

# Ubuntu philosophy

**Ubuntu** is named after the Nguni philosophy of **ubuntu**, "humanity to others" with a connotation of "I am what I am because of who we all are".

**Ubuntu**, meaning **humanity** in **Bantu**, describes a set of closely related African-origin value systems that emphasize the interconnectedness of individuals with their surrounding societal and physical worlds. "Ubuntu" is sometimes translated as "I am because we are" (also "I am because you are"), or "humanity towards others". Ubuntu is often meant in a more philosophical sense to mean "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity".

There are various definitions of the word "Ubuntu". The most recent definition was provided by the *African Journal of Social Work (AJSW)*. The journal defined *Ubuntu* as: A collection of values and practices that people of Africa or of African origin view as making people authentic human beings. While the nuances of these values and practices vary across different ethnic groups, they all point to one thing – an authentic individual human being is part of a larger and more significant relational, communal, societal, environmental and spiritual world.

From Wikipedia ~

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubuntu\\_philosophy#cite\\_note-Mugubate-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubuntu_philosophy#cite_note-Mugubate-5)

Comment from a history teacher on his experience with “ubuntu”:

Every day, world history teacher Chris Doi pulls from his experience with us in Zimbabwe and lives the African ethos of shared humanity, or “ubuntu”. He tells his Alamance County middle school students: “If somebody is getting bullied, we’re all getting bullied. If someone in the classroom doesn’t feel safe, none of us feels safe. We all need to stand up for each other. We’re in it together.”