



EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER – 2022

MONTH LONG OBSERVANCES:

- **Hispanic Heritage Month**
Observed from September 15 to October 15. This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.

- **National Recovery Month**
This month helps to educate all Americans on treatment and mental health services for those with substance use disorder.

September 1: Samvatsari (Jain)

Dedicated to introspection, confession and penance, especially for the Shvetambara sect.

September 1: Dashalakshani-Parva (Jain)

Celebrated by the Digambara sect and lasts ten days, each day dedicated to a virtue: humility, honesty, purity, forgiveness, truthfulness, self-restraint, asceticism, study, celibacy and detachment.

September 3: Red Earth Native American Fair (Indigenous, USA)

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.

September 5: Labour Day

Labor Day honors the contribution that workers have made to the country and is observed on the first Monday of September.

September 5: International Day of Charity

An international day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. The prime purpose of the International Day of Charity is to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over the world for individuals, charitable, philanthropic and volunteer organizations for their own purposes on the local, national, regional and international level.

September 7: Onam (India)

A Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home and during this time.

September 9: Ananta-Chaturdasi (Jain)

Festival of Ten Virtues is a ten-day fast and meditation for the Jains.

September 10: Harvest Moon Festival (China, Hong Kong, Taiwan)

Celebrated with family reunions, moon gazing and eating of moon cakes. In Vietnam, it is called "Trung Thu". On that night children form a procession and travel through the streets with bright lanterns, singing and dancing to the beat of drums. In Korea, it is called "Chusok". It is observed by paying homage to ancestors and expressing gratitude for rich crops.

September 10: Ksamavani (Jain)

The day of universal forgiveness for wrongs committed by them and to them.

September 11: Beheading of St. John the Baptist

A holy day observed by various Christian churches that follow liturgical traditions. The day commemorates the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, who was beheaded on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his stepdaughter, Salome, and her mother.

September 11: Ethiopian New Year

Rastafarians celebrate the New Year on this date and believe that Ethiopia is their spiritual home.

September 11: Day of Remembrance (US)

The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001 impacted Americans and most other nations and has brought us to focus on the devastation terrorism has caused in the world.

September 11: Meskerem (Ethiopia)

The New Year – Coptic Orthodox Christians are found in all of Africa. They include Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia. During the time of Pharaohs 4,000 years ago the appearance of Soothis (Dog Star) marked the signal that the Nile River would rise,

flooding the fertile plains so that planting could begin. The end of the rainy season became known as the New Year.

September 12 – 16: Gahambar Paitishahem (Zoroastrian)

This day celebrates the creation of earth.

September 15: International Day of Democracy

International Day of Democracy allows us the opportunity to celebrate and appreciate our democratic society. It is very easy for people who live in a free society to take their freedoms for granted. Yet, when freedom is absent, life includes unimaginable challenges that are often incomprehensible. Reflect on the history of democracy around the world, thank those who influenced the development of our government, and look for opportunities to promote and protect our own nation's democracy. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution in 2007 that September 15 of each year would be observed as the International Day of Democracy. Their goal for this day is to promote government's role in maintaining open democracy among all member nations of the UN Charter and to celebrate the system of values democracy promotes, giving citizens the power to make decisions regarding all aspects of their lives.

September 16: Mexican Independence Day

Mexico is the best place to be on September 16, Mexican Independence Day. This fiesta-friendly holiday celebrates Mexico's declaration of independence from Spain in 1810, and it is filled with national pride, colorful parades, mariachi concerts, and food, food, and more Sabrosa food. People of Mexican heritage all over the world commemorate this important event in their country's history when a brave priest in the village of Dolores rang his church bell and delivered a powerful speech that set the War of Independence from Spain in motion. Even the President of Mexico participates by ringing that same bell — now over 200 years old — live on TV the night before the big celebration.

September 17: Oktoberfest (Germany)

Originally, it was meant to be just a simple horse race event but the Bavarian character quickly took over and it became a happy gathering of cheerful beer drinkers. The Oktoberfest attracts approximately 7 million visitors each year and lasts for three weeks.

September 18: International Equal Pay Day

Celebrated for the first time in September 2020, the Equal Pay Day represents the long-standing efforts toward the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and its efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

September 18: National Women's Friendship Day

Created by women and for women – by the Kappa Delta Sorority in 1999. The objective of this day is to promote special friendship among women.

September 18 - 14: Gender Equality Week

Gender Equality Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the important contributions women and gender diverse communities have made to the growth, development, character and identity of Canada; to celebrate the significant achievements and accomplishments that we have made in advancing gender equality; and to reconfirm our commitment to address persistent gender equality gaps in our country.

September 19: Keiro No Hi (Japan)

Respect of the Aged Day was established as a national holiday in 1966 to express respect for the elders in the community and to recognize and thank them for their contributions to society and finally yet importantly, celebrate their long lives.

September 20: HeForShe (Women)

Initiated by the UN to promote gender equality.

September 20: Sukkot (Jewish)

The Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. Beginning at sunset on the first day, this 7-day festival celebrates the harvest and commemorates the Jews' passage through the wilderness. The Festival of Sukkot begins on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kippur. It is quite a drastic transition, from one of the most solemn holidays in their year to one of the most joyous. Sukkot is so unreservedly joyful that it is commonly referred to in Jewish prayer and literature as Z'man Simchateinu (in Hebrew), "the Season of our Rejoicing". No work is permitted on the first and second days of the holiday, but it is on the remaining days. Common observances include building and dwelling in both, or waving branches and a fruit during services.

