



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar March - 2024

Month-Long Observances:

Irish Heritage Month: In March, Canada celebrates Irish Heritage Month, acknowledging the significant contributions of Irish-Canadians to the country's development and culture.

Greek Heritage Month: Recognized in March across the United States, offers a platform to celebrate the vibrant contributions and cultural legacy of Americans with Greek heritage. Throughout the month, various events, festivals, and educational programs are organized nationwide, providing an opportunity for Greek Americans to showcase their traditions, language, cuisine, arts, and history, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Greek culture within the broader American community.

Day Observances:

March 8th International Women's Day: International Women's Day, celebrated annually on March 8th, is a global observance dedicated to recognizing the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. It serves as a platform to advocate for gender equality, women's rights, and empowerment, while also highlighting the challenges and barriers that women continue to face. Through various events, campaigns, and initiatives, International Women's Day inspires individuals and communities to take action towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society where all genders have equal opportunities to thrive and succeed.

March 10th Harriet Tubman's Birthday: Harriet Tubman's birthday is celebrated on March 10th. Born into slavery in 1822, Tubman became one of the most renowned conductors of the Underground Railroad, leading numerous enslaved individuals to freedom and advocating for abolition and women's suffrage. Her birthday is commemorated to honor her bravery and contributions to the fight for freedom and equality.

March 10th Ramadan: Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, holds significant importance for Muslims worldwide. It is a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad during this sacred month, believed to have occurred in 610 CE. The fast, known as Sawm, is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and involves abstaining from food, drink, smoking, and other physical needs from dawn until sunset. This practice fosters self-discipline, empathy for the less fortunate, and spiritual growth. Ramadan also encourages increased prayer, reading of the Quran, and acts of charity. The month concludes with Eid al-Fitr, a joyous celebration marking the end of fasting, where Muslims gather for communal prayers, feasting, and sharing gifts with family and friends.



March 15th International Day to Combat Islamophobia: The United Nations has designated March 15th as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. This observance aims to raise awareness about the fear, prejudice, and discrimination faced by Muslims worldwide. It highlights the need to address institutional, ideological, and political hostility that targets Muslims and perpetuates harmful stereotypes. The day emphasizes promoting tolerance, peace, and respect for human rights and diversity.

March 17th Saint Patrick's Day: Saint Patrick's Day, celebrated annually on March 17th, honors the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. It commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and celebrates Irish culture and heritage. Saint Patrick's Day is marked by wearing green attire, attending parades, traditional music and dance performances, and enjoying Irish food and drinks. It is celebrated not only in Ireland but also in countries around the world with large Irish communities. The day is known for its festive atmosphere and serves as a symbol of Irish identity and pride.

March 21st World Down Syndrome Day: World Down Syndrome Day is observed annually on March 21st. It aims to raise awareness about Down syndrome, a genetic condition caused by the presence of an extra chromosome 21. This day also celebrates the abilities and accomplishments of individuals with Down syndrome, promoting their inclusion and acceptance in society. World Down Syndrome Day encourages advocacy, education, and support for individuals with Down syndrome and their families, highlighting their rights, dignity, and value as contributing members of their communities. The date, March 21st (3/21), symbolizes the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome characteristic of Down syndrome.

March 21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, observed on March 21st, commemorates the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 and serves as a global reminder of our collective responsibility to combat racial discrimination. Rooted in the principles of human rights and dignity, this day calls for concerted action to dismantle systemic injustices, promote inclusivity, and foster environments where diversity is embraced. It urges governments to enact anti-discrimination laws, encourages civil society to challenge stereotypes and amplify marginalized voices, and inspires individuals to stand in solidarity against racism in all its forms. By honoring the struggles of the past and recommitting ourselves to the pursuit of racial justice, we can build a future where every person is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of race or ethnicity.



March 24th Purim: Purim in 2024, celebrated on March 24th and 25th, marks a joyous occasion within the Jewish community, commemorating the historical triumph depicted in the Book of Esther. The holiday celebrates Queen Esther and Mordecai's thwarting of Haman's plot to destroy the Jewish people in ancient Persia. Rituals include reading the Megillah, exchanging gifts of food, donating to the needy, and enjoying festive meals. Purim serves as a reminder of faith, courage, and unity among Jewish communities worldwide.

March 25th International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade:

The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed annually on March 25th. This day serves as a solemn occasion to honor and remember the millions of people who suffered and perished as a result of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. It also provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the lasting impact of slavery on societies around the world and to promote tolerance, understanding, and reconciliation. Through education, commemorative events, and advocacy efforts, the International Day of Remembrance seeks to ensure that the legacy of slavery is never forgotten and to work towards a future free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination.

March 25th Holi: Holi is a Hindu festival celebrated primarily in India and Nepal, as well as in other parts of the world with Hindu communities. It typically occurs in March and marks the arrival of spring. Holi is known as the "festival of colors" and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy. During the festivities, people gather to play with colored powders and water, smearing each other with vibrant hues. The festival also involves singing, dancing, feasting on traditional foods and sweets, and sharing goodwill. Holi symbolizes the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the celebration of unity and togetherness within communities. It is a time for forgiveness, renewal, and the strengthening of bonds between family and friends.

March 29th Good Friday: Good Friday in 2024 falls on March 29th. This solemn day is observed by Christians worldwide as a time of reflection and remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Good Friday marks the culmination of Holy Week, which commemorates the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. On this day, many Christians participate in church services that reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, often including readings of the biblical accounts of his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death. Good Friday is a day of fasting, prayer, and contemplation for believers, as they remember the profound significance of Jesus' death and the redemption it offers.



March 31st International Transgender Day of Visibility: The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is observed annually on March 31st. This day serves to celebrate transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals and raise awareness about the challenges they face. TDOV aims to empower transgender people by recognizing their contributions to society and promoting acceptance and understanding. It also highlights the importance of advocating for transgender rights and equality. On this day, events, discussions, and social media campaigns are organized to amplify the voices and experiences of transgender individuals and to promote a more inclusive and supportive world for all gender identities.

March 31st Easter: Easter Sunday, one of the most significant Christian holidays. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, as described in the New Testament of the Bible. It is the culmination of Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and includes events such as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Easter Sunday is celebrated with joy and reverence by Christians worldwide, with special church services, prayers, hymns, and the sharing of the Easter message of hope and redemption. It is also a time for families and communities to come together for festive meals, Easter egg hunts, and other traditions that symbolize new life and renewal. Easter represents the central belief of Christianity: the triumph of life over death and the promise of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.