



# 2023 DIVERSITY CALENDAR

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# JANUARY 2023

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**KEY:** ■ INDEPENDENCE DAYS ■ REGIONAL AND CULTURAL HOLIDAYS ■ RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS  
 ★ U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY † DIETARY CONSIDERATION 📅 MULTIPLE DAYS ✓ SCHEDULE CONSIDERATION



**Week 1**



**SUNDAY 1/1**

■ **Emancipation Day (U.S.)** 🇺🇸  
 Commemorates President Lincoln's 1863 signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, signaling the end of slavery.

■ **Independence Day (HAITI)** 🇭🇹  
 A celebration of independence from France in 1804.

■ **Independence Day (SUDAN)** 🇸🇩  
 Marks independence from Egypt and Britain in 1956.

■ **Liberation Day (CUBA)** 🇨🇺  
 Also called Triumph of the Revolution. This day commemorates the victory of the revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro in 1959, ending the military dictatorship of Cuban President Fulgencio Batista.

■ **New Year's Day (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐 ★  
 The first day of the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar is probably the most widely observed event in the world, marked by most nations, religions and cultures.

**WEDNESDAY 1/4**

■ **World Braille Day (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐  
 Observed in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. Celebrated on Louis Braille's birthday, the inventor of braille.

**FRIDAY 1/6**

■ **Epiphany and Three Kings Day (CHRISTIAN)** †  
 Also called the Twelfth Day, celebrated 12 days after Christmas. Epiphany means "dawning of light" and commemorates the visit of three wise men to the baby Jesus, who would later be known as Jesus Christ, the Christians' Savior.  
 A day of celebration in many parts of Europe, Latin America and South America that is the traditional time of gift giving and the culmination of the Christmas season.

**FRIDAY 1/6–SATURDAY 1/7**

■ **Shabbat (JEWISH)** ✨ † 📅 ✓  
 One of the most important holidays for the Jewish people. It falls every Friday night to Saturday night (sundown to sundown) and is traditionally celebrated with family.  
*(Due to the frequency of this holiday, it will be listed only once but should be considered to be observed every Friday and Saturday.)*

**SATURDAY 1/7**

■ **Orthodox Christmas Day (CHRISTIAN)** †  
 Celebrates Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar by the Orthodox Church.





Week 2



THURSDAY 1/12

■ **Signing of Peace Accords (EL SALVADOR)** 🇸🇻

Honors the day the Chapultepec Peace Accords were signed by El Salvador in 1992, bringing an end to decades long Civil War.

FRIDAY 1/13

■ **Lohri (HINDU, SIKH)** ॐ ☯

The celebration of the arrival of longer days after the winter solstice.

■ **Maghi (SIKH)** ☯

Commemorates the sacrifice of forty Sikhs, who fought for Guru Gobindh Singh Ji.

Week 3



SUNDAY 1/15

■ **Makar Sankranti (HINDU)** ॐ 📅

A Hindu and South Indian winter solstice observation marking the beginning of the Pongal festival.

MONDAY 1/16

■ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (U.S.)** 🇺🇸 ★

Commemorates the life of the acknowledged national leader of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was born on January 15, 1929, and assassinated on Apr 4, 1968.

Week 4



SUNDAY 1/22

■ **Lunar New Year (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐 🇨🇳

Observed by many Asian countries and communities around the world during the first three days of the first lunar month. In North and South Korea, the holiday is known as Shul and marks the first day of spring. In Vietnam, it is known as Tet. This holiday is also known as the Chinese New Year.

THURSDAY 1/26

■ **Republic Day (INDIA)** 🇮🇳

Marks India's severed ties from Great Britain in 1950.

■ **Vasant Panchami (HINDU, SIKH)** ॐ ☯

Celebrated in Hindu countries such as India, Vasant Panchami is a festival of spring celebrated in honor of Saraswati, the goddess of learning, wisdom and fine arts, and the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

FRIDAY 1/27

■ **International Holocaust Remembrance Day (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐

Also known as International Day of Commemoration, remembers the victims of the Holocaust. The anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and U.N. Holocaust Memorial Day.

# FEBRUARY 2023

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## Black History Month

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the U.S. today. Black History Month continues discussions of Black people and their contributions, through activities such as museum exhibits and film screenings, and encourages the study of achievements of African Americans year-round.



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### Week 1



#### WEEK OF 2/1

##### ■ World Interfaith Harmony Week (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

A platform when all interfaith groups and other groups of goodwill can show the world what a powerful movement they are, with the goal of providing a focal point from which all people of goodwill can recognize that the common values they hold far outweigh the differences they have, and thus provide a strong dosage of peace and harmony to their communities.

#### WEDNESDAY 2/1

##### ■ Imbolc (PAGAN, WICCAN) ☽☾ 🌿

The halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox in the Pagan and Wiccan calendars. This day celebrates fire, light, and the return of life with the coming spring.

#### THURSDAY 2/2

##### ■ CANDLEMAS (CHRISTIAN) † 🕒

Also called Presentation of the Lord or Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Hypapante.

Celebrates the presentation of the baby Jesus, the Christians' savior, in the Temple of Jerusalem 40 days after his birth.

#### FRIDAY 2/3

##### ■ Setsubun / Bean-Throwing Festival (JAPAN) 🇯🇵

Marks the last day of winter according to the lunar calendar. Priests or stars at temple grounds throw beans into the crowd, shouting, "Fortune in, devils out!"

#### SATURDAY 2/4

##### ■ Rosa Parks Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Commemorates the arrest of Rosa Parks, in 1955, for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to a boycott of the city's buses and the end of segregation.

### Week 2



#### SUNDAY 2/5

##### ■ Constitution Day (MEXICO) 🇲🇪

Marks the adoption of a national constitution in 1917.

##### ■ Lantern Festival (CHINA, TAIWAN) 🇨🇳 🇹🇼

Marks the end of Chinese New Year celebrations and the appearance of the first full moon of the New Year.

#### SUNDAY 2/5\*—MONDAY 2/6

##### ■ Tu B'Shvat (JEWISH) ☆ 📅

Israel's New Year celebration for trees, similar to National Arbor Day in the U.S. Jews around the world also observe this holiday.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*





Week 3

**WEEK OF 2/12**

**■ Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week (CHRISTIAN, JEWISH) † ☆ 📅**

Proclaimed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934 and originated with the National Conference for Community and Justice, an interfaith and inter-cultural organization. The purpose is to set aside a week each year where people of all faiths will get together, discuss their differences, and reaffirm the human brotherhood that is common to their religious beliefs.

**■ National Salute to Veteran Patients Week (U.S.) 🇺🇸 📅**

The National Salute To Veteran Patients happens the week of February 14th and pays tribute to just under 100,000 patients a day that receive medical treatment in VA medical facilities as well as the nine million U.S. veterans who get care every year.

**TUESDAY 2/14**

**■ St. Valentine's Day (CANADA, U.S., UK) 🇨🇦 🇺🇸 🇬🇧**

One version states that a priest named Valentine was martyred on Feb. 14, 269 A.D., in Rome for secretly marrying couples against the orders of Emperor Claudius II. This was the night before a festival called Lupercalia, associated with fertility.

**WEDNESDAY 2/15**

**■ Liberation Day (AFGHANISTAN) 🇦🇫**

Commemorates the final departure of the Soviet army from the country on this date in 1989.

**SATURDAY 2/18**

**■ Maha Shiveratri (HINDU) 🕉️ 🙏**

Also known as Great Night of Shiva or Shivaratri. Honors the Lord Shiva, who, legend says, on this night danced the Tandav, believed to be a dance of creation, preservation and destruction.



