



## Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar January - 2025

### Month-Long Observances:

**National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month:** National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, observed in January in the United States, serves as a dedicated platform to highlight the pervasive issues of modern slavery and human trafficking. Throughout this month, individuals, communities, and organizations engage in heightened awareness campaigns, advocacy efforts, and educational initiatives. It's a critical time to underscore the prevalence of these crimes, support survivors, and unite in collaborative actions aimed at preventing and eradicating human trafficking in all its forms.

**Tamil Heritage Month:** Canada Tamil Heritage Month, celebrated every January, honors the contributions of Tamil Canadians to the nation's cultural, social, and economic fabric. It recognizes the rich history of Tamil communities in Canada, who have been part of the country's diverse mosaic for generations, particularly since the 19th century. The month highlights Tamil language, arts, traditions, and the ongoing efforts of Tamils to enrich Canadian society. Through events, education, and cultural celebrations, Canada Tamil Heritage Month fosters understanding, appreciation, and awareness of Tamil culture and its impact on Canada's multicultural identity.

### Day Observances:

**January 1st New Years Day:** New Year's Day marks the beginning of a new year, celebrated with various traditions worldwide. People often reflect on the past year while setting resolutions for the future. In New York City, one of the most iconic events is the Times Square Ball Drop, where a giant crystal ball descends at midnight, signaling the start of the year. The event is watched by millions, either in person or through broadcasts, as a symbol of renewal and hope for the coming year.

**January 2nd World Introvert Day:** World Introvert Day, celebrated on January 2nd, is a day dedicated to recognizing and appreciating the unique qualities of introverts. It aims to raise awareness about the strengths of introverted individuals, such as their deep thinking, creativity, and ability to focus. The day encourages people to understand introversion better, promoting acceptance and reducing misconceptions about introverts being shy or antisocial. It's a reminder that introverts contribute significantly to society, often excelling in roles that require introspection, problem-solving, and independent work.

**January 4th World Braille Day:** World Braille Day, celebrated on January 4th, honors Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system for blind individuals. The day raises awareness about the importance of Braille in providing access to education and communication for the visually impaired. It highlights the need for inclusion and equal opportunities for those with visual impairments in society.

The logo for Diversity Thunder Bay features the word "Diversity" in a large, bold, dark brown font, with "Thunder Bay" in a smaller, lighter brown font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of several overlapping, curved lines in shades of grey, yellow, red, and black, resembling a ribbon or a set of wings.

# Diversity Thunder Bay

**January 4th National Ribbon Skirt Day:** National Ribbon Skirt Day, observed on January 4th, celebrates the cultural significance of the ribbon skirt in Indigenous communities, particularly among Native American and First Nations women. The day honors the tradition of wearing ribbon skirts as a symbol of strength, resilience, and cultural identity. It also raises awareness about the importance of preserving Indigenous traditions and promoting respect for Indigenous peoples and their heritage.

**January 7th Christmas (Coptic & Eastern Orthodox):** On January 7th, Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas, marking the birth of Jesus Christ according to the Julian calendar. This date is significant for many Orthodox Christian communities, including those in Egypt, Russia, and Greece. The day is celebrated with church services, feasts, and festive traditions, focusing on religious rituals and the spiritual meaning of Christ's birth. The celebrations include special prayers, hymns, and gatherings with family and friends.

**January 13th Lohri Sikh (Hindu):** Lohri is a joyous Sikh and Punjabi festival celebrated on January 13th each year, marking the winter solstice. It's a time of cultural significance, symbolizing the end of winter and the arrival of longer days. Families gather around bonfires, sing traditional songs, perform folk dances like Bhangra and Gidda, and share special foods like popcorn, peanuts, and sesame seeds. Lohri holds communal importance, fostering unity and celebrating the harvest season while bringing warmth and happiness to the community.

**January 13th Korean American Day:** Korean American Day, observed on January 13th, commemorates the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States in 1903. This day honors the contributions of Korean Americans to American society, celebrating their cultural heritage, achievements, and the challenges they have overcome. It highlights the importance of diversity and the impact Korean Americans have had in various fields, including business, arts, politics, and education. The day also serves as a reminder of the strong ties between the United States and Korea.

**January 16th World Religion Day:** World Religion Day, observed on the third Sunday in January, promotes interfaith understanding and harmony. It's a global celebration encouraging respect for all religions and fostering unity among diverse faiths through dialogue and shared values.

**January 17th Raoul Wallenberg Day:** Raoul Wallenberg Day, on January 17th, honors the Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. By issuing protective documents and creating safe houses in Nazi-occupied Hungary, he prevented the deportation of around 100,000 Jews. His fate remains unknown after his 1945 arrest by Soviet forces, but his legacy endures as a symbol of courage and human rights.



**January 17th Martin Luther King Jr Day:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of January each year in the United States. It honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a prominent leader in the civil rights movement. This day serves as both a celebration of Dr. King's achievements in advancing civil rights, equality, and justice, and as a reminder of the ongoing work needed to realize his dream of a more equitable and inclusive society. It's a time for reflection, service, and activism, with many communities engaging in volunteer work and events that promote Dr. King's messages of peace, equality, and nonviolent social change.

**January 24th World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture:** World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture, celebrated on January 24th, recognizes the contributions of African and Afrodescendant communities to global culture. It highlights their rich heritage, history, and achievements in art, music, literature, and more, fostering greater appreciation and respect for African culture worldwide. The day promotes the preservation of cultural diversity and combats racism and discrimination.

**January 27th International Holocaust Remembrance Day:** International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27th, honors the memory of the six million Jews and millions of others who perished in the Holocaust. It marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945 and serves as a reminder of the horrors of genocide, promoting education, awareness, and the prevention of future atrocities. The day aims to combat Holocaust denial, discrimination, and intolerance globally.

**January 27th International Day of Education:** The 2025 International Day of Education will be observed on January 24th. This day highlights the importance of education in promoting peace, development, and human rights worldwide. It serves as a reminder of the role education plays in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable education for all.

**January 29th Lunar New Year:** Lunar New Year 2025 will begin on January 29th, marking the start of the Year of the Snake. This celebration is an important cultural event in many East Asian countries, featuring family gatherings, festive meals, parades, traditional performances, and the exchange of red envelopes for good luck. The Year of the Snake symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and elegance in Chinese culture.