



## **EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR**

### **JUNE – 2022**

#### **MONTH LONG OBSERVANCES:**

- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Month**  
Established to recognize the impact that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on the world. LGBTQ+ groups note this time with Pride parades, picnics, parties, and memorials for those lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS, and other group gatherings. The last Sunday in June is LGBTQ+ Pride Day.
  
- **Immigrant Heritage Month**  
Established in June 2014. It gives people across the United States an opportunity to explore their heritages and celebrate the shared diversity that forms the unique story of the United States. It celebrates immigrants across the United States and their contributions to their local communities and economy.
  
- **National Indigenous History Month**  
June is National Indigenous History Month as declared by the Canadian Parliament in 2009. It is a fitting tribute to the heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities across Canada. Indigenous History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future.
  
- **National Caribbean American Heritage Month**  
Proclaimed in May 2011 by the U.S. President. It commemorates a time to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans.
  
- **Black Music Month**  
African American Music Appreciation Month! Created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, this month celebrates the African American musical influences that comprise an essential part of treasured cultural heritage.

**June 1: Gawai Dayak** (Malaysia)

This day marks the traditional rice harvest. Rituals are performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for a better harvest during the next planting season. It is an open house for friends and relatives with celebrations usually lasting three days.

**June 1 – 3: Red Earth Fair**

Cultural festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from the U.S. and Canada gather in downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.

**June 2: Indian Citizenship Act of 1924**

Granted the right of citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. However, the right to vote was not granted until 1957.

**June 2: Ascension** (Christian and Eastern Orthodox)

This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

**June 3: Dragon Boat Festival** (China, Hong Kong)

This day honours the patriot poet Chu Yuan who drowned himself in the Milo River, south of China in protest of the political injustice in 277 BC. The villagers raced to the river and jumped into dragon boats but never found him. As they searched, they beat drums to scare off fish and dragons that might attack his mortal remains. It is a holiday celebrated by boat races in the shape of dragons.

**June 5: Pentecost** (Christian)

The celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments by God at Mount Sinai. The Christian holiday of Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day from Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

**June 5: World Environment Day**

The 2022 World Environment Day campaign #OnlyOneEarth calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate protect and restore our planet. World Environment Day 2022 will be held under the theme Only One Earth, highlighting the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes – through policies and our choices – towards cleaner, greener lifestyles.

**June 5 – 6: Shavuot**

Alternatively, Shavuot in some Ashkenazi usage, commonly known in English as the Feast of Weeks, is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan. In the Bible, Shavuot marked the wheat harvest in the Land of Israel. A Jewish holiday that has double significance. It marks the wheat harvest in Israel and

commemorates the anniversary of the day when the Jews received the Torah at Mount Sinai.

**June 6: Whit Monday**

Or Pentecost Monday, is a Christian holiday. It is the day after Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday or Whitsunday, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the disciples of Jesus Christ, according to the New Testament of the Bible.

**June 8: Race Unity Day**

Also known as Race Amity Day. A day that promotes racial harmony and understanding in the Baha'i faith.

**June 10 - June 12: National Puerto Rican Day**

Holds events associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, chiefly in New York City, but now recognized in various other U.S. locations. The parade, held on the second Sunday in June, starts on Fifth Avenue on 44th Street and goes up to 86th Street. It continues to have tremendous attendance, now more than ever due to Puerto Rican Supreme Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor, an influential figure who grew up in the projects in the Bronx. Judge Sotomayor managed to attend Princeton and Yale, going on to become one of the most successful Hispanic women to date in the judicial field in the U.S. Held chiefly in New York City, but now recognized in various other U.S. locations.

**June 11: Trooping the Colour (UK, England)**

The official birthday of the Queen is marked each year by a colourful and historic military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour. It takes place in June on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, England.

**June 12: National Children's Day**

Celebrated annually the day honours the children in our lives, National Children's Day is a time to slow down our fast-paced lives, turn off the tech, and refocus on the important things. Taking one day may not be enough, but using it as an opportunity to redirect our family's focus and bonding can be an important step in a child's life.

**June 12: Loving Day**

Anniversary of a historic court decision for interracial marriage.

**June 12: Trinity Sunday**

Observed in the Western Christian faith as a feast in honour of the Holy Trinity.

**June 12: Puerto Rican Day Parade**

The parade is held on the second Sunday in June, in honor of the 3.2 million inhabitants of Puerto Rico and all people of Puerto Rican birth or heritage residing on the U.S. mainland.

**June 12: Odunde Festival**

This one-day festival is mostly a day of showing the African diaspora derived from the tradition of the Yoruba people of Nigeria in celebration of the new year. The Odunde festival started in Philadelphia in 1975. Lois Fernandez established the festival with \$100 from neighborhood donations. The celebration is now the largest African celebration on the east coast of the United States. It is held in the month of June. The festival brings in Africans from all parts of the world, including Africa, Brazil, and other places around the United States. According to WXPB, "... beginning with an all-inclusive spiritual procession to the Schuylkill River, the festival carries on from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., filling the day with vibrant traditional clothing, African food, and art and craft vendors from around the world.

**June 13: International Albinism Awareness Day**

The International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) is celebrated annually on June 13 to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide. Each year events are held to educate people and celebrate people with albinism who continue to suffer all types of human rights violations.

**June 14: Flag Day**

In the United States, observed to celebrate the history and symbolism of the American flag.

**June 15: Native American Citizenship Day**

Commemorating the day in 1924 when the U.S. Congress passed legislation recognizing the Citizenship of Native Americans.

**June 15: St. Vladimir Day**

A Roman Catholic feast celebrating St. Vladimir.