Weeks 4-5

**WEEK OF 2/19-2/25**

**■ Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐**

An annual, international event meant to spread awareness and acceptance of aromantic spectrum identities and the issues this community faces, as well as making more people aware of and celebrating the existence of aromantic people.

these countries, the day before Ash Wednesday is the end of a three-day celebration and goes under different names, many of which may be translated to "Tuesday of Carnival" or "Fat Tuesday." In the U.S., Shrove Tuesday is most commonly celebrated as Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, a day for celebration prior to entering Lent.

**■ Ash Wednesday (CHRISTIAN) 🙏 †**

Marks the beginning of Lent. Ash symbolizes sorrow for wrongdoings and foreheads of churchgoers are marked with the shape of the cross with ashes as a sign of penitence. During the 40 days of Lent, Christians fast and pray to imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion. Dietary restrictions apply on all Fridays during Lent.

**FRIDAY 2/25**

**■ Intercalary Days (BAHÁ'Í) \***

Also known as Ayyám-i-Há. Goes until Wednesday, March 1. This is a period of celebration devoted to charity, gift giving, and festivities prior to the annual period of fasting from March 2 to 20.

**TUESDAY 2/21**

**■ Shrove Tuesday (CHRISTIAN) †**

Shrove Tuesday, the final day of Shrovetide, is a day to confess sins (shrive) as penitence before entering the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Shrovetide is the same as the Carnival tradition established in the countries of Latin Europe. In

**WEDNESDAY 2/22**

**■ Abu Simbel Sun Festival (EGYPT) 🇪🇬**

Celebrates the two occasions in the year (the other is October 22) when the light of the rising sun reaches the 180-foot deep innermost chambers of Abu Simbel, the great temple of Ramses II.

**THURSDAY 2/23**

**■ Republic Day (GUYANA) 🇬🇾**

Commemorates the establishment of the republic in 1970.

**■ Tenno Tanjobi / Emperor's Birthday (JAPAN) 🇯🇵**

A national holiday to honor Emperor Akihito, born in 1933.

**MONDAY 2/27**

**■ Independence Day (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) 🇩🇪**

Independence Day for Dominican Republic from Haiti, 1844.



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# MARCH 2023

## Women's History Month

This month is set aside to honor women's contributions, commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history and contemporary society. This was officially designated by presidential proclamation in perpetuity in 1987. The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes a yearly theme; in 2023, the theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories."



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### Week 1



#### WEDNESDAY 3/1

■ **Samil Jeol / Independence Movement Day (SOUTH KOREA)** 🇰🇷

Marks the 1919 independence movement against Japan.

■ **Zero Discrimination Day (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐

Celebrates the right of everyone to live a full and productive life and live it with dignity. Highlights how people can become

informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace, and—above all—a movement for change. Aims to create global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.

#### FRIDAY 3/3

■ **Hinamatsuri / Doll Festival (JAPAN)** 🇯🇵

This festival is combined with the Spring Festival. Ceremonial dolls are displayed to honor the daughters in the family.

### Week 2



#### MONDAY 3/6

■ **Independence Day (GHANA)** 🇬🇦

Commemorates the date in 1957 when the Gold Coast became an independent member of the British Commonwealth.

#### MONDAY 3/6—TUESDAY 3/7

■ **Purim (JEWISH)** ✨ 📅

Known as the Feast of Lots, celebrates the deliverance of Jews in Persia from the machinations of Haman. Jews dress in costume and give gifts of food to each other.

#### MONDAY 3/6—TUESDAY 3/7\*

■ **Holi (HINDU, SIKH)** 🌈 📅

Also known as Festival of Colors, Festival of Spring, and Festival of Love, this is an ancient Hindu religious festival and one of the most popular festivals in Hinduism. It is a day to end and rid oneself of past errors, end conflicts by meeting others, and forget and forgive. This also marks the start of spring, an occasion for people to enjoy the changing seasons and make new friends.

*\*Begins and ends at sundown.*

#### WEDNESDAY 3/8

■ **International Women's Day (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐

According to one source, a women's march in New York in 1857 provided the inspiration for the day. Others claim that it began as a commemoration of a strike by women needle trades workers in New York City in 1908. International Women's Day was revived in the 1960s and in 1975, the U.N. began sponsoring this day.

#### WEDNESDAY 3/8—FRIDAY 3/10

■ **Hola Mohalla (SIKH)** 🌈 📅

Also called Hola. A three-day long festival that takes place on the second day of the lunar month of Chett, a day after the Hindu spring festival Holi.



Weeks 3-4



FRIDAY 3/17

■ St. Patrick's Day (IRELAND, U.S.) 🇮🇪 🇺🇸

The death anniversary of Ireland's patron saint. The shamrock is worn to remember its use as a symbol of the Trinity.

SUNDAY 3/19

■ St. Joseph's Day (CHRISTIAN) †

An international festival honoring St. Joseph, in which special foods are prepared and some people reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter when Mary was about to give birth to the baby Jesus.

MONDAY 3/20

■ Ostara (PAGAN, WICCAN) ☉ ☽

The celebration of the Spring equinox, honoring the spring's warmth, light from the sun, and the awakening of the earth. This holiday has themes of balance, renewal, and rebirth.



■ Nowruz (IRAN) 🇮🇷

Celebrates the Iranian New Year, also known as the Persian New Year, which begins on the spring equinox, marking the first day of Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian solar calendar. It is celebrated worldwide by various ethnolinguistic groups.

TUESDAY 3/21

■ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (U.N.) 🌐

A day to promote efforts to eradicate racial discrimination worldwide and also to remember the killing of 69 protesters against racial injustice in Sharpeville, South Africa, in 1960.

WEDNESDAY 3/22

■ Emancipation Day (PUERTO RICO) 🇵🇷

Commemorates the abolition of slavery in 1873.

■ Gudi Padwa (HINDU) ॐ

It is a spring-time festival that marks the traditional new year for Hindus. It is observed with colorful floor decorations called rangoli, a special Gudi flag (garlanded with flowers, mango and neem leaves, topped with upturned silver or copper vessel), street processions, dancing and festive foods.

WEDNESDAY 3/22\*—FRIDAY 4/21

■ Ramadan (ISLAMIC) 🌙 🕌 📖

The 9th and a blessed month in the Islamic calendar. Traditionally begins with the sighting of the new moon. Fasting during this month is one of the 5 pillars of Islam. It is in this month that the Quran was revealed. It is a time for spiritual and physical purification, and a time to gain closeness to God.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*

THURSDAY 3/23

■ Pakistan Day (PAKISTAN) 🇵🇰

Commemorates the adoption of Pakistan resolution in 1940, which proposed an independent state for Muslims.

SATURDAY 3/25

■ Independence Day (GREECE) 🇬🇷

A celebration of independence from the Ottomans in 1829.

■ International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (U.N.) 🌐

A United Nations international observation that offers the opportunity to honor and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. First observed in 2008, the international day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

Week 5



SUNDAY 3/26

■ Independence Day (BANGLADESH) 🇬🇧

Commemorates independence from Pakistan (then known as West Pakistan) in 1971 and the start of the Liberation War.

THURSDAY 3/30

■ Rama Navami (HINDU) ॐ 🕌

Celebrates the birth of Shri Rama, one of the incarnates of the Hindu god Vishnu. Fasting is common on this date.

FRIDAY 3/31

■ International Transgender Day of Visibility (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Celebrated to bring awareness to transgender people and their identities as well as recognize those who helped fight for rights for transgender people.

# APRIL 2023

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## Week 2

### SUNDAY 4/2

■ **Palm Sunday (CHRISTIAN) †**  
 Commemorates the day Jesus Christ was given a king's entry into Jerusalem, marked by the strewing of palm leaves before him. Marks the beginning of Holy Week.

■ **World Autism Awareness Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐**  
 Highlights the need to help improve quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

### TUESDAY 4/4

■ **Independence Day (SENEGAL) 🇸🇳**  
 Marks independence from France in 1960.

