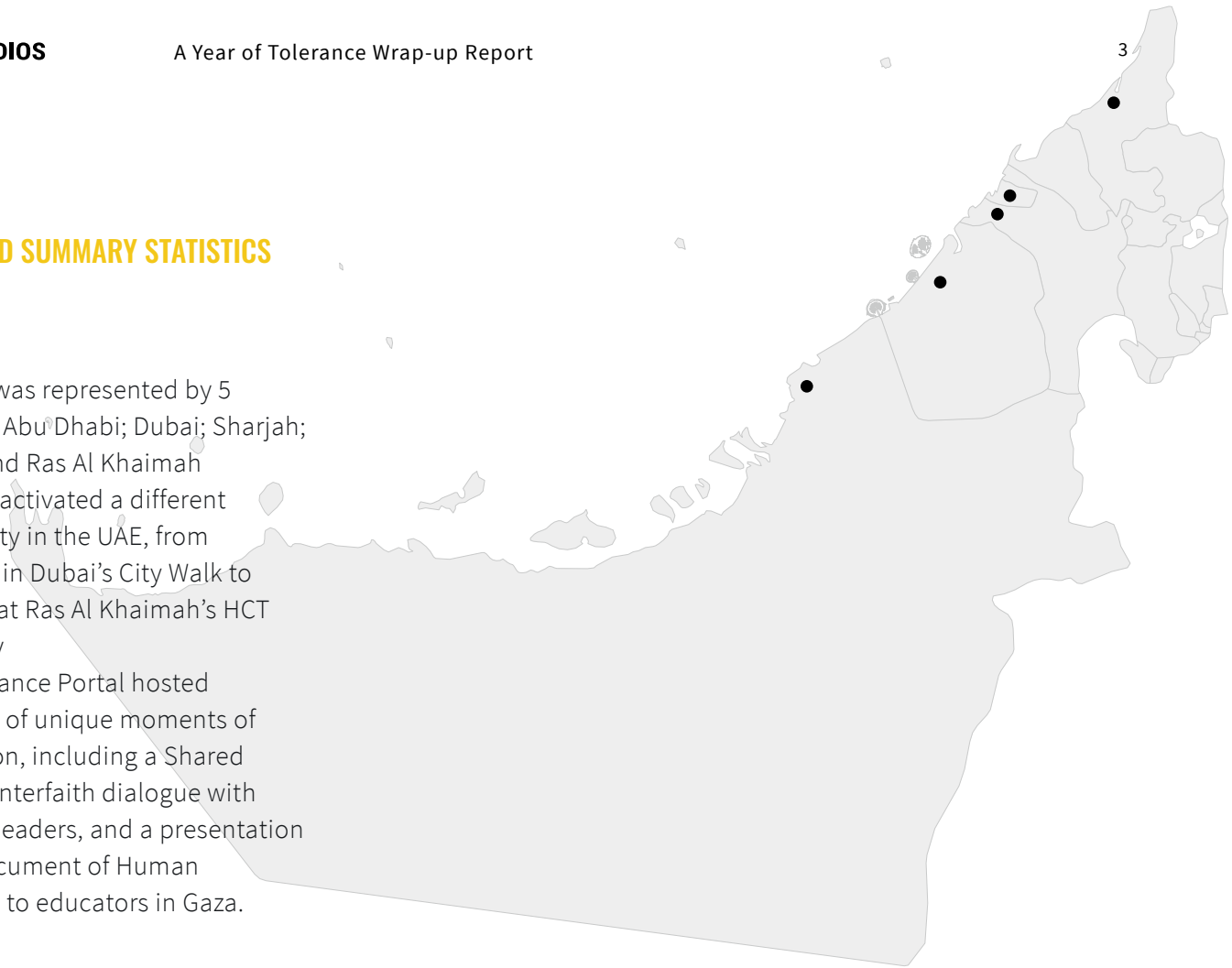
connections from one city to another

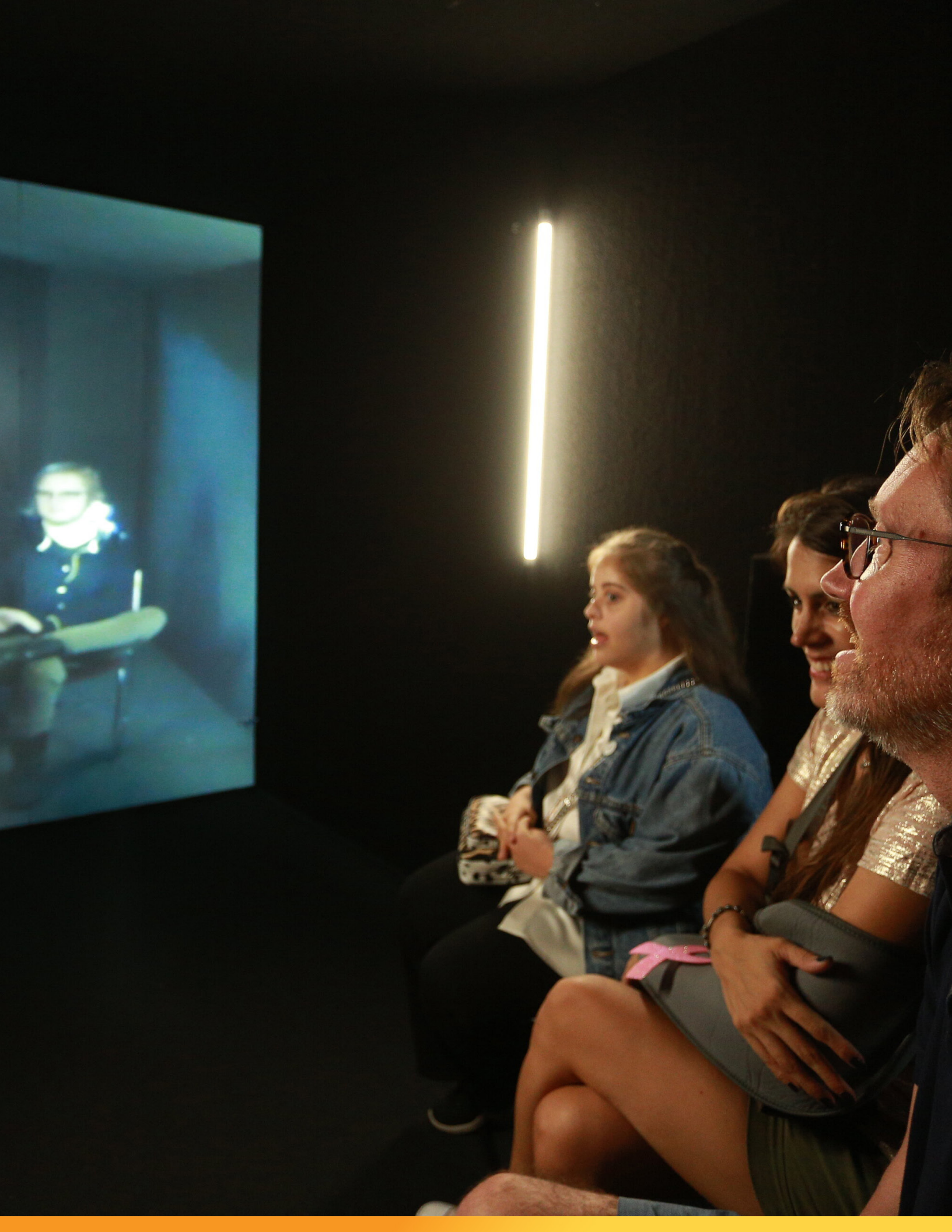
**500**

participants in the UAE

**5**

new communities joined the global network





Social Media Summary

The Tolerance Portal on the Ajman Corniche.

[Watch Video](#)

Celebrating the Tolerance Portal's launch at City Walk in Dubai.

[Watch Video](#)

From Sharjah, the cultural capital of the UAE.

