



Putting Culture First: Commonwealth Perspectives on Culture and Development

By Andrew Firmin, Mark Nowotny

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Across the Commonwealth, people are instinctively expressing and making the most of their culture and creative resources. Governments and citizens, however, have rarely been able to pin down exactly how culture is being used for development, and have therefore rarely been able to offer necessary support to individuals, cultural practitioners and civil society organizations.

This report is a first step at the Commonwealth level to recognize the value of culture, and to begin to untangle some of the many ways in which culture is linked to development.

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Review

'With 53 member states, including the United Kingdom and many former British colonies, cultural diversity is large within the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, culture was always considered a marginal issue. That attitude is changing now, and the report offers a framework for a new approach.' - The Power of Culture, www.powerofculture.nl

About the Author

Mark Nowottny is a Researcher for the Culture and Diversity Programme of the Commonwealth Foundation. He is responsible for executing the Programme's research project into cultural policy and how to mainstream culture into Commonwealth development discourses.

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