### WEDNESDAY 4/6—THURSDAY 4/13\*

■ **Pesach / Passover (JEWISH) ✨ 📅**  
 An eight-day festival marking the liberation of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. Traditionally, the first and last two days are viewed as holy, while dietary restrictions last the entire week.  
*\*Begins at sundown the previous day and ends at nightfall on the last day.*

### THURSDAY 4/6

■ **Chakri Memorial Day (THAILAND) 🇹🇭**  
 A national holiday to honor King Rama I, who founded the Chakri Dynasty in 1782 and established Bangkok as the capital of Thailand.

■ **Holy Thursday (CHRISTIAN) †**  
 On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

### FRIDAY 4/7

■ **Good Friday (CHRISTIAN) † 📅**  
 Culminates the Lenten season and commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



## Week 3

### SUNDAY 4/9

■ **Easter (CHRISTIAN) † ✓**  
 Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after crucifixion. Many Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

### MONDAY 4/10

■ **Easter Monday (CHRISTIAN) † ✓**  
 Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.

### FRIDAY 4/14

■ **Day of Silence (U.S.) 🇺🇸**  
 A student-led national event where individuals take a vow of silence to highlight the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ+ people at school.

■ **Vaisakhi (HINDU, JAIN, SIKH) ✨ 📅**  
 Marks the first day of the Hindu New Year, celebrated in several countries and Indian states. It is widely celebrated as the birthday of the Sikh nation.



Week 4



SUNDAY 4/16

■ **Orthodox Easter (CHRISTIAN)** † Celebrates Easter according to the Julian calendar by the Orthodox Church.

MONDAY 4/17

■ **Independence Day (SYRIA)** 🇸🇾 Honors independence from France on this date in 1946.

TUESDAY 4/18

■ **Independence Day (ZIMBABWE)** 🇿🇼 Commemorates formal recognition of independence after the first multiracial elections in 1980.

■ **Laylat al-Qadr / Night of Power (ISLAMIC)** ☾ Celebrates the revelation of the Qur'an to the prophet Muhammad in AD 610 by the archangel Gabriel. It falls within the last 10 days of the Islamic month of Ramadan, however, since it is not known on which of these days the Qur'an was revealed, Muslims often pray on each possible night.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*

FRIDAY 4/21—SATURDAY 4/22\*

■ **Eid al-Fitr (ISLAMIC)** ☾ 📅 🕒 A celebration at the end of the Ramadan fast and a time of goodwill to all. Begins at sundown the previous day. Dates may vary by a day or two for different Muslim Communities.

*\*Begins and ends at sundown.*

FRIDAY 4/21\*

■ **Festival of Ridvan (BAHÁ'Í)** ✨ 📅 🕒 A 12-day celebration commemorating Baha'u'llah's stay in the Garden of Ridvan. During this time, he made his declaration of his mission as God's messenger.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*

SATURDAY 4/22

■ **Akshaya Tritiya (HINDU)** 🕉️ A holy day for Hindu communities which is celebrated on the third day of the month Vaishakh, which on the Gregorian calendar lands around April or May. It is a day for Hindus to celebrate the birthday of Lord Parasurama.

Week 5



TUESDAY 4/25

■ **Liberation Day (ITALY)** 🇮🇹 🇸🇰 Commemorates liberation from German troops in 1945.

■ **Sinai Day (EGYPT)** 🇪🇬 Commemorates the return of Sinai to Egypt in 1982 as part of the 1978 Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt.

TUESDAY 4/25—WEDNESDAY 4/26\*

■ **Yom Ha'atzmaut (ISRAEL)** 🇮🇸 📅 Celebrates the formation of the independent state of Israel and its government on May 14, 1948.

*\*Begins and ends in the evening.*

FRIDAY 4/28

■ **Arbor Day (U.S.)** 🇺🇸 Founded in 1872 by J. Morgan Stanley in Nebraska, Arbor Day is a holiday during which people are encouraged to plant and care for trees.

■ **Mujahideen Victory Day (AFGHANISTAN)** 🇦🇫 Marks the anniversary of the victory over Soviet Russian troops.

■ **Yom Ha-Shoah (JEWISH)** ✨ 🕒 A memorial to Jews killed in concentration camps during World War II. Established on April 12, 1951; falls on the anniversary of the liberation of the first concentration camp, on April 10, 1945. May be observed by a fast from sundown the previous day to sundown this day.

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# MAY 2023

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

This month, which was officially designated in 1992, is a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States and recognizes their contributions.

## Mental Health Awareness Month

This month is meant to amplify the reality that millions of Americans are living with a mental illness and is designed to raise awareness about mental health. The goal is to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.



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Week 1

### STARTING MONDAY 5/1

#### ■ Flores de Mayo / Flowers of May (PHILIPPINES) 🇵🇭 📅

This month-long festival honors the Blessed Virgin Mary, culminating with the Santa Cruzan (Holy Cross) procession, a parade in honor of Reyna Helena (Queen Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine).

### MONDAY 5/1

■ **Beltane (PAGAN, WICCAN)** 🌙 ☯️  
 Falls halfway between the spring equinox and summer solstice,

representing the peak of spring. This fire festival celebrates summer and the fertility of the upcoming year. This is a traditional Celtic May Eve / May Day celebration.

#### ■ International Workers' Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Observed in more than 140 countries under various names, this day is a celebration of the central contributions of workers to the economic life of their nation and of worker solidarity. The day was designated by

the International Socialist Congress of 1889, though it had been observed earlier, partly in commemoration of the Haymarket massacre in Chicago in 1886.

### FRIDAY 5/5

#### ■ Cinco de Mayo (MEXICO, U.S.) 🇲🇽 🇺🇸 🕒

It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the "Batalla de Puebla" in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism.

#### ■ Kodomo-no-Hi / Children's Day (JAPAN) 🇯🇵

A national holiday that was once known as Boys' Day but since 1948 has been a day to honor both boys and girls. Some still practice the old custom of flying wind socks in the shape of carp (a symbol of strength, courage, and determination shown in its upstream journey).

#### ■ Vesak (BUDDHIST) 🌸

Theravada Buddhist celebration of the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.



Week 2

### SUNDAY 5/7

#### ■ International Family Equality Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Celebrates the diversity and equality of LGBTQ+ families.

### FRIDAY 5/12

#### ■ Military Spouse Appreciation Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Takes place the Friday preceding Mother's Day. Shows appreciation for the commitment and sacrifice

that the spouses of service members make, together with the rest of the family. Recognizes the importance of empowering military spouses and ensuring that they have what they need to thrive.





Week 3

WEDNESDAY 5/17

■ Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court Decision (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Marks the day in 1954 when the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

■ Constitution Day / Syttende Mai (NORWAY) 🇳🇴

Honors when the Constitution of Norway was signed at Eidsvoll, Norway on May 17, 1814, declaring Norway as an independent nation.

■ International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Draws attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

THURSDAY 5/18

■ Ascension Day (CHRISTIAN) †

Marks the Christian Savior Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven.

FRIDAY 5/19

■ Agender Pride Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Celebrates people who are agender and brings attention to all of the hate, discrimination, and injustices that agender people, like others in the LGBTQ+ community, face in their everyday lives.

SATURDAY 5/20

■ Armed Forces Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Through the efforts of President Harry S. Truman, Armed Forces Day was established on August 31, 1949, as a single holiday for U.S. citizens to come together and thank all military members for their service in support of the country.



Week 4

SUNDAY 5/21

■ World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Highlights the richness of the world's cultures and also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

by the Mughal emperor Jehangir. He built the Golden Temple in Amritsar with doors facing all four directions to emphasize that the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.

