

# 17 - Multicultural Society

## Multicultural Society téma

A **multicultural society** includes people from several different cultures. People of different *colours, races, nationalities, languages, religions and customs* live together in one community.

### Advantages of living in MCS:

- it allows people to experience different ways of life – *materially and spiritually*
- includes a wide variety of ways of thinking (rôznorodost' v myslení)
- different opinions, attitudes toward some things
- a wide spectrum of beliefs, religions, behaviours, customs, traditions, rituals, dress, languages, art, music and literature
- education try to prepare children for living in a multiracial society. FE the U.K. is the example of multicultural teaching, because in Britain live people of many cultures
- teach against racism and racial discrimination

### Disadvantages of living in MCS:

- barriers between ethnic groups which are caused by ignorance(neznalosťou)
- human have a tendency to be suspicious (podozrievavý) of cultures they don't understand
- cultural differences can be emphasized in order to divide a society (môžu byť zdôraznené kvôli rozdeleniu spoločnosti)
- this can lead to prejudice and discrimination
- there will always be people who think that their religion and culture is superior and other beliefs are inferior and wrong
- these people can try to stir up troubles (rozširovať nepokoje) in a MCS and try to blame (obviňovať) ethnic minorities for social and economic problems
- ethnic minorities may suffer racial disadvantage in a MCS

**Refugees** – are people in our country who come from other countries, who escape from their home/native country (utečenci). In our society they suffer racial

disadvantage, f. e. in education – children can't perform as well as they could because they are in an unfamiliar environment (neznámom prostredí). Local authorities (miestne orgány) try to help to refugees, they give them some money...

### **Ethnic groups**

- **Romanies (Rómovia)** – their origin is somewhere in what is now India. They typically don't live in one place, but travel from place to place while living in a caravans, especially in *France and UK*. The Romanies do various jobs to earn a living but traditionally they are musicians, basket makers (košíkari) and fortune tellers (veštice). *Romanies in Slovakia* live in poor conditions – they have poor shelters, a lot of children, they aren't working and children don't go to school usually. But not all Romanies are similar. There are a lot of hardworking people who want to be employee. Some Romanies are very rich, they have own leader and he is usually rich and he wear many pieces of gold, they have big weddings and big funerals.
- **Mormons (Mormóni)** – they live in the *Western USA*, in state Utah. They have strict moral rules and don't use tobacco or alcohol drinks, any coffee. They believe that family is the most important. Young Mormons must do missionary work for 2 years. You can identify them because they wear white shirts and ties when they go from house to house trying to persuade people to join the Mormon Church. In the past the Mormon men were allowed to have more than one wife.
- **Amish (Amiši)** – their origin is in German, but they moved to USA, Pensilvania. They don't use modern things (cars, mobiles, computers, electricity, bicycles...) I think they can survive while modern world don't broke to their culture.

**LONDON** - there are a lot of cultures, all nationalities live together, children go to same schools, Chinese towns

**NEW YORK** - There are special sections for different nationalities, f. e. German section, Little Italy, Harlem (afroamericans live there), Chinese towns (a lot of ch. Shops and restaurants)

**SLOVAKIA** - has a rich history. There are special costumes which are typical for some region, f. e. Spiš, Gemer, Záhorie, Orava... These costumes came from past and it was worn for typical celebrations – f.e. when young women in the village get married many old women made wedding costume for her.

Slovak people are very conservative I think. They have prejudices to immigrants they think they are bad. But I think immigrates are big benefits for Slovakia, because they

bring new things, new attitudes, new thinking, new pieces of cultures... In Slovakia I think don't live a lot of refugees.

There are a lot of different cultures in the world. For example in Japan some girls are geishas and they wear special costumes kimono and special small cane (palica) in hair.