

Diversity تنوع Diversität

By Omar Idtnaine

The challenge of my life: advocating for linguistic diversity in museums

As I stroll through the hallowed halls of museums, captivated by the rich tapestry of human history and culture, I find myself wrestling with a silent dilemma. The absence of my native language, Berber, leaves me yearning for more. I am Omar, and my connection to the stories told within these walls feels incomplete when linguistic distinctiveness is overlooked.



In the heart of Morocco, a country pulsating with the echoes of diverse cultures, I stand before artefacts that whisper tales of the past. Yet, the accompanying texts, often available only in Arabic and French, leave me longing for the inclusion of my mother tongue, Berber. Berber is a language that resonates with the essence of my identity, connecting me to a heritage that deserves recognition.

They find the Tifinagh script of the Amazigh language symbolic of the antiquity and ingenuity of this North African language. This inclusion of Amazigh texts better expresses certain local traditions and rituals.

In the spirit of preserving our collective history, let us build bridges with words. I call on museums to champion linguistic diversity, ensuring that every visitor, regardless of their mother tongue, can find echoes of their identity within your walls.