



EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR

AUGUST – 2022

MONTH LONG OBSERVANCES:

➤ **National Civility Month**

People being civil to other people is what makes the world a whole lot better and is the key focus of National Civility Month, which is held in August each year. This holiday was founded to help the world remember to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves — with kindness, empathy, and respect.

August 1: Lammas

A festival to mark the annual wheat harvest within some English-speaking countries in the Northern Hemisphere

August 1: Emancipation Day

The day when the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 became law across the British Empire, including Canada on August 1st, 1834. On this day, the practice of slavery officially ended for millions of African people and their descendants in Canada and around the world.

August 1: Fast in Honour of Holy Mother of Jesus

Fast in Honour of Holy Mother of Jesus, beginning of the fourteen-day period of preparation for Orthodox Christians leading up to the Dormition of the Virgin Mary

August 2: Lughnasadh

A Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season. It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain in August.

August 2: Ilinden

Commemorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army on August 2, 1903 on Ilinden or St. Elijah's Day.

August 5 – 6: Tisha B'Av

A fast in commemoration of the destruction of two holy and sacred temples of Judaism destroyed by the Babylonians (in 586 BCE) and Romans (in 70 CE). At the Tisha B'Av, after select passages from the Torah are read and understood, netilat yadayim, or the washing of the hands, is performed.

August 6: Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast of the Transfiguration)

Celebrated by various Christian denominations, the feast day is dedicated to the transfiguration of Jesus.

August 6: Hiroshima Day

This solemn day commemorates the day that United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on this day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.

August 7: Tish'a B'Av

Jews mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 B.C. E. and 70 C. E. It is a day of mourning and fasting.

August 7 and 8: Ashura

An Islamic holiday commemorating the day Noah left the ark and the day Allah saved Moses from the Egyptians. For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.

August 8 – 17: Fravardeghan

Fravardeghan lasts ten days in preparation for Now Ruz for those who follow the Shenshai calendar. Ancestors are memorialized during this time.

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People

In 1994, the UN General Assembly declared that August 9 would be International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The UN stated that on this day "people from around the world are encouraged to spread the UN's message on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples".

August 11: Raksha Bandhan

A Hindu holiday commemorating the loving kinship between a brother and sister. "Raksha" means "protection" in Hindi and symbolizes the longing a sister has to be protected by her brother. During the celebration, a sister ties a string around her brother's (or brother-figure's) wrist and asks him to protect her. The brother usually gives the sister a gift and agrees to protect her for life.

August 12: Obon

A Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. This Buddhist–Confucian custom has evolved into a family reunion holiday during which people return to ancestral family places and visit and clean their ancestors' graves when the spirits of ancestors are supposed to revisit the household altars. It has been celebrated in Japan for more than 500 years and traditionally includes a dance, known as Bon Odori.

August 12: International Youth Day

To observe International Youth Day, various activities like concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings are organized by schools and other educational institutions to engage the youth and in order to bring their voices, actions, and initiatives to the mainstream. The theme for 2022 International Youth Day - focuses on 'building a better world for our children'.

August 12: Hungry Ghost Festival

A Chinese holiday in which street, market, and temple ceremonies take place to honor dead ancestors and appease other spirits. The Hungry Ghost Festival is one of the most important traditional festivals in China. Taoists or Yulanpen Festival by Buddhists also names it Zhongyuan Festival. Chinese believed the spirits of the ancestors would wander the living realm during the period, thus they can feed the dead to appease them. Chinese prepare food offerings and burn Joss papers etc. to honor their ancestors.

August 13: Black Women's Equal Pay Day

The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Black women and White men. Black women are paid 62 cents for every dollar paid to White men.

August 13 – 15: Obon

A Buddhist festival and Japanese custom that honors the spirits of ancestors

August 15: Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

According to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy, as well as parts of Anglicanism, the day commemorates the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos

A Great Feast of the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Eastern Catholic Churches that commemorates the "falling asleep," or death, of Mary the Theotokos ("Mother of God") and her bodily resurrection before ascending into heaven

August 17: Marcus Garvey Day

Celebrates the birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist who is revered by Rastafarians. Garvey is credited with starting the Back to Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to the land of their ancestors during and after slavery in North America.

August 18 – 19: Krishna Janmashtami

A Hindu celebration of Lord Vishnu's most powerful human incarnations, Krishna, the god of love and compassion. Celebrations include praying and fasting. Also known simply as Janmashtami or Gokulashtami is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. According to the Hindu lunisolar calendar, it is observed on the eighth tithi of the Krishna Paksha in Bhadrapada Masa.

August 18: Now Ruz

Means 'new day' and is celebrated by Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar and by all Ismaili Muslims around the world. The New Year celebrates the creation of fire on this day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.

August 19: Janmashtami

Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kasna. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, and then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder's daughter for his safety.

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is an international day dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes.

August 21: Khordad Sal

Birth anniversary (or birth date) of Prophet Zoroaster, a spiritual leader and ethical philosopher who taught a spiritual philosophy of self-realization and realization of the divine. Zoroastrians celebrate this day with prayer and feasting.

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

The anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean

August 24: Paryushana Parvarambha

A Jain festival lasting eight to ten days that is observed through meditation and fasting. It focuses on spiritual upliftment, pursuit of salvation, and a deeper understanding of the religion.

August 24: Birth of Prophet Zarathustra (Shenshai)

The founder of the Zoroastrian religion, dating back to sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE. He lived in Persia, modern day Iran. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of various Persian empires, until the 7th Century CE. When Arabs, followers of Islam, invaded Persia in 650 CE, a small number of Zoroastrians fled to India where most are concentrated today.

August 25 – September 1: Paryushana-Parva

Celebrated for eight days, it is the holiest time of the year and is marked by fasting and worship of the 24 realized teachers of the Jain faith known as Tirthankaras or Jinas.

August 26: Women's Equality Day

Commemorates the August 26, 1920, certification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Congresswoman Bella Abzug first introduced a proclamation for Women's Equality Day in 1971. Since that time, every US president has published a proclamation recognizing August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

August 27: Notting Hill Festival

Held during the last weekend in August. This is a West Indian Street carnival with floats, bands and stalls in England. It began in 1964 with the focus on deterring racism toward Caribbean and other Black immigrants and bringing together the people of the Notting Hill area.

August 30: Al-Hijri

This holiday marks the start of the New Year in the Muslim faith. It begins the prior evening.

August 30: St. Rosa of Lima

Commemorates a Peruvian saint who lived in Lima. Her home is now a pilgrimage site, where every 30th of August, people come to pray and throw coins, messages and icons into a water well near her home.

August 31: Ganesh Chaturthi

A Hindu holiday lasting approximately ten days, in which the elephant-headed Hindu god is praised and given offerings. He is known as the 'remover of all obstacles' and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.