THURSDAY 5/25

■ African Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

A celebration of the many achievements and victories of African people worldwide and a rededication to their current struggle for freedom, justice and unity. It is marked by parades and rallies in Africa and the U.S.

■ Independence Day (GUYANA) 🇬🇾

Commemorates Guyana's independence from the United Kingdom in 1966.

TUESDAY 5/23

■ Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Arjun Dev Ji (SIKH) ☞

He was the fifth Guru (1563-1606) and the first Sikh martyr executed

WEDNESDAY 5/24

■ Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

A day for the community to uplift, elevate, and celebrate those who identify as pansexual and panromantic.

FRIDAY 5/26

■ Buddha's Birthday (BUDDHIST) ☸

Celebrates the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama. He is thought to have lived in India from 563 to 483 BC.

FRIDAY 5/26\*—SUNDAY 5/27

■ Shavuot (JEWISH) ☆ 🇮🇱

Commemorates the revelation of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*



Week 5

SUNDAY 5/28

■ Pentecost (CHRISTIAN) †

The Holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the

church are often baptized on this day, which is sometimes called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

MONDAY 5/29

■ Memorial Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸 ★

A day of remembrance for those who have died in service to their country. The 3rd U.S. Infantry

places small American flags at about 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery.

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# JUNE 2023

## LGBTQ+ Pride Month

June is celebrated as LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Pride Month in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, NY. The purpose of this commemorative month is to recognize the impact LGBTQ+ individuals have had on local, national, and international history.

**KEY:** ■ INDEPENDENCE DAYS ■ REGIONAL AND CULTURAL HOLIDAYS ■ RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS  
 ★ U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY † DIETARY CONSIDERATION 📅 MULTIPLE DAYS Ⓢ SCHEDULE CONSIDERATION



Week 1

### FRIDAY 6/2

#### ■ Republic Day (ITALY) 🇮🇹

Marks the establishment of Italy as a republic in 1946.



Week 2

### SUNDAY 6/4

#### ■ Trinity Sunday (CHRISTIAN) †

Commemorates the Christian belief that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one.

### THURSDAY 6/8

#### ■ Corpus Christi (CHRISTIAN) †

Honors the sacrament of Communion and is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.



Week 3

### MONDAY 6/12

#### ■ Independence Day (PHILIPPINES) 🇵🇭

Celebrates independence from Spain in 1898.

### ■ Loving Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

A celebration marking the day the Supreme Court struck down state bans against interracial marriage.

### WEDNESDAY 6/14

#### ■ Flag Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Honors the flag as a symbol of patriotism on the anniversary of its adoption in 1777.



## Week 4



### MONDAY 6/19

#### ■ Juneteenth (U.S., AFRICAN AMERICAN) 🇺🇸

June 19, 1865, also known as National Freedom Day, is considered the official end of slavery in the United States. Slaves in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were not told about their freedom until this day, even though other Southern states had known since April 1863. Today, the holiday is observed in African American communities throughout the country with rallies, concerts and fairs.

### TUESDAY 6/20

#### ■ World Refugee Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

An international day designed to honor refugees around the globe. Celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. An occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

### WEDNESDAY 6/21

#### ■ National Aboriginal Day (CANADA) 🇨🇦

A day to recognize the diverse cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples, collectively known as Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

### FRIDAY 6/23

#### ■ St. John's Eve (CHRISTIAN, INTERNATIONAL) †

Marks the celebration of the summer solstice and the feast of St. John. Also known as Midsummer's Eve.

### SATURDAY 6/24

#### ■ Nativity of John the Baptist (CHRISTIAN, INTERNATIONAL) † 🌐

A celebration of the birth of the precursor and baptizer of Jesus, the Messiah. This day is often an official public holiday and is celebrated in many countries.

#### ■ Litha (PAGAN, WICCAN) ☾☀️ 🌐

A Pagan and Wiccan festival that begins on the summer solstice and celebrates midsummer. Celebrated on the longest day of the year.

## Week 5



### MONDAY 6/26

#### ■ United Nations Charter Day (U.N.) 🇺🇳

Marks the day in 1945 when the U.N. charter was signed in San Francisco, California, by representatives of 50 nations.

### TUESDAY 6/27—WEDNESDAY 6/28\*

#### ■ Day of Arafah (ISLAMIC) ☾ 🕌 📅

Marks the start of Hajj. Fasting is recommended on this day for those not performing Hajj. It is also recommended on this day to make many supplications to God.

*\*Begins and ends in the evening.*

### WEDNESDAY 6/28

#### ■ Anniversary of Stonewall Riots (U.S.) 🇺🇸

This uprising began in 1969 in NYC, after the police raided a gay club called Stonewall Inn, and led to protest across the country. This was primarily led by LGBTQ+ people of color and transgender women.

#### ■ Versailles Treaty Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

The anniversary of the 1919 signing of the treaty of Versailles at Versailles, France, which officially ended World War I.

### THURSDAY 6/29\*

#### ■ Eid al-Adha (ISLAMIC) ☾ 🕌 📅 🕒

Commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael in obedience to God's word (God interceded by replacing a ram for the child). The celebration occurs at the end of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims in many African countries celebrate with a great feast called Tabaski. Muslims all over the world celebrate this day. Muslims may be doing the recommended (not mandatory) fasting 10 days prior to this day.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*

# JULY 2023

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Week 1

**SATURDAY 7/1**

■ **Canada Day (CANADA)** 🇨🇦

On July 1, 1867, the British North American Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed “one Dominion under the name of Canada,” hence the original title of the holiday, “Dominion Day.” Dominion Day was officially renamed “Canada Day” by an act of Parliament on Oct. 27, 1982.

■ **Republic Day (SOMALIA)** 🇸🇴

Commemorates the day in 1960 that Italian Somaliland gained independence; also marks the merger of British and Italian regions of the country.

■ **SAR Establishment Day (HONG KONG)** 🇭🇰

Commemorates the reversion of the city from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

■ **Ketikoti (SURINAME)** 🇸🇷

Also known as Suriname Emancipation Day. Marks the end of slavery, in 1863, when the country was a Dutch territory.



Week 2

**MONDAY 7/3**

■ **Asalha Puja (BUDDHIST)** 🌀

Also known as Dharma Day. One of Theravada Buddhism’s most important festivals, celebrating the Buddha’s first sermon.

■ **Guru Purnima (HINDU, JAIN, BUDDHIST)** 🙏 🌀

A tradition dedicated to all the spiritual and academic Gurus ready to share their wisdom. Celebrated as a festival in India,

Nepal, and Bhutan on Full Moon day in the Hindu month of Ashadha (June-July).

**TUESDAY 7/4**

■ **Independence Day (U.S.)** 🇺🇸 ★

In 1776, the 13 colonies signed a declaration of Independence proclaiming their separation from England and forming the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.

■ **Republic Day (PHILIPPINES)** 🇵🇭

Also called Filipino-American Friendship Day, marks the alliance with the U.S.

■ **Tirgan (IRAN)** 🇮🇷

A midsummer ancient Iranian festival, celebrated by splashing water, dancing, reciting poetry, and serving traditional foods.

**WEDNESDAY 7/5**

■ **Independence Day (VENEZUELA)** 🇻🇪

Commemorates the proclamation of independence from Spain in 1811. Independence was not achieved until 1821.



Week 3



SUNDAY 7/9

■ Independence Day (ARGENTINA) 🇦🇷

Marks independence from Spain in 1816.

■ Martyrdom of the Bab (BAHÁ'Í) ✨

Commemorates the arrest torture, imprisonment and execution of the Bab, the prophet-herald of the faith, in Tabriz, Persia, in 1850.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*

MONDAY 7/10

■ Independence Day (BAHAMAS) 🇧🇸

Celebrates the day on July 10, 1973, when the island gained its freedom from Britain and established home rule. Celebrations on this day resemble those of the Christmas festival Junkanoo, with parades featuring bright colors, masks and costumes similar to Mardi Gras celebrations.