September 21: International Day of Peace

2022 Theme: "End racism. Build peace". Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, the rough observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. However, achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race. As Secretary-General António Guterres has said: "Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. In addition, it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies, erodes the legitimacy of governments, and... the linkages between racism and gender inequality are unmistakable."

September 22: Ostara Mabon

A celebration of the vernal equinox commemorated by Pagans and Wiccans. Mabon is a pagan harvest festival, which is celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox each year – around September 21 through September 24. Also known as Harvest Home, this

holiday marks the middle of the harvest cycle – when both the days and nights are of equal length. It is a time to reap what you sow, a time to give thanks to Mother Earth for the bounty she provides and a time to rest after bringing in the crops. It is also the second holiday on the Wheel of the Year, which includes other harvest festivals such as Lammas and Samhain.

September 22: Autumnal Equinox

As summer moves into fall, the autumnal equinox is a time for various religious observances worldwide.

September 22: American Business Women's Day

A day set aside to honour and reflect on the contributions and accomplishments of the millions of women in the workforce and the millions of women business owners in the U.S.

September 23: Shuki sorei sai (Japan, Shinto)

On this Autumnal Equinox Day, the Japanese honour family ancestry, visiting ancestral graves and having family reunions.

September 23: Bi Visibility Day (Canada)

Bi Visibility Day, also known as International Celebrate Bisexuality Day, has been marked on September 23 each year since 1999 to highlight biphobia and to help people find the bisexual community.

September 23: Bisexual+ Awareness Week

In 2014, BiNet USA declared the days surrounding Celebrate Bisexuality Day to be Bi Awareness Week, also called Bisexual+ Awareness Week. The week begins on September 16 culminating on Celebrate Bisexual Day. According to co-founding organization GLADD, the goals of Bisexual+ Awareness Week include accelerating acceptance of the bisexual+ community, drawing attention to the experiences of this community and celebrating the resilience of the community. Both allies and bisexual+ individuals are encouraged to spend the week learning about the “history, culture, community, and current policy priorities of bi+ communities. Bisexual+ Awareness Week can also potentially be an important opportunity for bisexual+ individuals to help fight feelings of isolation, create more visibility for others who may be exploring their sexuality, meet other bisexual+ people and become an integral member of the bisexual community by coming out or sharing their personal experiences.

September 23: Chichen Itza Festival (Mexico)

During the Autumn Equinox, thousands gather at the Mayan Temple of Kukulcan to see the interplay of sun and shadow as it forms the impression of a long-tailed serpent leading downward to the stone head of the serpent Kukulcan.

September 24: Our Lady of Las Mercedes (Dominican Republic, Peru)

In Carhuaz, Peru, celebrations are held in honour of the virgin, with traditional processions, bands of musicians bullfights and fireworks. In the Dominican Republic, a procession is held at the site of the 16th century shrine of Our Lady of Las Mercedes, where Columbus fought a battle against the Indians and the Virgin Mary appeared to him.

September 24: Native American Day

A federal holiday observed annually on the fourth Friday in September in the state of California and Nevada and on the second Monday in October in South Dakota and Oklahoma, United States

September 25 – 27 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)

The Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world. Literally, “head of the Year” marks the first and second day of the Jewish New Year and the anniversary of the creation of the world. It ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur. It is celebrated with prayers and religious services.

September 26: European Day of Languages

Observed by the Council of Europe on 6 December 2001, at the end of the European Year of Languages, which had been jointly organized by the Council of Europe and the European Union. Its aim is to encourage language learning across Europe.

September 26 – October 5: Navratri

The nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Festival participants worship God in the form of the universal mother, commonly referred to as Durga, Devi, or Shakti, and the event marks the start of fall.

September 27: Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross)

In some Christian denominations, a day that commemorates the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus

September 27: Meskel

A religious holiday in the Ethiopian Orthodox and Eritrean Orthodox Churches that commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by the Roman Empress Helena in the fourth century

September 28: Fiesta San Miguel (Mexico)

The festival of the Archangel San Miguel is in honour of the Patron Saint of the city of San Miguel. Cultural, social, artistic and sporting events are held throughout the city, along with bullfights.

September 28: Teacher’s Day in Taiwan

This day is used to honor teachers’ contributions to their students and to society in general. People often express their gratitude to their teachers by paying them a visit or

sending them a card. The birth of Confucius, the model master educator in ancient China, is also commemorated on this date.

September 29: Michaelmas

Or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is a minor Christian festival dedicated to Archangel Michael that is observed in some Western liturgical calendars

September 30: San Geronimo Day (Indigenous, American)

Named after St. Jerome (1829 – 1909) an Apache fighter, this day is celebrated by the Native Americans in Taos Pueblo, New Mexico. Among the ceremonies are the morning races, the sacred clowns and the pole climb.

September 30: National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (Canada)

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, colloquially known as **Orange Shirt Day**, is a Canadian statutory holiday to recognize the legacy of the Canadian Indian residential school system. It recognizes the tragic legacy of residential schools, the missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of these institutions.