

Eboo Patel

INTERFAITH YOUTH CORE

I think pluralism is the central necessary characteristic, the most important ingredient of a diverse democracy. We're doing something new here in the United States of America. We're trying to build a society, where people from the four corners of the earth, speaking different languages, praying to God in different ways, come together and build a nation.

Building pluralism is challenging, because there are genuine differences between different communities. There are simply fundamental disagreements that you are not going to paper over, you can't do it and you shouldn't.

The future that I hope to contribute to in the United States is one of a potluck nation, not a melting pot. A potluck nation is a nation that welcomes the distinctive contributions of different communities. It wants you to bring your identity to the table. It believes that the creative combination of diverse identities makes for a remarkable feast.

We want to be a nation that welcomes the best contributions of all communities, and spreads out a feast that the whole nation and world can enjoy. That's what we at IFYC is called Interfaith America. I hope we achieve it in our lifetime.

**NEW
PLURALISTS**