



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar August - 2024

Month-Long Observances:

National Immunization Awareness Month: National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is observed every August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. The goal of NIAM is to encourage individuals to stay up to date with their vaccines, which are essential for preventing diseases and protecting public health.

South Asian Heritage Month: South Asian Heritage Month, celebrated from July 18 to August 17, honors the rich cultures and histories of South Asian communities, including those from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives. It reflects on the intertwined histories with the British Empire, marking significant dates like the Indian Independence Act of 1947. This month is a time to celebrate diverse heritage and educate others about the global impact of South Asian cultures.

Day Observances:

August 1st Emancipation Day: On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 Emancipation Day. It marks the actual day in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire. Those who fought enslavement were pivotal in shaping our society to be as diverse as it is today. Emancipation Day celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black communities in Canada.

August 9th International Day of the World's Indigenous People Day: August 9 is celebrated as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. It marks the date of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. Each year, the day highlights a specific theme related to indigenous peoples' rights and issues. For example, the 2023 theme focused on "Indigenous youth as agents of change for self-determination," emphasizing the role of indigenous youth in climate action, justice, and cultural preservation.

August 12th International Youth Day: International Youth Day is celebrated annually on August 12th to highlight youth issues and celebrate their potential as partners in today's global society. Established by the United Nations in 1999, this day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities facing young people worldwide.

August 15th National Acadian Day: National Acadian Day, celebrated annually on August 15th, honors the rich culture and heritage of the Acadian people in Canada. Established during the first National Convention of the Acadians in 1881, this day coincides with the feast of the Assumption of Mary, reflecting the deep-rooted Catholic traditions of the Acadian community. The day is marked by various festivities, including traditional music, parades, and the vibrant “tintamarre,” a noisy procession symbolizing Acadian resilience and unity.

August 17th Marcus Garvey Day: Marcus Garvey Day, celebrated on August 17th, honors the legacy of Marcus Garvey, a prominent Jamaican-born Black nationalist and leader of the Pan-Africanism movement. Garvey’s vision of unifying and empowering people of African descent worldwide is commemorated through various cultural events, educational programs, and community activities in Jamaica and beyond. This day not only celebrates Garvey’s contributions to civil rights and Black pride but also inspires ongoing efforts towards social justice and equality.

August 19th World Humanitarian Day: World Humanitarian Day, observed on August 19th, honors humanitarian workers who risk their lives to provide aid in disaster and conflict zones. Established by the United Nations in 2008, this day commemorates the 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, which killed 22 aid workers. It aims to raise awareness about humanitarian efforts and the challenges faced by aid workers, while promoting the well-being and dignity of people affected by crises.

August 21st The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism: Observed on August 21st, honors the lives forever changed by acts of terrorism. Established by the United Nations in 2017, this day aims to support victims and survivors, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights upheld. It emphasizes the importance of global solidarity and long-term support for victims, promoting their full recovery and reintegration into society.

August 22nd The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: Observed on 22 August each year. This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 to honor and support victims of violence based on religion or belief. The day aims to raise awareness about the increasing incidents of violence and intolerance against individuals and communities based on their religious beliefs. It also emphasizes the importance of upholding human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and fostering inter-faith dialogue to combat religious hatred and violence.



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 is observed annually on 23 August. This day commemorates the 1791 uprising in Saint Domingue (now Haiti), which was pivotal in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Established by UNESCO, the day encourages reflection on the historic causes, methods, and consequences of the slave trade. Napoleon Bonaparte's attempt to reinstate slavery in the French colonies in 1802 was thwarted by the continued resistance and eventual independence of Haiti. This day also promotes dialogue and understanding between cultures, highlighting the interactions between Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean.

August 26th Women's Equality Day: Women's Equality Day is celebrated annually on August 26 to commemorate the certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. Established in 1971, this day highlights the ongoing struggle for gender equality and honors the achievements of women in various fields. It serves as a reminder of the progress made and the work still needed to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all women.

August 26th Krishna Janmashtami: Krishna Janmashtami, celebrated on August 26 in 2024, is a significant Hindu festival marking the birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. Observed on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada, the festival includes various customs such as fasting, devotional singing, and reenactments of Krishna's life. Celebrations are especially vibrant in Mathura and Vrindavan, where Krishna spent his childhood. Temples and homes are adorned with decorations, and devotees engage in night vigils and festive activities to honor Krishna's birth.

August 30th International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances: The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, observed on August 30th, highlights the plight of individuals who have been secretly abducted or imprisoned by state or non-state actors, often without any acknowledgment of their fate. This day serves to raise awareness about the ongoing global issue of enforced disappearances, which not only violate the victims' human rights but also inflict profound suffering on their families and communities. It calls for justice, accountability, and the end of this cruel practice.

August 31st International Day for People of African Descent: The International Day for People of African Descent is observed annually on August 31st. Established by the United Nations, this day celebrates the diverse heritage and significant contributions of people of African descent worldwide. It aims to promote greater recognition and respect for their cultural, social, and economic impact, while also addressing and combating all forms of discrimination and systemic racism. The observance underscores the importance of equality, human rights, and the ongoing efforts to dismantle racial injustices.