FRIDAY 7/14

■ Bastille Day (FRANCE) 🇫🇷 🇫🇷

A national holiday in France. It commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison in 1789, when prisoners were set free, thus ending the French monarchy. The French Revolution resulted in France becoming a republic.

■ International Non-Binary People's Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Annual day celebrating the contributions of non-binary people and focusing on the issues affecting them.

Week 4



MONDAY 7/17

■ Constitution Day (SOUTH KOREA) 🇰🇷 🇰🇷

Commemorates the proclamation of the constitution of the Republic of Korea in 1948.

■ Marine Day / Umi no Hi (JAPAN) 🇯🇵

A national holiday to honor the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history and culture.

TUESDAY 7/18—WEDNESDAY 7/19\*

■ Islamic New Year (ISLAMIC) 🌙 📅

Beginning of the new Islamic calendar, 1st of Muharram.

*\*Begins and ends in the evening.*

WEDNESDAY 7/19

■ Liberation Day (NICARAGUA) 🇳🇮

Observes the day in 1979 that the army claimed victory over the dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

THURSDAY 7/20

■ Independence Day (COLOMBIA) 🇨🇴

Celebrates the day in 1810 when the country declared its independence from Spain.

Week 5



SUNDAY 7/23

■ Revolution Day (EGYPT) 🇪🇬

Commemorates the revolution of 1952, ending the Egyptian monarchy.

MONDAY 7/24

■ Pioneer Day (LATTER-DAY SAINTS) 🇺🇸

This day honors the U.S. pioneers led by Brigham Young, who first settled in Utah in 1847. This day is celebrated with parades and remembering their pioneering ancestors.

TUESDAY 7/25

■ Constitution Day (PUERTO RICO) 🇵🇷

Commemorates the approval of a constitution in 1952

WEDNESDAY 7/26

■ National Disability Independence Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Celebrates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which provides for reasonable accommodation in work situations

*continued >*



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and also standards for physical accessibility to buildings and public transportation.

■ **Independence Day (LIBERIA)**



Commemorates the adoption of a constitution in 1847, establishing Africa's first independent republic.

**THURSDAY 7/27–FRIDAY 7/28\***

■ **Ashura (ISLAMIC)** ☪ 🕌 📅 🕋  
Recommended fasting is done on this day to commemorate the prophet Musa (Moses) saving his people from the oppression of Pharaoh. It is also the day that a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, Hussain, was martyred in Karbala.

*\*Begins and ends in the evening.*

**FRIDAY 7/28**

■ **Independence Day (PERU)** 🇵🇪 🇵🇪

Marks the day in 1821 when independence from Spain was declared. Spanish rule ended in 1824.



**Week 6**

**SUNDAY 7/30**

■ **International Day of Friendship (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐

Proclaimed in 2011 by the U.N. General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

**MONDAY 7/31**

■ **Feast of St. Ignatius (CATHOLIC)** ✝️

Commemorates the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits.





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# AUGUST 2023

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Week 1

**TUESDAY 8/1**

■ **Emancipation Day (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)** 🇹🇹

Slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire in 1833. Those of African descent living in Trinidad and Tobago have observed this holiday since 1985, when it replaced Columbus Discovery Day.

■ **Lughnasadh/Lammas (PAGAN, WICCAN)** 🌾 🌿

A festival that marks the beginning of the harvest season.

■ **Swiss National Day (SWITZERLAND)** 🇨🇭

Decreed in 1891, but the origins of this holiday date to 1291, when the foundation of the Swiss Confederation was laid.

**THURSDAY 8/3**

■ **Independence Day (NIGER)** 🇳🇮

Celebrates the attainment of independence from France on this day in 1960.



Week 2

**SUNDAY 8/6**

■ **Independence Day (BOLIVIA)** 🇧🇴

Commemorates independence from Spain in 1825.

■ **Independence Day (JAMAICA)** 🇯🇲

Marks independence from Great Britain in 1962.

**WEDNESDAY 8/9**

■ **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐

Marks the first meeting in 1982 of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Encourages spread of the UN's message on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.

■ **National Day (SINGAPORE)** 🇸🇬

Marks the day of independence from Malaysia in 1965.



Week 3



MONDAY 8/14

■ Independence Day (PAKISTAN) 🇵🇰

Commemorates independence from Britain/British India in 1947.

TUESDAY 8/15

■ Assumption of the Virgin Mary (CHRISTIAN) † 🇨🇷

Commemorates the taking of the Virgin Mary's body and soul into heaven.

■ Independence Day (INDIA) 🇮🇳

Marks independence from Great Britain in 1947, when the Indian Independence Act went into effect.

■ National Liberation Day of Korea (NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA) 🇰🇷 🇸🇰

In North Korea, marks the surrender of Japan in 1945. In South Korea, marks the creation of an independent government in 1948.

WEDNESDAY 8/16

■ Restoration of the Republic (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) 🇩🇷

Celebrates the 1863 declaration of independence from Spain, after a brief lapse into colonial status. Independence was attained in 1865, following a bitter war.

THURSDAY 8/17

■ Independence Day (INDONESIA) 🇮🇩

Celebrates independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945. After more years of fighting, Indonesia was formally granted autonomy on Dec. 27, 1949.

Week 4



MONDAY 8/21

■ Naga Panchami (HINDU) 🐍

Naga Panchami is a holiday in which Hindus all over India and Nepal traditionally worship snakes. The purpose of this

holiday has been traditionally an attempt to pacify these snakes when they come out of their holes, as these snakes have historically proven dangerous to humans.

FRIDAY 8/25

■ Independence Day (URUGUAY) 🇺🇷

Celebrates the declaration of independence from Brazil in 1825. Independence was attained in 1828.

SATURDAY 8/26

■ Women's Equality Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

A day set aside in 1974 to honor the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, granting voting rights to women.

Week 5



WEDNESDAY 8/30

■ Ullambana (BUDDHIST) 🕸

Also known as Ghost Festival. People of the Buddhist faith celebrate their dead loved ones, as it is believed that their spirits return to the land of the living for the day.

■ Victory Day (TURKEY) 🇹🇷

Honors the warriors who died in the 1922 Battle of Dumlupinar, the final battle in the war of

independence. The Mehtar band, the world's oldest military band, plays, and celebrations include military parades and fireworks.

THURSDAY 8/31

■ Independence Day (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) 🇹🇹

Celebrates the day in 1962 that Trinidad and Tobago became an independent nation within the British Commonwealth.

■ Freedom Day (MALAYSIA) 🇲🇾

Marks the independence of Malaya from British rule in 1957. The Federation of Malaysia was subsequently inaugurated in 1963, containing Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak and Singapore. Singapore later withdrew.

■ Day of Solidarity and Freedom (POLAND) 🇵🇱

Commemorates the formation, in 1980, of the first Polish labor union, Solidarnosc (Solidarity), at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk. Solidarity was granted legal status on April 17, 1989, clearing the way for the downfall of the Polish Communist Party.

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# SEPTEMBER 2023

## National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is honored annually from September 15 to October 15, celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This was officially designated in 1988, choosing September 15 because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.



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Week 1

**SATURDAY 9/2**

■ Independence Day (VIETNAM) ★

Celebrates independence from the French in 1945. At that time, the country was split into

communist North Vietnam and democratic South Vietnam. On June 2, 1976, the country was reunited under a communist regime.



Week 2

**MONDAY 9/4**

■ Labor Day (CANADA, U.S.) 🇨🇦 🇺🇸 ★

On June 29, 1894, the U.S. Congress voted Labor Day as a National Holiday to honor working people's contribution of labor. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches.

