



PHOTO – SPICE RADIO VANCOUVER

This March Raise Your Hands Against Racism

LEVEL 2

Raise Your Hands Against Racism

Spice Radio Vancouver 1200 AM is asking people around the world to raise their hands. They want you to show your hands in colour. They want to show that skin colour should not define or separate us.

Shushma Datt started it

Shushma Datt and friends started the event in 2015. The Hindu festival of Holi inspired her.

The festival of Holi celebrates spring. It is also called the festival of love.

The festival of Holi is an ancient Hindu religious festival. It is popular with non-Hindus too.

The festival of Holi

Communities get together in a large water fight with coloured water and powdered paint. People dance and sing in the streets.

Everybody throws colour at each other. Everyone is covered with colour. Being covered with colour makes everybody the same.

“Holi signifies that everybody is equal. We are all the same under all these colours,” says Datt.



PHOTO – PIXABAY.COM

This girl is enjoying the festival of Holi.

The *Raise Your Hands Against Racism* campaign

To join the *Raise Your Hands Against Racism* campaign:

- Put paint on their hands.
- Raise your hands up.
- Take a selfie.
- Post the selfie to social media.
- Use the hashtag #HandsAgainstRacism.

Public events will be held on March 19 around the Lower Mainland. People will come and dip their hands into coloured water. They will put their palm prints on giant murals.

Last year was a big success. People from England, Australia, India and Pakistan sent pictures. This is the second annual *Raise Your Hands Against Racism* event.



PHOTO - JENELLE SCHNEIDER
THE PROVINCE

Make a handprint.

Put it on a banner.

Sushma Datt shows you how.

Shushma Datt's story

Shushma Datt was born in Kenya. She got a university degree from the University of New Delhi in India. She moved to London. She worked as a broadcaster with BBC.

Datt moved to Vancouver in the 1970's. She could not get a job in broadcasting.

After some time, Datt got a job in ethnic radio. She started her own radio station, Spice Radio 1200AM.

Datt is the first woman and the first Indo-Canadian to get a radio broadcast license from the CRTC. She is the first in Canada to broadcast in Hindi and Punjabi.



PHOTO - SPICE RADIO VANCOUVER

Spice Radio invites you to put a colourful handprint and sign their anti-racism banners.

Shushma Datt produces nine television programs on Shaw Cable Television and OMNI TV. One of these shows is "Women in Focus".

She encourages young women to consider non-traditional roles. She promotes greater understanding between different cultures.

Datt has received many awards for her work.

In 2007 Shushma Datt received the Influential Women in Business Award (BC) for her many accomplishments in broadcasting and multicultural programming.

Story adapted from [The Province](#) and [Vancity Buzz](#) by Patty Bossort

Exercise:

Which answers are true? Check all the right answers for each question.

1. What is the festival of Holi?

- An ancient Hindu festival
- A water fight with colour
- A skiing holiday
- A time to sing and dance
- A celebration of spring

2. What is the meaning of all the colour?

- Everyone is the same
- Skin colour should separate us
- Everybody is equal
- Skin colour should not define us
- We are all the same under all these colours

3. What can you do to join the *Raise Your Hands Against Racism* campaign?

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Answer key

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3. What can you do to join the *Raise Your Hands Against Racism* campaign?