

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar August - 2023

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.

Day-Long Observances:

August 1st: Lammas

Lammas Day, also known as Loaf Mass Day, is a Christian holiday celebrated in some English-speaking countries in the Northern Hemisphere on 1 August. The name originates from the word "loaf" in reference to bread and "Mass" in reference to the Eucharist.

August 1st: 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 1st: 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 6th: Hiroshima Day

This solemn day commemorates the day that the United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima in 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 9th: International Day of the World's Indigenous People

In 1994, the UN General Assembly declared that August 9th would be International Day of 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 12th: Obon

Obon is a traditional Japanese Buddhist festival held in mid-August to honor deceased ancestors' spirits. Families clean and decorate gravesites and homes, welcoming back their loved ones' spirits. Lanterns guide the spirits, and the Bon Odori dance brings communities together to celebrate memories and strengthen bonds. Food offerings nourish the visiting spirits, and on the last day, lanterns are floated on rivers or coasts to bid farewell. Obon is a time of reflection, remembrance, and gratitude, fostering cultural unity and preserving Japan's rich traditions.

August 12th: International Youth Day

International Youth Day is an annual observance held on August 12th, designated by the United Nations to celebrate the contributions and potential of young people worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young individuals and promote their engagement in social, economic, and political spheres. International Youth Day encourages governments, organizations, and communities to take action in empowering youth, providing opportunities for education, employment, and leadership roles. It serves as a platform for young voices to be heard and for stakeholders to collaborate in creating a better future for the youth, acknowledging their vital role in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive world.

August 15th: National Acadian Day

National Acadian Day, also known as Acadian Day or Fête nationale des Acadiens et des Acadiennes, is an annual celebration held on August 15th to commemorate and honor the Acadian heritage, culture, and identity. The day is particularly significant for Acadian communities in Canada, especially in the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and parts of Quebec.

August 19th: World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is observed annually on August 19th to pay tribute to humanitarian workers who risk their lives to provide aid and support to those affected by crises and conflicts around the world. The day was designated by the United Nations to honor the sacrifices and dedication of individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to alleviate suffering and improve the lives of vulnerable populations. World Humanitarian Day also aims to raise awareness about humanitarian crises and the importance of international cooperation in responding to emergencies. It serves as a call to action for everyone to support and protect those who selflessly serve humanity in times of need, and to advocate for the safety and well-being of civilians caught in crises.

August 19th: International Homeless Animals Day

International Homeless Animals Day, observed on the third Saturday of August each year, is a global awareness campaign dedicated to raising consciousness about the plight of homeless animals. Organized by animal welfare organizations and advocates worldwide, the day aims to highlight the issues of pet overpopulation, animal abandonment, and the importance of pet adoption. Events and activities are held to promote responsible pet ownership, encourage spaying and neutering, and support animal shelters and rescue groups. International Homeless Animals Day serves as a reminder that there are millions of animals in need of loving homes and calls upon communities to work together to reduce the number of homeless pets and ensure their well-being.

August 21st: International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, observed on August 21st, honors and remembers innocent people affected by terrorist acts, promoting solidarity and support for victims and survivors globally.

August 21st: The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, observed on August 22nd, is a UN-designated day to honor and remember individuals and communities who have been subjected to violence and discrimination because of their religious beliefs. The day serves as a call to promote religious freedom, tolerance, and respect for diverse beliefs globally, fostering a world where everyone can coexist peacefully, free from persecution due to their faith or religion.

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

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, observed on August 23rd each year, commemorates the tragedies and lasting impact of the transatlantic slave trade. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the millions of Africans who were forcibly enslaved and transported under brutal conditions. It also honors the historical efforts to abolish the slave trade, promoting awareness and understanding of the importance of combating racism and promoting equality and human rights worldwide.

August 30th: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance

The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance, observed on August 30th, is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of individuals who have been forcibly disappeared or abducted against their will by state or non-state actors. It serves as a solemn reminder of the suffering endured by the victims and their families, and it emphasizes the need to prevent and investigate cases of enforced disappearance. This day calls for justice, accountability, and the protection of human rights, urging governments and communities to work together to address this grave human rights violation.

August 30th: Saint Rosa of Lima Day

St. Rosa of Lima Day, observed on August 30th, is a celebration in honor of Saint Rose of Lima, the patron saint of Peru and the indigenous people of Latin America. St. Rosa of Lima was known for her deep devotion to God and her life of asceticism and service to the poor and sick. On this day, people in Peru and other parts of the world pay tribute to her life and legacy by participating in religious ceremonies, processions, and acts of charity. It is a time for reflection, prayer, and inspiration, as individuals seek to follow the example of St. Rosa of Lima in their own lives.

August 31st: International Day for People of African Descent

The International Day for People of African Descent, observed on August 31st, is a UN-designated day that celebrates the diverse cultures, contributions, and achievements of people of African descent worldwide. The day also serves as a platform to address the challenges and inequalities faced by individuals of African heritage and promote their full and equal participation in all aspects of society. By raising awareness about racial discrimination and prejudice, this day calls for solidarity, respect, and the recognition of the significant impact that people of African descent have had and continue to have on the global community.

August 31st: International Overdose Awareness Day

International Overdose Awareness Day, observed on August 31st each year, is a global campaign to raise awareness about drug overdose, remember those who have lost their lives to overdose, and support their grieving families and friends. The day aims to reduce the stigma surrounding drug use and addiction while promoting harm reduction strategies and access to treatment and support services. Through various events and activities, International Overdose Awareness Day seeks to highlight the importance of compassionate and evidence-based approaches to address the overdose crisis and prevent further loss of life.