**WEDNESDAY 9/6**

■ Krishna Janmashtami (HINDU) 🕉️ || Ⓢ

A new moon festival celebrated with fasting in honor of the Hindu deity Lord Krishna. Celebrated at midnight. Some people fast until midnight then celebrate with dancing and singing.

**SATURDAY 9/9**

■ Massoud Day (AFGHANISTAN) 🇦🇫

Commemorates a revered military commander who died on this day 2001.

■ Somholo /Independence Day (ESWATINI) 🇸🇼

Marks the independence from Great Britain in 1968.

Week 3



MONDAY 9/11

■ Patriot Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Honors those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11, 2001. Among other commemorative events, a moment of silence is observed.

TUESDAY 9/12

■ Enkutatash (COPTIC AND ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN) †

The Ethiopian New Year, celebrated as a national holiday. Enkutatash means “gift of jewels” and relates to the story of the ancient Ethiopian queen, the Queen of Sheba. After her visit with King Solomon in Jerusalem, the queen was offered fine jewels for her homecoming.

FRIDAY 9/15

■ Independence Day (CENTRAL AMERICA)

Marks the declared autonomy from Spanish rule and joining of the United Provinces of Central America in 1821, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

FRIDAY 9/15—SUNDAY 9/17\*

■ Rosh Hashanah (JEWISH) ☆ 🗓️ 🕉️

The Jewish New Year, celebrating the anniversary of the creation of the world. Begins a period of penitence and spiritual renewal at sundown the night before and ends 10 days later with

Yom Kippur. Can last one or two days and is celebrated with prayers and religious services.

*\*Begins and ends in the evening.*

SATURDAY 9/16—TUESDAY 10/3

■ Oktoberfest (GERMANY) 🇩🇪 🗓️

A two-week harvest celebration observed by feasting, music, dance and other folk customs. The festival began in 1810 and traditionally commenced when the Lord Mayor of Munich tapped the first keg of beer.

MONDAY 9/18

■ International Equal Pay Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

An attempt to raise awareness about the raw wage gap, the figure that shows that women, on average, earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. The date moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender pay gap.



Week 4



SUNDAY 9/17—SATURDAY 9/23

■ International Week of the Deaf (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐 🗓️

First launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy, this is celebrated annually by the global Deaf Community. Activities call for participation and involvements of various stakeholders, including families, peers, governmental bodies, professional sign language interpreters, and organizations of persons with disabilities.

SUNDAY 9/17

■ Citizenship Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Honors those from other countries who become U.S. citizens each year and also the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

MONDAY 9/18

■ Independence Day (CHILE) 🇨🇱

Marks declaration of independence from Spain in 1810.

■ Keiro-no-Hi / Respect for the Aged Day (JAPAN) 🇯🇵

A national holiday honoring older citizens, especially those who are centenarians.

TUESDAY 9/19

■ Ganesh Chaturthi (HINDU) 🕉️ 🙏

A day of offering to Lord Ganesh, god of wisdom, success, and remover of obstacles. Celebrate with Lord Ganesh worship, dancing, special food—Modak (stuffed with freshly grated coconut and sugar).

THURSDAY 9/21

■ International Day of Peace (U.N.) 🌐 🗓️

A day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, and an invitation to all nations and people to honor cessation of hostilities.

SATURDAY 9/23

■ Celebrate Bisexuality Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Also known as Bi Visibility Day. Raises awareness about bisexuality and challenges bisexual and biromantic erasure.

THURSDAY 9/21—FRIDAY 9/29

■ Mabon (PAGAN, WICCAN) 🌑 🗓️

This harvest festival, falling on the autumnal equinox, signifies the middle of the harvest cycle, when both days and nights are of equal length. This is a day of balance and harmony.





**SUNDAY 9/24**

■ **Heritage Day (SOUTH AFRICA)** 🇿🇦

Celebrates cultural diversity and serves as a time for South Africans of various heritages to strengthen bonds.

**MONDAY 9/25\***

■ **Yom Kippur (JEWISH)** ☆ 📖

The Jewish Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn day on the Jewish calendar, commonly spent in worship and contemplation. Begins at sundown the previous day.

*\*Begins evening of Sunday 9/24*

**WEDNESDAY 9/27**

■ **Meskel (ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN)** †

This public holiday in Ethiopia and Eritrea commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Queen Helena in the fourth century. This is the first big festival of the Ethiopian religious year.

**THURSDAY 9/28—SATURDAY 9/30**

■ **Chuseok (NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA)** 🇰🇷 📖

Also known as Hangawi. A mid-autumn harvest moon festival and three-day holiday, celebrating good harvest. Families gather for feasts and visit ancestors' graves to give thanks. Celebrated in many Asian countries under many names.

**FRIDAY 9/29\***

■ **Confucius Day (CHINA, TAIWAN)** 🇨🇳 🇹🇼

Commemorates the birth in 551 BCE of the teacher Confucius, who was perhaps one of the most influential men in Chinese history. He stressed five virtues: charity, justice, propriety, wisdom and loyalty.

■ **Eid e Milad (ISLAMIC)** 🌙 📖

Commemorates the prophet Muhammad's birthday, ca. 570. Begins at sundown the previous day.

*\*Begins evening of Thursday 9/28*

■ **Pitru Paksha Starts**

(HINDU) 🙏 📖

Pitru Paksha is a sixteen day period, ending on October 14, in which Hindus honor and give respect to their ancestors.

■ **Tsukimi (JAPAN)** 🇯🇵

Also known as Otsukimi. The mid-autumn harvest festival honoring the moon at its fullest and brightest.

**FRIDAY 9/29—FRIDAY 10/6**

■ **Sukkot / Feast of Booths (JEWISH)** ☆ 📖 🕊️

An eight-day festival commemorating the divine protection given to the Israelites during their 40 years of wandering in the desert. Also a festival of giving thanks and celebrating the fall harvest. Begins at sundown the previous day.

**SATURDAY 9/30**

■ **Botswana Day / Independence Day (BOTSWANA)** 🇸🇩

Observes independence from Great Britain in 1966.

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# OCTOBER 2023

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## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

This month celebrates the contributions of America’s workers with disabilities, past and present, and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices. The month is meant to recognize the important role that people with disabilities play in a diverse and inclusive American workforce.

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### Week 1



#### SUNDAY 10/1

##### ■ Independence Day (NIGERIA) 🇳🇬

Commemorates three events: when Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, became a federal republic with a new constitution in 1963, and restored civilian rule in 1979.

##### ■ National Day (CHINA) 🇨🇳

A two-day celebration of the founding of the people’s Republic of China in 1949.

#### MONDAY 10/2

##### ■ Gandhi’s Birthday (INDIA) 🇮🇳

Marks the birth of Mahatma Gandhi in 1869. He was born in Porbander, India, and is honored as a leader of Indian nationalism and Hindu religious beliefs.

##### ■ Mehregan / Autumn Festival (IRAN) 🇮🇷

Celebrates God creating the sun, which gave light to the world. The mythical king Fereydoon brought peace to earth on this day by defeating Zahak, an evil symbol.

#### TUESDAY 10/3

##### ■ Tag der Deutschen Einheit / Day of German Unity (GERMANY) 🇩🇪

Commemorates the date in 1990 when East and West Germany were reunited as one country.

##### ■ Tangun Day / National Foundation Day (SOUTH KOREA) 🇰🇷

Observes when the legendary Tangun, founder of the nation, established his kingdom of Chosun in 2333 BC.

#### WEDNESDAY 10/4

##### ■ Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (CHRISTIAN) †

St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, was born in 1182 at Assisi. He abandoned his dream of becoming a knight, donned the clothes of a poor farmhand and began caring for the sick. He founded the Franciscan Order which today has about 33,000 members. He died on October 3, 1226.



