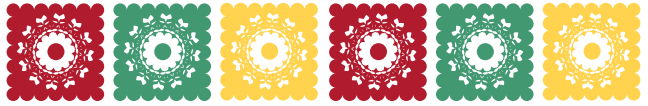


# How **NOT** to Celebrate



# CINCO DE MAYO

Brought to you by the Equity & EMBRACE Committees



Red, white, and green are the colors of the Mexican flag, as well as the colors worn on this day of celebration. **Red** represents the blood of the heroes that have died fighting, **white** stands for unity and purity, and **green** is for hope.

## DON'TS



- **Avoid wearing sombreros, fake mustaches,** and traditional Mexican clothing and/or cultural artifacts. You run the risk of perpetuating stereotypes, committing cultural appropriation, and causing harm.
- **Do not use Cinco de Mayo as a reason to over indulge** in adult beverages.
- Keep in mind that **most “Mexican” foods enjoyed in the US aren’t actually Mexican.** What many Americans think of as Mexican cuisine (ground beef tacos, nachos, burritos, etc.) is actually Tex-Mex, which is a uniquely American culinary blend of popularized Texas foods inspired by the Tejanos people.

## DO'S



- Be aware that Cinco de Mayo is **NOT Mexico’s Independence Day.** It commemorates a significant battle during the Franco-Mexican War that took place in a town called Puebla. The Mexican Army, who were considered the underdogs, overtook the French and came out victorious. Mexican Independence Day actually occurred on September 16, 1810—about 50 years earlier.
- Know that **Mexicans don’t call the holiday Cinco de Mayo** at all! It’s referred to as El Día de la Batalla de Puebla, which translates to “The Day of the Battle of Puebla” in English.

If you want to honor Mexican culture and communities around you, take initiative in learning how you can support them. A few options are to buy from local Mexican organizations, educate yourself on the meaning of Cinco de Mayo, and advocate for equal rights for all people.