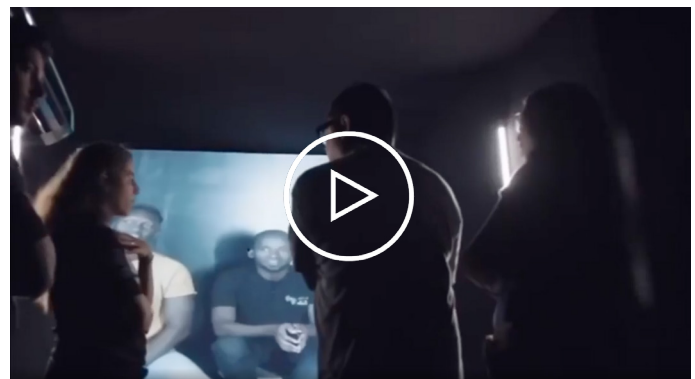
[Watch Video](#)

At HCT University, Ras Al Khaimah

[Watch Video](#)



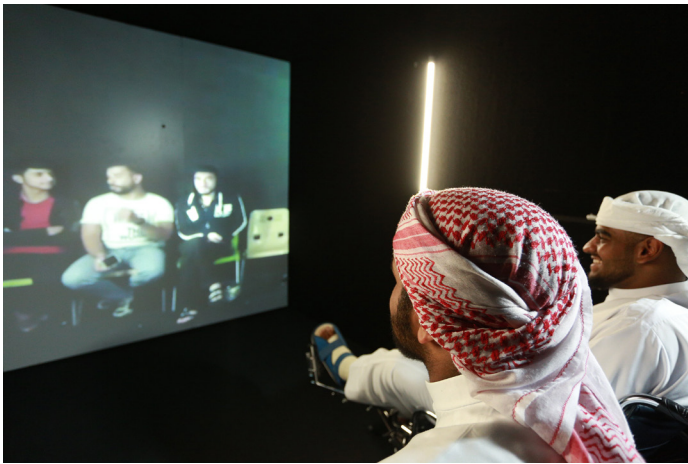
Celebrating the launch of the Tolerance Portal



Capturing the experience from Manarat al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi.

Special Moments

Here is a snapshot of some of the stories from the Tolerance Portal.



- > At a Shared_Meal between people in NYC and Abu Dhabi, special guests met to exchange ideas, recipes, and stories.
- > Over Arabic coffee, restaurateurs explored the potential for coffee and coffee houses to serve as community spaces, bringing people from diverse parts of society together over a common end.
- > Architectural students in Lahore heard from experts in Abu Dhabi about the changing architectural forms of the UAE, from a historical vernacular to a modern, global norm.
- > After the screening of short films and documentaries that promote the theme of tolerance, students in Massachusetts, USA, discussed the concept of tolerance with directors and producers in the UAE.



- > The UAE is home to a diverse religious community, and this special Diwali connection brought together prominent members of the Indian diaspora in the UAE with observers of Diwali in New York City. In this connection, participants discussed the relationship between the personal, the communal, and the celebratory.
- > Special guests dived deeply into the changing landscape of modest fashion in a connection that explored the relationship between modest fashion and global fashion trends.

SPECIAL MOMENTS



Across the globe, faith leaders play a central role in driving collaboration, dialogue, and tolerance. In this connection, faith leaders in Richmond, USA, met with leaders in the UAE to discuss their role in society.

- > The Arab world maintains a strong tradition of poetry, from Tarafa to Mahmoud Darwish. Poets in Ajman and New York City met to share poetry and perform for one another.
- > From Ajman, a mindfulness practitioner led a workshop with NGO workers in Lesbos, Greece, who run an organisation supporting Afghan refugees.
- > In a connection on sustainability with Boston College, the founder and owner of TerraLoop, the first food waste consultancy in the region, spoke about the changing landscape of sustainability in the UAE.
- > To conclude our journey, musicians from the Afghanistan Institute of Music performed for students at HCT Women's University, Ras Al Khaimah. In this powerful connection, guests heard about the complex local traditions that inform Afghan folk music and the uplifting ways that music educators in the region are using music education to inspire tolerance.
- > Craftspeople in Colorado joined a connection with palm weavers in the UAE to discuss the deep cultural significance of their work.
- > Spiritual chants expressing love for the Prophet vary across the Muslim world, and, in some parts, prove controversial. In celebration of Mawlid, musicians in Lahore, Pakistan, performed for a live audience in the UAE and then discussed their music audience members.





