



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar July - 2024

Month-Long Observances:

Disability Pride Month: Disability Pride Month is observed in July to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disabilities. It aims to raise awareness about disability rights, promote inclusion, and challenge societal stigma and ableism. The month also provides a platform for disabled individuals to share their stories, advocate for accessibility and equal opportunities, and foster a sense of community and pride in their identities. It encourages society to recognize the diverse talents and perspectives of people with disabilities and work towards a more inclusive and accessible world.

French American Heritage Month: Observed in July, celebrates the cultural contributions of French Americans to the United States, with a special focus on cities like New Orleans, known for its vibrant French heritage. The month honors the history, achievements, and influence of individuals of French descent in various fields such as art, literature, cuisine, science, and politics. It recognizes the enduring cultural ties between France and the U.S., often featuring events like festivals, exhibitions, lectures, and community gatherings. In New Orleans, the celebrations are especially notable, highlighting the city's rich French traditions and its unique place in American history.

Day Observances:

July 1st Canada Day: Canada Day, celebrated annually on July 1st, marks the anniversary of the confederation of Canada in 1867. It's a national holiday filled with festivities such as concerts, parades, and fireworks, uniting Canadians in celebrating their heritage, culture, and national identity. The day serves as a reminder of Canada's history and values, emphasizing principles of freedom, diversity, and inclusivity that define the country.

July 1st Sant Teja Singh Day: Is observed on July 1st each year. This day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sant Teja Singh Ji, recognizing his influential contributions to Sikhism and his efforts in promoting education and interfaith dialogue globally.

July 4th Independence Day: Independence Day marks a nation's freedom, often tied to its declaration or constitution adoption. In the United States, July 4th celebrates the 1776 Declaration of Independence from Britain, observed with fireworks, parades, and family events. Beyond festivities, it honors liberty, democracy, and national values, prompting reflection on history and cultural identity.

The logo for Diversity Thunder Bay features the word "Diversity" in a large, bold, dark font, with "Thunder Bay" in a smaller, lighter 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, suggesting a rainbow or a dynamic, multi-colored shape.

Diversity Thunder Bay

July 8th Hijra New Year: The Hijri New Year, or Islamic New Year, is observed on the first day of Muharram, marking the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year. In 2024, it is expected to fall on July 8th, depending on the moon sighting. This day commemorates the Hijra, the migration of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE, which is a pivotal event in Islamic history. Unlike the festive Gregorian New Year, the Hijri New Year is often a time for prayer, reflection, and religious observances, emphasizing its spiritual significance in the Muslim community.

July 9th Martyrdom of the Báb: A significant holy day in the Bahá'í Faith, will be observed on July 9th. This day marks the anniversary of the Báb's execution in 1850 in Tabriz, Persia (now Iran). Bahá'ís commemorate this solemn occasion with prayers, reflections, and gatherings, honoring the Báb's sacrifice and his pivotal role in paving the way for the Bahá'í Faith. The observance is a time for Bahá'ís worldwide to reflect on the themes of sacrifice, courage, and the continuing impact of the Báb's teachings.

July 11th World Population Day: In 2024, World Population Day will be observed on July 11th. Established by the United Nations in 1989, this annual event aims to raise awareness about global population issues, including the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health, and human rights. The day encourages people and organizations worldwide to focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by a growing global population, promoting actions and policies that support sustainable development and improve the quality of life for people around the world.

July 14th International Non-Binary Peoples Day: International Non-Binary Peoples Day, observed on July 14th, is dedicated to raising awareness and celebrating the diversity of non-binary people worldwide. Non-binary individuals do not identify exclusively as male or female, and this day highlights their experiences and challenges, promoting understanding and acceptance within society. The observance aims to advocate for non-binary rights and visibility, fostering a more inclusive world that respects and recognizes all gender identities.

July 14th Bastille Day: In 2024, Bastille Day, or La Fête Nationale, will be celebrated on July 14th, marking the storming of the Bastille prison in 1789, a key event that sparked the French Revolution. The revolution arose from widespread discontent with King Louis XVI's oppressive rule, economic hardship, and social inequality. Enlightenment ideas promoting liberty and justice further fueled the unrest. The fall of the Bastille symbolized the end of absolute monarchy and set the stage for dramatic political changes, eventually leading to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. Celebrations today include parades, fireworks, and public festivities, with the grandest parade on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.



July 18th Nelson Mandela Day: Nelson Mandela Day is celebrated annually on July 18th, honoring the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's former president and anti-apartheid revolutionary. This day marks his birthday and is recognized internationally as a time to promote global peace, freedom, and justice. The United Nations declared Nelson Mandela International Day in 2009, encouraging people to act and inspire change within their communities. The day serves as a call to emulate Mandela's values and dedicate 67 minutes to community service, representing the 67 years he spent fighting for human rights and social justice.

July 24th International Self Care Day: In 2024, International Self-Care Day will be observed on July 24th. This annual event emphasizes the importance of self-care in maintaining overall health and well-being. The date, 24/7, symbolizes that self-care should be practiced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. International Self-Care Day promotes awareness about the benefits of self-care practices, such as regular exercise, a balanced diet, adequate sleep, stress management, and seeking medical advice when needed. The day encourages individuals to prioritize their health and adopt habits that contribute to a healthier, more balanced lifestyle.

July 28th World Hepatitis Day: In 2024, World Hepatitis Day will be observed on July 28th. This annual event, established by the World Health Organization, raises global awareness about hepatitis, focusing on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The day encourages efforts to combat hepatitis through vaccination, testing, treatment access, and reducing stigma, aiming to improve health outcomes worldwide.

July 28th Commemoration of the Great Upheaval: On July 28, Canadians mark the Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval, a somber remembrance of the Acadian people's deportation in 1755. British authorities ordered the expulsion of about 10,000 French settlers from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Many Acadians were separated from their families and sent to various destinations, including Anglo-American colonies, France, and the Caribbean. Tragically, thousands died due to famine, disease, and harsh voyage conditions. Despite these hardships, the Acadians demonstrated remarkable resilience, with many returning to rebuild their communities.

July 30th World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, observed annually on July 30th, was established by the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/192. This day raises awareness about human trafficking and promotes the protection of victims' rights. Human trafficking involves exploiting people through coercion, abduction, fraud, or deception for forced labor or sexual exploitation. The observance calls for intensified efforts from governments, organizations, and individuals to prevent trafficking, support victims, and prosecute traffickers, emphasizing the need for coordinated global action to eradicate this crime.