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**June 16: Corpus Christi**

A Catholic holiday celebrating the presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

**June 16: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan (Sikh)**

Observed by members of the Sikh faith. Guru Arjan Dev was the fifth Guru (1563 - 1606) and the first Sikh martyr executed 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.

**June 16: Matariki (Indigenous/Maori, New Zealand)**

When the star cluster Matariki (Pleiades) appears in the dawn sky, Maori New Year starts. It is a time for connecting with, and giving thanks to the land, sea and sky, for

the community to come together to farewell the dead and to begin planning for the coming year.

### **June 17 - 18: Tisha B'Av**

An annual fast day in Judaism, named for the ninth day (Tisha) of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar, and usually is in July or August. The fast commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem, which occurred about 655 years apart, but on the same Hebrew calendar date. Tisha B'Av is never observed on Shabbat. If the ninth of Av falls on a Saturday, the fast is postponed until the 10th of Av. Although this holiday is primarily meant to commemorate the destruction of the Temple, it is appropriate to consider, on this day, the many other tragedies of the Jewish people, many of which occurred on this day, most notably the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and from England in 1290.

### **June 19: Juneteenth**

Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, was established as a federal holiday in June 2021. This celebration honors the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas and Louisiana finally heard they were free, two months after the end of the Civil War. June 19, therefore, became the day of emancipation for thousands of African Americans.

### **June 19: New Church Day**

According to Christian belief, on this day the Lord called together the twelve disciples who had followed him on Earth, instructed them in the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem, and sent them out to teach that "the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns, whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages." This was the beginning of the New Christian Church.

### **June 19: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**

The Day offers a chance to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims. In 2015, the United Nations proclaimed June 19 as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, aiming to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world, and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.

### **June 19 – 24: Les Fogueres de Saint Joan ("Bonfires of Saint John")**

A Spanish festival dedicated to fire. It includes events such as the proclamation (The Pregón), the setting up of the bonfires (the Plantà), the procession of the effigies (Cabalgata del Ninot), and parades and processions in different neighborhoods of Alicante in Spain. The main event on 24 June is the feast day of Saint John Baptist, when large satirical statues made of cardboard and wood are set alight. Many churches will present a statue of Mary on the altar and then have a procession on the streets that are filled with music, dance and a feast of local delicacies. You may even hear fireworks in either the day or the evening.

**June 19: Father's Day** (Canada, UK, USA)

The origins of the day to honour fathers began in 1910, when Louise Dodd of Spokane, Washington, suggested to her minister that a day be set aside. Her own father was a Civil War veteran who raised his six children on the family farm after his wife died in childbirth. Interest in the day grew and in 1966, a presidential proclamation established Father's Day as the third Sunday in June.

**June 20: World Refugee Day**

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

**June 20: Litha** (Wicca)

Litha falls on the summer solstice. The Latin word solstice means 'the sun stood still'. Wiccans celebrate the Sun at the height of its power for providing good harvests. The summer solstice celebrated by Wiccans and Pagans. It is the longest day of the year, representing the sun's "annual retreat."

**June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day or First Nations Day**

A day that gives recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization in Canada. A holiday formally known as National Aboriginal Day (renamed in June 2017 to National Indigenous People's Day). National Aboriginal Day was first celebrated in 1996, after then Governor General of Canada Romeo LeBlanc, to be celebrated annually on June 21, proclaimed it that year. This date was chosen as the statutory holiday for many reasons, including its cultural significance as the Summer solstice, and the fact that it is a day on which many indigenous peoples and communities traditionally celebrate their heritage.

**June 23: International Widows Day**

An annual global awareness day launched by the United Nations in 2010 to raise awareness of the violation of human rights that widows suffer in many countries, following the death of their spouses. This day is also an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows -- too long invisible, uncounted, and ignored.

**June 24: Inti Raymi** (Peru)

Celebrated in Cusco and is the second biggest festival in Latin America. This Inca festival celebrates the winter solstice, where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honoured.

**June 24: Dia de San Juan** (Puerto Rico)

Commemorates the island's patron saint, St. John the Baptist. People gather at the beaches in the afternoon. Then at midnight, they jump into the ocean backwards three times to symbolize baptism, immersion and new life.

**June 24: Feast of the Most Sacred Heart**

A solemnity in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church.

**June 24: St. Jean Baptiste Day**

The patron saint of French-Canadians in Quebec. It is a national holiday and there are parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday. Originated from celebrations of the summer solstice, an ancient pagan tradition in which fires were lit to celebrate light on the longest day of the year. In France, the Roman Catholic Church adapted this holiday and associated it with John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus.

**June 26: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Day**

Communities celebrate Pride events across Canada and the United States on different dates during June through to early August. There is a Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia annually in February/March. During this time, people find that they are not alone and can take pride in the community's history. The most significant date in LGBT history occurring in June was the 3-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, an event that marked the first time the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. The anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the nationally proclaimed month to celebrate LGBT Pride.

**June 27: Canadian Multiculturalism Day**

The Government of Canada officially recognized June 27 as Canadian Multiculturalism Day on November 13, 2002. This day acknowledges the contributions that various communities make to Canadian society and to celebrate the country's richness and diversity.

**June 27: Birthday of Helen Keller**

Helen Adams Keller was an American author, disability rights advocate, political activist and lecturer. Born in West Tusculum, Alabama, she lost her sight and her hearing after a bout of illness at the age of 19 months. A pioneer in advocating for those with disabilities.

**June 28: Stonewall Rebellion Day**

Commemorates the U. S. anniversary of the protest against police harassment in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1969. A Pride Parade has commemorated the event each year in New York City on the last Sunday in June. Events and Pride Parades are held in many metropolitan cities throughout the USA and Canada.

**June 29: Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul**

A liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome for the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

**June 29 – July 3: Gahambar Maidyoshem (Zoroastrian)**

This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.