Week 2



SUNDAY 10/8

■ International Lesbian Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

A day for lesbians of the world to come together to celebrate lesbian history, diversity, and culture. Gives an opportunity for women, families, and friends to connect, celebrate, and raise awareness about the importance of community.

SUNDAY 10/8\*

■ Simchat Torah (JEWISH) ✨ 📖

Means “rejoicing in the Torah” and immediately follows Sukkot. It celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Torah. Begins at sundown the previous day.

*\*Begins evening of Saturday 10/7*



MONDAY 10/9

■ Hangul Day (SOUTH KOREA) 🇰🇷

Celebrates the invention of the 24-letter phonetic Korean alphabet, Hangul, in 1446 under the direction of King Sejong of the Yi dynasty.

■ Indigenous People’s Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Indigenous Peoples’ Day is a holiday that celebrates and honor the Indigenous peoples of America and commemorates their shared history and culture.

TUESDAY 10/10

■ Double Tenth Day (TAIWAN) 🇹🇼

A commemoration of the proclamation of the Chinese republic in 1911.

WEDNESDAY 10/11

■ U.S. General Pulaski Memorial Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Commemorates the death of the Polish count, who was a hero of the American Revolution.

■ National Coming Out Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Celebrates coming out as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and pushes for environments in which people can safely come out.

THURSDAY 10/12

■ Nossa Senhora de Aparecida (BRAZIL) 🇧🇷

Celebrates Brazil’s patron saint, the Virgin Mary Aparecida.

Week 3



SUNDAY 10/15—TUESDAY 10/24

■ Navaratri (HINDU) 🕉️ 📖

An annual Hindu festival observed in honor of the goddess Durga, spanning nine nights.

MONDAY 10/16\*

■ Birth of the Bab (BAHÁ’Í) ✨

Remembers the 1819 birth of Siyyid Ali Muhammad, who took the title of “the Bab” and is recognized as prophetherald of the faith.

*\*Begins at sundown the previous day.*

WEDNESDAY 10/18

■ International Pronouns Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.

FRIDAY 10/20—TUESDAY 10/24

■ Durga Puja (HINDU) 🕉️ 📖 🎉

This festival reveres and pays homage to the Hindu goddess, Durga. It marks victory of Goddess Durga in her battle against a demon, Mahishasura. It also marks celebration of women power. Festival includes worship of the Goddess, performance arts, revelry, gift giving, family visits, feasting, and public processions, etc.

Week 4



MONDAY 10/23

■ Chulalongkorn Day (THAILAND) 🇹🇭

Commemorates the 1910 death of the king who abolished slavery in the 1800s.

■ Double Ninth Festival (CHINA, TAIWAN) 🇨🇳 🇹🇼

A day on which families visit the graves of their ancestors.

TUESDAY 10/24

■ Vijayadashami/Dussehra (HINDU) 🇮🇳 🇮🇳 🇮🇳

Is a major Hindu festival. It is celebrated for victory of Lord Ram over Ravana, victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura. It includes processions, feasting and gifting. Also demon Ravana statue is burnt that symbolizes victory over evil.

THURSDAY 10/26

■ Day of the Deployed (U.S.) 🇺🇸

Honors our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and sacrifices for our country. Supporters of the military can provide care packages, messages of encouragement, and other morale-boosting actions for those currently deployed overseas and the military families of the deployed.

■ Intersex Awareness Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Marks the fight for the rights and recognition intersex people deserve. Seeks to raise awareness about intersex individuals and their needs, as well as the medical harm, stigma, and isolation intersex people have experienced.

SATURDAY 10/28

■ Ohi Day (GREECE) 🇬🇷

Also known as Oxi Day or Ochi Day, commemorated by Greeks in remembrance of the moment when the prime minister of Greece refused to let the Italian troops enter Greece's border on October 28, 1940 during the Greco-Italian War. Oxi means "No!" in Greek.



Week 5



SUNDAY 10/29

■ Cumhuriyet Bayrami / Republic Day (TURKEY) 🇹🇷

Anniversary of the 1923 founding of the republic.

TUESDAY 10/31

■ Halloween (U.S., CANADA) 🇺🇸 🇨🇦

Originated as a Celtic festival marking the day that souls revisited the earth. Aspects of this tradition later integrated with the Christian holiday of All Hallows' Eve, which occurs the night before All Saints' (Hallows') Day.

■ Reformation Day (CHRISTIAN, PROTESTANT) †

Commemorates the date in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses (propositions) to the door of Wittenberg's Palace Church, which led to the establishment of the Protestant denominations of Christianity.

TUESDAY 10/31—WEDNESDAY 11/1

■ Karva Chauth (HINDU) 🇮🇳 🇮🇳 🇮🇳

A fast honoring the god Shiva and goddess Parvati. It is given special consideration by Hindu women to ensure the welfare, prosperity and longevity of their husbands.

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# NOVEMBER 2023

## National Veteran and Military Families Month

This month was established in 1996 as a time to acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices military families make, such as contending with separation from their families and making adjustments to new living situations and communities. This month honors the strength, resilience, and courage.

## National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

A time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people, as well as an opportunity to educate the general public about tribes, raise awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.



**KEY:** ■ INDEPENDENCE DAYS ■ REGIONAL AND CULTURAL HOLIDAYS ■ RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS  
 ★ U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY † DIETARY CONSIDERATION 📅 MULTIPLE DAYS Ⓢ SCHEDULE CONSIDERATION



Week 1

### WEDNESDAY 11/1

#### ■ All Saints' Day (CHRISTIAN) †

A festival of all known and unknown Christian saints.

#### ■ Dia de Muertos / Day of the Dead (MEXICO) 🇲🇽 📅

A celebration that blends the Christian and Aztec traditions. Departed souls are remembered with a spirit of friendliness and good humor instead of mourning.

#### ■ Revolution Day (ALGERIA) 🇩🇿

Commemorates the beginning of the revolution against the French in 1954, which led to independence in 1962.

#### ■ Samhain (PAGAN, WICCAN) 🌙 🌑 📅

Marking the end of the harvest and remembering the dead.

*\*Begins the evening of 10/31*

### THURSDAY 11/2

#### ■ All Souls' Day (CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC) †

A day to remember the dead.

#### ■ Dzyady / Remembrance Day (BELARUS) 🇧🇪

An age-old Belarussian tradition originating out of Pagan times and later adopted into Christianity. A special plate and glass is set at dinner in remembrance of deceased relatives.

### FRIDAY 11/3

#### ■ Independence Day (PANAMA) 🇵🇦

One of two independence day celebrations this month. This one honors independence from Colombia in 1903.

#### ■ Bunka-no-Hi / Culture Day (JAPAN) 🇯🇵

A holiday to promote the love of freedom, peace and cultural development.

#### ■ Separation Day (PANAMA) 🇵🇦

Honors independence from Spain in 1921.



Week 2

MONDAY 11/6

■ Constitution Day (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) 🇩🇪

Marks approval of the constitution in 1966.

WEDNESDAY 11/8

■ Intersex Day of Remembrance (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Also known as Intersex Day of Solidarity. Highlights the continued need to advocate for the right to be biologically different and seeks to provide necessary education. Marks the birth of Herculine Barbin, a French intersex person whose memoirs were later published.

THURSDAY 11/9

■ Independence Day (CAMBODIA) 🇰🇲

Observes the independence from French rule in 1953.

SATURDAY 11/11

■ Independence Day (POLAND) 🇵🇱

Commemorates the restoration of independence in 1918.

■ Veterans Day (U.S.) 🇺🇸 ★

Formerly known as Armistice Day, honors those who served in all the country's wars.



Week 3

SUNDAY 11/12

■ Bandi Chhor Divas (SIKH) 🙏

Commemorates the sixth Guru of Sikhs. Celebrated by the lighting up of homes and celebratory processions. Often overlaps with Hindu Diwali.

