**PGLS Global Culture Guide — Preview Edition**

*For Internal Review and Feedback*

**Purpose**

This guide provides culturally respectful, linguistically informed, and globally inclusive insights into the communities PGLS serves. It is designed for both internal teams and external clients, with particular value for interpreters, account managers, and customer-facing staff.

**Sample Cultural Entries**

**Abenaki**

* **Region**: North America (Northeastern United States & Canada)
* **Language(s)**: Abenaki (Eastern Algonquian), English, French
* **Overview**: The Abenaki are an Indigenous people with historical territories in present-day Vermont, New Hampshire, and Quebec. Known for sustainable woodland living, community-centric values, and seasonal migration, their culture emphasizes harmony with nature and oral tradition.
* **Family & Society**: Kinship ties are strong, traditionally organized into clan-based extended families. Elders are highly respected.
* **Communication Style**: Reserved and reflective. Listening is a sign of respect.
* **Etiquette & Customs**: Sharing is fundamental. Storytelling and seasonal ceremonies are central.
* **Interpreter Notes**: Avoid rushing answers; allow pauses. Offer gender-matched interpreters when possible.

**Jamaican**

* **Region**: Caribbean (Jamaica); diaspora in US, UK, Canada
* **Language(s)**: Jamaican Patois, English
* **Overview**: Jamaican culture blends West African traditions with British colonial influences. Music, spirituality, and storytelling are major cultural pillars.
* **Family & Society**: Often matrifocal. Extended kin networks common. Respect for elders.
* **Communication Style**: Expressive, rhythmic, layered with metaphor. Patois may be difficult for non-native speakers.
* **Etiquette & Customs**: Warm greetings expected. Direct eye contact is common.
* **Interpreter Notes**: Clarify if Patois is preferred over standard English. Avoid literal translations of idioms.

**Georgian**

* **Region**: Caucasus (Georgia)
* **Language(s)**: Georgian (Kartvelian), Russian, minority languages
* **Overview**: Georgian culture is shaped by Orthodox Christianity, ancient literary traditions, and strong family values. Hospitality is considered sacred.
* **Family & Society**: Patriarchal but increasingly egalitarian. Multi-generational households are common.
* **Communication Style**: Formal but warm; importance placed on honorifics.
* **Etiquette & Customs**: Guests are treated with exceptional courtesy. Food rituals (e.g., supra) are symbolic.
* **Interpreter Notes**: Use respectful language. Clarify legal or medical terms that may not have direct Georgian equivalents.

**Somali**

* **Region**: East Africa; large diaspora in Minnesota, Ohio, UK, Canada
* **Language(s)**: Somali, Arabic, English
* **Overview**: Somali culture is clan-based and deeply influenced by Islam, poetry, and oral history. Resilience and adaptability are central traits.
* **Family & Society**: Large families, clan loyalty, male elders as authority figures
* **Communication Style**: Poetic, assertive, indirect on sensitive topics
* **Etiquette & Customs**: Gender separation is common; elders are greeted first
* **Interpreter Notes**: Match gender when possible. Be sensitive to discussions about mental health or trauma.

**Language–Culture Index Preview (Sample)**

| **Language** | **Associated Cultures** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Abenaki | Abenaki | Algonquian language family |
| Jamaican Patois | Jamaican | Creole-based, often informal register |
| Georgian | Georgian | Unique script, Kartvelian root |
| Somali | Somali, Somali Bantu | Arabic may be second language |
| Haitian Creole | Haitian | French-based Creole |
| Kurdish (Kurmanji) | Kurdish, Yazidi | Gender-sensitive, regional dialects |
| Vietnamese | Vietnamese | Tonal; respect for elders emphasized |

**Editorial Notes**

* All entries are written with an emphasis on neutrality, avoiding bias or ideological framing.
* Every culture includes at least one associated language from the PGLS-supported list.
* Interpreter and communication tips are drawn from real-world use cases.

**Next Steps**

* Finalize formatting and full entries for remaining ~250 cultures
* Expand diaspora and diaspora-sensitive guidance
* Deliver final indexed, shareable guide (Word, PDF, and spreadsheet)
* Optional: Interactive or training-ready versions

**Questions? Feedback?**  
Please contact the PGLS Culture Guide Project Lead or reply directly with edits or requests for additional entries.