



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar April - 2025

Month-Long Observances:

Sikh Heritage Month: Sikh Heritage Month is a time dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions, history, culture, and values of the Sikh community. It is observed in April, especially in Canada, where it was officially recognized by the government in 2013. The month highlights the teachings of Sikhism, which emphasize equality, justice, service, and community, and aims to educate people about the rich cultural heritage of the Sikh faith.

Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month: Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month, observed in April, encourages Canadians to remember genocide victims, honor survivors, and reflect on preventing future atrocities by standing against hate, racism, and discrimination. It emphasizes the importance of protecting human rights and learning from the experiences of survivors.

Arab American Heritage Month: Arab Heritage Month is a time to recognize and celebrate the culture, history, and contributions of Arab communities. Observed in April in Canada, it highlights the achievements of individuals of Arab descent and promotes awareness of Arab culture, language, and traditions. The month aims to foster understanding, unity, and appreciation for the diversity within the Arab world and its impact on global society.

Autism Acceptance Month: Autism Acceptance Month, observed in April, aims to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with autism. Unlike traditional awareness campaigns, it focuses on embracing neurodiversity, supporting people on the autism spectrum, and encouraging communities to create inclusive environments that recognize and respect their unique strengths and challenges. The month highlights the importance of acceptance and meaningful participation for individuals with autism in all aspects of society.

Day Observances:

April 2nd World Autism Awareness Day: World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on April 2nd to raise awareness and promote understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The day encourages creating an inclusive world where individuals with autism can thrive and reach their full potential.

April 5th International Day of Conscience: The International Day of Conscience is celebrated annually on April 5th. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and solidarity. The day encourages people to reflect on their actions and decisions to foster peace and justice in their communities and beyond. It emphasizes the importance of conscience in promoting human rights, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

April 6th National Tartan Day: National Tartan Day is celebrated annually on April 6th in Canada and the United States to honor the contributions of Scottish immigrants and their descendants. The date commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, a statement of Scottish independence. Established in Canada in 1986 and in the U.S. in 1998, the day features parades, festivals, and other events celebrating Scottish heritage, culture, and traditions.

April 7th International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda: The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is observed annually on April 7th. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003 to honor the memory of the over 800,000 Tutsi, as well as moderate Hutu and others who were killed during the genocide over a span of 100 days. The day promotes awareness of the horrors of genocide, encourages efforts to prevent such atrocities, and fosters unity, reconciliation, and peace.

April 7th World Health Day: World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7th to raise awareness about global health issues and promote healthier lifestyles. This year's theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," focuses on maternal and newborn health, urging governments and health communities to prioritize efforts to reduce preventable deaths and improve long-term well-being.

April 9th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge: The Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge is commemorated on April 9 each year. The battle took place from April 9 to April 12, 1917, during World War I, and is considered a defining moment for Canada as it marked the first time all four Canadian divisions fought together.

April 9th International Day of Pink: The International Day of Pink in 2025 will be observed on April 9. It is celebrated on the second Wednesday of April each year to stand against bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of discrimination.

April 13th Palm Sunday: In 2025, Palm Sunday will be on April 13. It marks the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian calendar, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem as described in the Gospels. According to tradition, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, and crowds greeted him by laying palm branches and cloaks on the road, shouting "Hosanna!" to honor him as the Messiah. This event took place near the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount, both significant locations in Jerusalem. Palm Sunday is celebrated by Christians worldwide with processions, the waving of palm branches, and special worship services.

April 13th Passover: Passover (Pesach) in 2025 will begin at sundown on April 12 and end at nightfall on April 20. It commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, as described in the Book of Exodus. During this time, Jewish families hold Seder meals, avoid leavened bread (eating matzah instead), and recount the story of liberation.



April 18th Good Friday: Good Friday in 2025 will be on April 18. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary (Golgotha), located just outside the walls of Jerusalem. The events of Good Friday are deeply tied to Jerusalem, including Jesus's trial before Pontius Pilate at the Antonia Fortress, his condemnation, and his journey along the Via Dolorosa—a path in the Old City of Jerusalem believed to be the route Jesus walked carrying the cross. Calvary, where Jesus was crucified, is now within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of Christianity's holiest sites. Pilgrims from around the world gather in Jerusalem on Good Friday to retrace Jesus's steps and reflect on his sacrifice.

April 20th Easter: Easter in 2025 will be on April 20. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, three days after his crucifixion in Jerusalem. According to the New Testament, the resurrection occurred near the Garden Tomb or within the area now marked by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City. For Christians, it represents the triumph over death and the fulfillment of divine prophecy. Pilgrims often gather in Jerusalem during Holy Week, especially at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

April 20th World Chinese Language Day: World Chinese Language Day is celebrated annually on April 20. It was established by UNESCO in 2010 to promote the use of the Chinese language and highlight its cultural and historical importance. The date was chosen to honor Cangjie, a legendary figure credited with inventing Chinese characters around 5,000 years ago.

April 22nd Earth Day: Earth Day in 2025 will be on April 22. It is an annual event dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and protection. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day now involves millions of people worldwide engaging in activities like tree planting, cleanups, advocacy, and promoting sustainable practices to address climate change and other environmental challenges.

April 23rd Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day): Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) in 2025 will be observed from the evening of April 23 to the evening of April 24. It commemorates the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust and honors the survivors. The day is marked by memorial ceremonies, educational programs, and moments of silence in Israel and Jewish communities worldwide.

April 24th Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day: Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day is observed annually on April 24. It commemorates the systematic mass killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire during and after World War I, beginning in 1915. The day is marked by memorial services, marches, and educational events worldwide, especially in Armenia and the Armenian diaspora, to honor the victims and advocate for recognition and remembrance.



April 28th World Day for Safety and Health at Work: The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on April 28. It was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote the prevention of workplace accidents and illnesses. The day focuses on creating safe, healthy, and decent work environments through awareness campaigns, training programs, and policy advocacy worldwide.

April 30th International Jazz Day: International Jazz Day is celebrated on April 30th, marking the culmination of Jazz Appreciation Month (April). New Orleans, known as the birthplace of jazz, plays a central role in this celebration. The city's rich cultural melting pot of African, Caribbean, European, and Creole influences gave rise to jazz in the early 20th century. UNESCO chose this date to honor jazz's power to promote peace, freedom, and dialogue across cultures, with New Orleans often hosting concerts, parades, and educational events reflecting its deep historical connection to the genre.