



Gibson Chowdhury
CLEAR COLLABORATIVE MEDIATION

Diversity Calendar AUGUST 2021

Date	Religion/Culture	Event
Aug 1 st	Eastern Orthodox	Fast honouring Mary is celebrated with a 14-day fast, in preparation for the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. During this time, Eastern Orthodox Christians refrain from eating red meat, poultry, dairy products including eggs, fish, oil and wine.
Aug 10 th	Islam	Hijri – New Year Islamic New Year celebrations. The Islamic calendar began in 622 A.D. when the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)* began his journey known as Hijri, from Mecca to Medina after facing persecution as a Muslim. The first month of the Islamic calendar is called Muharram. Celebrations vary in accordance with geographical location. The Sunni Muslims (who make up 90% of the religion) will observe the day in prayer.
Aug 15 th	Eastern Orthodox, Christianity	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary/Dormition of the Theotokos – Celebrating the departure of Mary to heaven.
Aug 18 th - 19 th	Islam	Ashura In remembrance of Noah, when he left the ark and Moses, when he was saved by God from the Egyptians. Ashura is celebrated by Muslims as a solemn day of mourning for the martyrdom Hussein, who was the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and was brutally murdered along with his family. Many Muslims commemorate the day by fasting. Often Shia Muslims will celebrate the day by re-enacting role plays from the events of the historic day.
Aug 22 nd	Hinduism	Raksha Bandhan A Hindu festival celebrating sibling relationships. The celebration date is based on the lunar calendar, during a full moon, in the Hindu month of Shraavana. Gifts (namely bracelets) are exchanged in recognition of the day.

Aug 22nd	Buddism – Celebrated in Japan, China and Vietman	Obon Day All three countries celebrate this period with varying traditions and customs. The celebrations are in honour of their ancestors, for which families gather together to visit ancestral graves. The day is also celebrated in Japan with a dance called Bon Odori. The dates are based on the lunar calendar and vary dependent upon location.
Aug 22nd	Chinese Holiday celebrated by Buddhists and Taoists	Hungry Ghost Festival Also known as the Zhong Yuan Festival. It is a celebration in honour of the dead, whose spirits roam the mortal world in search of food and entertainment. Customs include extravagant stage shows, street parties, food and offerings for the dead.
Aug 26th	U.S.	Women’s Equality Day The U.S. Constitution created the 19 th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. In 1971, the day was also recognized as a proclamation for Women’s Equality Day.
Aug 29th-30th	Hinduism	Krishna Jayanthi This day, celebrates the birth of the Hindu God, Krishna. The celebration date is based on the lunar calendar during a full moon, in the Hindu month of Shraavana. The day is celebrated by fasting, then preparing an elaborate feast, singing and attending night vigil at the Krishna temple.

*PBUH stands for “peace be upon him”. Muslims are required to say PBUH whenever the name of the Prophet is mentioned as a mark of respect and honour for the highest ranking

About Afsana

Afsana is a Qualified Mediator, and a roster mediator for the Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program. She has specialized training in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Negotiation.

Afsana is the founder of ‘**Gibson Chowdhury**’, a Toronto based mediation boutique, specializing in civil and commercial disputes, including contract, neighbour and domestic construction disputes. Afsana is an active member of the **Ontario Bar Association** and is currently serving as the CPD Liaison on the ADR Section Executive board. She has written several CLE programs concerning cultural competency and intercultural communications. To see her full bio, please log on to www.gcmmediation.com.

To book a mediation, contact Afsana at afsana@gcmmediation.com or via her online calendar <https://gcmmediation.com/calendar-and-fees/>

Above are multicultural celebrations for the month of August, 2021. There may be some celebrations, which have not been included in this calendar and customs may vary. If you would like me to add your special holiday or vary the customs, please write me at afsana@gcmmediation.com

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