



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar February - 2025

Month-Long Observances:

Black History Month: Black History Month, celebrated every February in the United States and Canada (and in October in the UK), honors the achievements, contributions, and history of Black individuals and communities. Established in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson, aiming to promote the study of African American history, which was often overlooked. The month highlights key figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and many others, while also reflecting on the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality. Each year features a specific theme to focus discussions and educational efforts.

Day Observances:

February 1st UN World Interfaith Harmony Week: World Interfaith Harmony Week, observed annually from February 1–7, was established by the United Nations in 2010 to promote mutual understanding, harmony, and cooperation among people of different faiths. Initiated by King Abdullah II of Jordan, it encourages dialogue and peaceful coexistence, highlighting common values across religions, such as love of God and love of neighbor or love of the good. The week is marked by events worldwide, including interfaith dialogues, community service activities, and educational programs, fostering respect and reducing religious tensions.

February 2nd Imbolc Wicca/Paganism: Imbolc, celebrated on February 2, is a Wiccan and Pagan festival marking the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It honors the Celtic goddess Brigid, associated with fertility, healing, and poetry, and symbolizes the return of light and the early signs of spring. Traditional rituals include lighting candles, hearth fires, and making Brigid's crosses to invite her blessings. Imbolc reflects themes of renewal, purification, and hope, as nature begins to awaken from winter's hold.

February 4th Rosa Parks Day: Rosa Parks Day, observed on February 4 in honor of her birthday, commemorates the civil rights icon whose courageous refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This pivotal event became a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement, challenging racial segregation and inspiring activism nationwide. The day is marked by educational programs, community events, and reflections on Parks' legacy of courage, resilience, and the fight for social justice and equality.

February 6th International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation: The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, observed on February 6, raises awareness and promotes global efforts to end FGM. Established by the UN, it highlights the severe health risks and human rights violations faced by millions of girls and women. The day advocates for stronger laws, education, and support to protect their rights and well-being.



February 11th International Day of Women and Girls in Science: The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, observed on February 11, promotes gender equality in science and highlights the contributions of women and girls in STEM fields. Established by the UN, it advocates for equal access to education, opportunities, and representation, aiming to inspire future generations to pursue scientific careers.

February 14th Valentines Day: Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14, is a global occasion dedicated to expressing love and affection. Originating from the legend of Saint Valentine, it has evolved into a day for exchanging cards, gifts, flowers, and heartfelt messages among couples, friends, and family, symbolizing romance and appreciation.

February 15th Nirvana Day: Nirvana Day, observed on February 15 (or February 8 in some traditions), commemorates the death of the Buddha and his attainment of final Nirvana, marking his release from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. Buddhists reflect on the impermanence of life through meditation, temple services, and acts of kindness.

February 15th National Flag Day of Canada: National Flag of Canada Day, celebrated on February 15, marks the anniversary of the first official raising of Canada's red and white maple leaf flag in 1965. The day honors the flag as a symbol of national pride, unity, and identity, with ceremonies, educational events, and displays across the country.

February 17th Family Day: Family Day in Canada is a statutory holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February in most provinces, including Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, while British Columbia observes it on the second Monday. It emphasizes the importance of family and work-life balance, with people enjoying quality time through outdoor activities, gatherings, and community events.

February 20th World Day of Social Justice: The World Day of Social Justice, observed on February 20, promotes efforts to tackle issues like poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. Established by the United Nations, it highlights the importance of fair opportunities, human rights, and social development, encouraging global action for justice and equity.

February 21st International Mother Language Day: International Mother Language Day, observed on February 21, promotes linguistic diversity and the preservation of mother languages worldwide. Established by UNESCO, it holds special significance in Canada, a multicultural nation with numerous Indigenous languages, highlighting the importance of language rights, cultural identity, and efforts to revitalize endangered languages.



February 26th Maha Shivarati: Maha Shivaratri, observed on February 26, is a major Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Shiva, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and ignorance. Devotees celebrate with night-long vigils, fasting, prayers, and offerings of fruits, flowers, and sacred water to Shiva, seeking his blessings for spiritual growth and inner peace.

February 28th Ramadan Begins: In 2025, Ramadan is expected to begin on the evening of February 28 and end on the evening of March 30, depending on the sighting of the moon. During this holy month, Muslims worldwide fast from dawn to sunset, engage in prayer, reflection, and charity, fostering spiritual growth and community connection.