

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar September - 2023

Month-Long Observances:

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

National Recovery Month: National Recovery Month, held every September in the US, raises awareness about mental health and substance use disorders, celebrates recovery successes, and promotes seeking help. It aims to reduce stigma and emphasize that recovery is achievable with support.

Day Observances:

September 4th Labor Day: Labor Day is an annual holiday observed in many countries, including the United States and Canada, typically on the first Monday of September. It honors the contributions of workers and the labor movement, acknowledging their economic and social achievements. The day often involves parades, picnics, and various celebrations, serving as a reminder of the importance of workers' rights and the progress made in improving working conditions over time. It also marks the unofficial end of summer in many places.

September 5th International Day of Charity: The International Day of Charity, on September 5th, promotes kindness and giving to make a positive impact. It honors charitable actions and encourages people to contribute to various causes, emphasizing the power of generosity in improving lives.

September 6th Krishna Janmashtami: Observed on September 6, 2023, commemorates the birth of Lord Krishna in Hindu tradition. This festive occasion involves devotion, fasting, and cultural celebrations, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.

September 11th Ethiopian New Year: The Ethiopian New Year, known as "Enkutatash," is celebrated on September 11th, marking the end of the rainy season and the beginning of spring in Ethiopia. It holds cultural and religious significance, with vibrant celebrations featuring traditional music, dancing, and feasting. Families and communities come together to welcome the new year with a sense of renewal and hope for the future.

September 11th Day of Remembrance: The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Centre 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 15th International Day of Democracy: The International Day of Democracy, observed on September 15th, celebrates and promotes the principles of democracy worldwide. It emphasizes the importance of open dialogue, participation, and accountable governance in societies. On this day, governments, organizations, and individuals reflect on democratic values, engage in discussions, and raise awareness about the significance of democracy in ensuring people's rights and shaping the course of nations. Through various events and initiatives, the day aims to inspire a collective commitment to upholding democratic ideals and fostering inclusive political systems.

September 15th Rosh Hashanah: observed on September 15th in 2023, marks the Jewish New Year and the beginning of the High Holy Days in Judaism. It is a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal, where Jewish communities come together to seek forgiveness, celebrate with festive meals, and blow the shofar—a traditional ram's horn. Rosh Hashanah's spiritual significance lies in its themes of self-examination and hope for a meaningful and blessed year ahead.

September 16th Mexican Independence Day: Mexican Independence Day, celebrated on September 16th, marks the historic moment when Mexico declared its independence from Spanish colonial rule in 1810. Festivities include vibrant parades, patriotic decorations, and cultural performances, as well as the iconic "Grito de Dolores" re-enactment, symbolizing the call for freedom by Miguel Hidalgo. This important national holiday brings together Mexicans to honor their heritage, pride, and the enduring struggle for independence.

September 18th International Equal Pay Day: International Equal Pay Day is a globally recognized event highlighting the disparity in wages between genders. Observed on varying dates worldwide, it symbolizes the extra time women must work to match the earnings of their male counterparts from the previous year. The day aims to raise awareness about gender pay inequality and promote actions towards achieving fair wages for all.

September 18th Keiro No Hi: "Keiro no Hi" is a Japanese tradition that translates to "Respect for the Aged Day" in English. It's a national holiday celebrated on the third Monday of September each year. This day honors and shows appreciation for the elderly in Japanese society, highlighting their contributions and the value they bring to the community.

September 20th HeForShe: "HeForShe" is a global solidarity movement initiated by UN Women, aimed at promoting gender equality and engaging men and boys as allies in the fight for women's rights. The campaign encourages individuals to take a proactive stance in challenging traditional gender norms, advocating for equal opportunities, and fostering a more inclusive society. Through "HeForShe," people are invited to stand together to create positive change and address gender-based discrimination and violence.

September 21st International Day of Peace: The International Day of Peace, observed on September 21st each year, is a United Nations-sanctioned day dedicated to promoting global peace and non-violence. It serves as a reminder of the importance of diplomacy, cooperation, and understanding among nations and people. On this day, various activities and events are held worldwide to raise awareness about conflicts, encourage dialogue, and inspire actions that contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious world.

September 21st World Gratitude Day: World Gratitude Day, celebrated annually on September 21st, is a day dedicated to acknowledging and appreciating the blessings and positive aspects of life. It encourages individuals to express gratitude for the people, experiences, and opportunities that enrich their lives. This day serves as a reminder of the power of gratitude in promoting happiness, fostering positive relationships, and cultivating a sense of contentment and mindfulness.

September 23rd Bi-visibility Week: Bi Visibility Week in Canada is an annual observance held during the third week of September, aimed at raising awareness and fostering understanding about bisexuality. The week-long event provides a platform to highlight the unique challenges and experiences faced by bisexual individuals, while celebrating their contributions to society. Through various activities, discussions, and educational initiatives, Bi Visibility Week works towards creating a more inclusive and accepting society for people of all sexual orientations.

September 23rd International Day of Sign Language: The International Day of Sign Languages, celebrated on September 23rd, recognizes the importance of sign languages as a means of communication and expression for deaf individuals. This day aims to raise awareness about the linguistic and cultural diversity of sign languages around the world. Through events and initiatives, it advocates for equal access to information and services for the deaf community while promoting the preservation and recognition of sign languages as valuable components of human heritage.

September 24th Our Lady of Mercedes Day: Our Lady of Mercedes Day in the Dominican Republic is a deeply cherished annual celebration that reveres the country's patron saint and protector. On this day, vibrant processions fill the streets as devotees honor the Virgen de las Mercedes with prayers, music, and colorful displays. Rooted in both faith and culture, the festival embodies the nation's spiritual identity and serves as a unifying force that brings communities together in joyful reverence.

September 24th Yom Kippur: Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, holds deep historical significance within Judaism. Rooted in ancient times, it originates from biblical rituals of purification and forgiveness. This solemn holiday, observed on the tenth day of the Jewish month of Tishrei, involves fasting, prayer, and introspection as individuals seek repentance for their sins and reconciliation with both God and fellow humans.

September 26th Gender Equality Week: Gender Equality Week in Canada is an annual event observed from September 20th to 26th, dedicated to advancing discussions and actions surrounding gender equality. This week serves as a platform for highlighting the importance of equal rights, opportunities, and treatment for people of all genders. Through a variety of activities, workshops, and discussions, the week aims to raise awareness about gender-based issues and inspire positive change towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

September 26th European Day of Languages: The European Day of Languages, celebrated on September 26th, is an initiative that promotes linguistic diversity and multiculturalism across Europe. This day emphasizes the importance of language learning and understanding among different cultures and languages. Through various events, activities, and educational programs, it encourages people to embrace linguistic diversity while fostering mutual respect and communication.

September 30th National Day For Truth And Reconciliation: The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, is a Canadian observance held on September 30th to honor the Indigenous peoples and their experiences. It's a day to remember the traumatic history of residential schools and to acknowledge the impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities. The day encourages reflection, learning, and reconciliation efforts to foster understanding and healing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. The term "Orange Shirt Day" originates from the practice of wearing orange shirts to remember the experiences of Indigenous children in residential schools and to signify a commitment to truth, reconciliation, and understanding.