■ Diwali (HINDU) 🕯️ 📅 🇮🇳

Although there are multiple days, Lakshmi-pujan is the most celebrated one. Festival of lights marking the beginning of the New Year and one of the most important festivals. Lights, bonfires, and fireworks welcome gods, ancestors, family and friends.

MONDAY 11/13—SUNDAY 11/19

■ Transgender Awareness Week 📅

Meant to raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face. Goal is to educate the community about who transgender people are, share their stories and experiences, and advance advocacy around issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that affect the transgender community. Culminates with the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

TUESDAY 11/14

■ Children's Day (INDIA) 🇮🇳

Honors all children and commemorates the 1889 birth of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first premier of India.

WEDNESDAY 11/15

■ Proclamation of the Republic Day (BRAZIL) 🇧🇷

Commemorates the 1889 proclamation that deposed Emperor Dom Pedro II and instituted a republic.

■ Shichi-Go-San / Seven-Five-Three Festival (JAPAN) 🇯🇵

An ancient celebration that marks the special ages of seven, five and three.

SATURDAY 11/18

■ Fete de l'Independence / Independence Day (MOROCCO) 🇲🇦

Commemorates independence from France in 1956, after a protracted struggle.

Week 5



SUNDAY 11/19

■ **Discovery Day (PUERTO RICO)** 🇵🇷

Celebrates the day Christopher Columbus found Puerto Rico on his second voyage to the New World in 1493.

MONDAY 11/20

■ **Revolution Day (MEXICO)** 🇲🇷

Commemorates the revolution of 1910, when the common people revolted against poverty and dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz. The revolution, led by Francisco Indalecio Madero, culminated in the Constitution of 1917.

■ **Transgender Day of Remembrance (INTERNATIONAL)** 🌐

Founded by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence that year and began this annual world-wide observance. Vigils are held yearly to honor the lives of those lost to anti-transgender violence, often involving reading a list of the names of those who died that year.

WEDNESDAY 11/22

■ **Independence Day (LEBANON)** 🇱🇸

Commemorates the declaration of independence from France on this day in 1943.

THURSDAY 11/23

■ **Kinro Kansha-no-Hi / Labor Thanksgiving Day (JAPAN)** 🇯🇵

A holiday to honor working people and productivity.

■ **National Day of Mourning (U.S.)** 🇺🇸

An annual observance that aims to honor Native American heritage in the United States, dispel myths surrounding the Thanksgiving story in the United States, and raise awareness toward historical and ongoing struggles facing Native American tribes.

■ **Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)** 🇺🇸 ★

An Inova-recognized holiday intended to give thanks and celebrate the bounty of the fall harvest season.

Week 6



SUNDAY 11/26

■ **Guru Nanak's Birthday (SIKH)** ☞

Commemorates the 1469 birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of the religion. Elements of both Hinduism and Islam influenced the doctrinal base of Sikhism as laid down by Guru Nanak and developed the continuous line of nine spiritual leaders who followed him. During the "Age of the Gurus" (1469-1708), the religious movement acquired an identity of its own.

MONDAY 11/27

■ **Bonifacio Day (PHILIPPINES)** 🇵🇭

Commemorates the birth in 1863 of Andres Bonifacio, leader of the 1896 revolt against Spain.

TUESDAY 11/28

■ **Independence Day (ALBANIA)** 🇲🇸

Marks both the 1912 declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire and the country's liberation from the Nazis in 1945.

THURSDAY 11/30

■ **St. Andrew's Day (SCOTLAND)** ☒

Commemorates the life of the patron saint of Scotland.



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# DECEMBER 2023

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Week 1

## FRIDAY 12/1

### ■ Great Union Day (ROMANIA) 🇷🇴

Marks the unification of Romania and Transylvania in 1918 and the 1989 overthrow of the communist regime.

### ■ World AIDS Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Designated by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to increase awareness and education of AIDS.



Week 2

## SUNDAY 12/3

### ■ International Day of Persons with Disabilities (U.N.) 🇺🇸

Promotes the continuing integration of disabled persons into general society.

## SUNDAY 12/3—SUNDAY 12/24

### ■ Advent (CHRISTIAN) † 📅

The four Sundays of Advent are a preparation for Christmas. The first Sunday is the beginning of the liturgical year.

## WEDNESDAY 12/6

### ■ Spanish Constitution Day (SPAIN) 🇪🇸

Marks the approval of the Spanish Constitution by the Spanish People in 1978.

### ■ St. Nicholas Day (INTERNATIONAL) 🌐

Celebrates the life of St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop from what is now Turkey, known for his good deeds. In many European countries, families exchange gifts on this day rather than on Christmas.

## THURSDAY 12/7

### ■ Earthquake Victims' Memorial Day (ARMENIA) 🇷🇺

Commemorates the 1988 earthquake, which killed 60,000 people and left thousands homeless.

## THURSDAY 12/7—FRIDAY 12/15

### ■ Hanukkah (JEWISH) ✨ 📅

A Jewish festival of eight nights, to commemorate how long the holy light burned. Reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by lighting candles on each day of the festival.

## FRIDAY 12/8

### ■ Bodhi Day (BUDDHIST) ✨

Celebrates the day that Gautama Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment.



Week 3

**SUNDAY 12/10**

■ **Human Rights Day (U.N.)** 🇺🇸

Established in 1948 by the U.N. to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**TUESDAY 12/12**

■ **Jamhuri / Independence Day (KENYA)** 🇰🇪

A celebration of Independence from Britain in 1963.

■ **Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (MEXICO)** 🇲🇪

Commemorates the day the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 and instructed him to take roses to the local bishop. The church had refused Diego's request to build a shrine in the Virgin's honor because it did not believe the Virgin would appear to a simple native. Upon seeing the roses in the dead of winter, the bishop conceded.

**WEDNESDAY 12/13**

■ **Luciadagen / Santa Lucia Day (NORWAY, FINLAND)** 🇳🇴 🇫🇮

In Scandinavia, the start of the Christmas season. Honors the third- or fourth-century saint, known as the Queen of Light. In Sweden, the start of the Christmas season. The eldest daughter of the household dresses in white, adorns her head with a wreath of burning candles, and offers coffee and sweets to the family.

**FRIDAY 12/15**

■ **Bill of Rights Day (U.S.)** 🇺🇸

Commemorates the ratification in 1791 of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

**SATURDAY 12/16**

■ **Victory Day (BANGLADESH)** 🇧🇩

Signifies independence after a nine-month liberation war against Pakistan in 1971.



Week 4

**THURSDAY 12/21**

■ **Yule (PAGAN, WICCAN)** 🌙 🌿 📺

A Pagan and Wiccan holiday that begins at sundown at the winter solstice. Celebrated on the shortest day of the year.



Week 5

**MONDAY 12/25**

■ **Christmas (CHRISTIAN)** † ★

Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term Christmas ("mass on Christ's day") is of fairly recent origin. The secular holiday is often devoid of Christian elements, with the figure Santa Claus playing the pivotal role.

**TUESDAY 12/26**

■ **Kwanzaa (U.S., AFRICAN AMERICAN)** 🇺🇸 📺

An annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26th through January 1st, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa, including West and Southeast Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.



# THANK YOU!

Inova Health System would like to thank the METIS (Multicultural Engagement Through Inclusion & Support) and Interfaith Unity Council TMRGs (Team Member Resource Groups) for their work on this calendar.

We honor this as a working document. Our intention with this calendar is to capture the diversity of holidays, celebrations, and remembrances recognized by our diverse team. We welcome the evolution of this calendar over time, in partnership with the feedback from our team members. If you have any edits or suggestions, please email [InclusionCouncil@Inova.org](mailto:InclusionCouncil@Inova.org).