



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar July - 2025

Month-Long Observances:

French American Heritage Month: French American Heritage Month is celebrated in September in the United States to honor the contributions of French Americans to the culture, history, and development of the U.S. It's a time to recognize the French influence on American society, including in areas such as art, politics, literature, cuisine, and more. This month highlights the legacy of French explorers, settlers, and immigrants who helped shape the nation, particularly in regions like Louisiana and New Orleans, where French culture still has a significant impact. Events during the month typically include festivals, cultural exhibitions, lectures, art shows, and celebrations of French language and culture.

Day-Long Observances:

July 1st Canada Day: Canada Day, celebrated on July 1st, marks the anniversary of Canada's confederation in 1867, when Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Province of Canada united to form the country. Originally called Dominion Day, it was renamed Canada Day in 1982. The holiday celebrates the nation's founding with fireworks, parades, concerts, and patriotic displays across the country, especially in Ottawa where official ceremonies, live music, and military flypasts take place. Canadians often wear red and white, host barbecues, and gather with family and friends to mark the occasion.

July 4th Independence Day: Independence Day in the United States, commonly known as Fourth of July, is celebrated on July 4th each year. It marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, when the thirteen American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. The day is a patriotic celebration of freedom and national pride. Festivities include fireworks, parades, barbecues, picnics, and concerts. Major cities like Washington, D.C., New York, and Boston hold large-scale celebrations, often featuring spectacular firework displays and public readings of the Declaration. It's a day of reflection on American history, values, and the ongoing pursuit of liberty and justice.

July 9th Martyrdom of the Bab : The Martyrdom of the Báb is observed by Bahá'ís on July 9th to commemorate the execution of the Báb in 1850 in Tabriz, Persia. The Báb, a key figure in the Bahá'í Faith, was executed for proclaiming the coming of a new prophet, which set the stage for the development of the Bahá'í Faith. On this day, Bahá'ís fast, reflect, and hold devotional gatherings to honor the Báb's life, sacrifice, and teachings, marking it as one of the most solemn days in the Bahá'í calendar.



July 10th Asalha Puja Day: Asalha Puja Day, also known as Dhamma Day, is a significant Buddhist holiday celebrated on the full moon day of the 8th lunar month (usually July). It marks the day when Buddha delivered his first sermon, the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, to his first five disciples in the Deer Park at Sarnath, India. This sermon introduced the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, which form the core teachings of Buddhism. Asalha Puja is a time for Buddhists to reflect on the Buddha's teachings, meditate, and engage in meritorious activities. The day also marks the beginning of the Vassa (the Buddhist rains retreat), a three-month period of intensified meditation and study for monks.

July 11th International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica: The International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica is observed on July 11th each year to honor the victims of the Srebrenica massacre during the Bosnian War. On this day in 1995, more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed by Bosnian Serb forces in and around the town of Srebrenica, which had been declared a UN safe area. The massacre is recognized as genocide by international courts. The day serves as a reminder of the horrors of ethnic violence and the importance of preventing genocide in the future. It is marked by memorial services, educational events, and moments of reflection to remember the victims and promote peace, reconciliation, and justice.

July 11th World Populace Day: World Population Day is observed on July 11th each year to raise awareness about global population issues, including the implications of population growth, access to reproductive health services, and the challenges of sustainable development. Established by the United Nations in 1989, the day highlights concerns such as overpopulation, family planning, and resource management. It aims to draw attention to the need for addressing population-related challenges to ensure equitable access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for all. Each year, different themes are highlighted to promote discussions and initiatives that contribute to improving the quality of life for people around the world.

July 13th Obon: Obon is a Japanese festival observed in Buddhism and Shinto traditions, typically held in mid-August (or in some regions, mid-July). It is a time to honor the spirits of deceased ancestors. Rooted in Buddhist beliefs, Obon is based on the story of Mokuren, a disciple of the Buddha, who sought help to release his mother's soul from suffering. The festival involves rituals such as offering food, lighting lanterns, and performing the bon odori (a traditional dance) to guide spirits back to the afterlife. Families often visit ancestral graves, pay respects, and reunite in this time of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance.



July 14th Bastille Day: Bastille Day, celebrated on July 14th, commemorates the storming of the Bastille in 1789, a key event in the French Revolution. The Bastille, a symbol of royal oppression, was attacked by revolutionaries, marking the start of the overthrow of the monarchy and the rise of republican ideals. In France, it is a national holiday, celebrated with a grand military parade on the Champs-Élysées, fireworks, parties, and public events. Bastille Day represents the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it's a day of national pride, not just in France but also in French-speaking communities around the world.

July 18th International Nelson Mandela Day: International Nelson Mandela Day is observed on July 18th each year to honor the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa and global symbol of peace, justice, and human rights. Mandela's birthday marks a day of reflection on his efforts to fight against apartheid, promote reconciliation, and champion social equality. The day encourages individuals and communities to dedicate 67 minutes (one minute for each year of Mandela's public service) to community service or actions that support social justice, peace, and equality. Mandela's values continue to inspire global movements for human rights and social change.

July 24th Pioneer Day: Pioneer Day, celebrated on July 24th, honors the arrival of Brigham Young and the first group of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. This day marks a significant moment in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church), when the pioneers, seeking religious freedom, settled in what is now Salt Lake City, Utah. The holiday is a major celebration in Utah, particularly in Salt Lake City, with parades, fireworks, historical reenactments, and community events that celebrate the pioneers' journey, their sacrifices, and their role in the development of the region.

July 25th International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent: International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent is observed on July 25th each year, following the adoption of A/RES/78/323 by the United Nations in 2023. The day recognizes and celebrates the contributions, resilience, and rights of women and girls of African descent around the world. It aims to raise awareness about the challenges they face, including racism, gender inequality, and discrimination, while also highlighting their vital role in social, political, and economic development. The observance encourages efforts to promote gender equality, empowerment, and social justice, and it underscores the importance of preserving the cultural heritage and identity of African diasporas globally.



July 26th National Disability Independence Day: National Disability Independence Day is observed on July 26th each year in the United States to commemorate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. The ADA is a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in areas such as employment, public services, transportation, and telecommunications. The day celebrates the progress made toward creating a more inclusive and accessible society, while also acknowledging the ongoing work needed to ensure full independence and equality for people with disabilities. It is a time to reflect on the strides toward disability rights and to advocate for continued social and policy changes.

July 28th Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval: The Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval is observed on July 28th each year in Canada to remember the forced deportation of the Acadian people in 1755. On this day, British authorities ordered the deportation of approximately 10,000 Acadians from the region known today as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. They were scattered to various locations, including Anglo-American colonies, France, and the Caribbean, with many dying from famine, disease, and harsh conditions during the voyage. Despite these tragic events, the Acadian people persevered and rebuilt their communities. Today, their resilience is celebrated, particularly through the Acadian flag, which represents their strength and cultural survival. The Minister of Canadian Heritage urges Canadians to honor the Acadian legacy and reflect on their perseverance in maintaining their heritage and culture.