

Diversity Calendar

March 2022

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation
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March 1st Islam Lailat ul Mihraj

This was the night when the instructions for the 5 daily prayers was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed. The day is marked by private prayers, from sundown the night before.

March 1st Hindu Maha Shivaratri

A celebration of Lord Shiva, the God of destruction and regeneration. Celebrated by fasting, offering Puja (prayer) to overcome darkness and ignorance. Celebrations continue into the night and often, green coloured clothes are worn as well as the offering of Bel tree leaves to Shiva in the temples.

March 1st Catholicism Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday

The last day for Catholics before the long fast for Lent begins. The occasion is referred to as Mardi Gras in parts of the world including Europe and South America. In England, it is known as Pancake Tuesday. Mardi Gras is famously celebrated around world by dressing in costumes and masks during street parades.

March 1st (sundown) Ala (19 Days of Fast) Baha'i

A nineteen day fast begins to mark spiritual growth and closeness to faith. The end of the fast will bring in the Baha'i New Year. The significance of "19 days" is that the Baha'i calendar year is 19 months long, with 19 days in each month.

March 2nd Christian Ash Wednesday

40 days of Lent begins. The fasting during Lent is an imitation of Jesus Christ's fast in the Judean deserts before beginning his public ministry. It is a time to abstain from certain types of food, including meats and dairy. It is a reminder to devote oneself to God. Lent ends on Easter Sunday.

March 3rd -5th Buddhist Losar

The Tibetan Buddhist New Year. The holiday is based on the Lunar calendar and is a time of renewal through spiritual practices and rituals of gratitude.

March 6th Orthodox Christian Cheesefare Sunday

Last Sunday before lent begins for the Orthodox Christians. Church services with an emphasis on the significance of Lent are held. Readings on the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, and the ability to show forgiveness are shared with worshippers.

March 7th Orthodox Christian Clean Monday

Lent begins for Orthodox Christian's, where they will refrain from certain types of food such as meat and dairy for 40 days,

March 8th International Women's Day

International Women's Day A day to honour women's achievements around the world and raise awareness of the discrimination still faced by many.

March Facts:

March is **Women's History Month (US)**. Let's celebrate all the wonderful women who have contributed so much!

March 21st celebrates **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**, observed since 1960 following the killing of 69 people at a demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in South Africa. This is a UN initiative, in an effort to eliminate racial discrimination.

March 16th - 17th Jewish Purim

A Jewish celebration, marking a time during 5th century BC, when the Jewish communities were saved from genocide. On Purim, Jewish communities offer charity and share food with friends.

March 17th Christian St. Patrick's Day

Celebrating the death of St. Patrick, who was the patron saint of Ireland. He was brought to Ireland as a slave and escaped Ireland years later. He returned again to introduce Christianity to the Irish. The day is celebrated in many parts of the world, with parades, music and special foods.

March 18th Sikh & Hindu Holi

Celebrated in countries with a large Hindu and Sikh population, including India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. This holiday is also known as the "festival of colour", which celebrates the triumph of good over evil. There is lots of coloured powder throwing during street parades!

March 18th -19th Islam Shab-e-Barat

This is the "Night of Forgiveness" during the month of Shaban in the Islamic calendar. It is referenced by different names in different parts of the world. It is a deeply personal night for Muslim that observes the occasion. It is truly dedicated to prayer for one's own forgiveness for sins and of Muslims.

March 18th - 20th Sikh Hola Mohalla (Bikarami)

A Punjabi holiday that follows the Hindu celebration of Holi to commemorate the courage and strength of the tenth Guru who defended the Sikhs from destruction by the Mughal Empire.

March 20th Pagan Ostara

Pagan/Wiccan celebration of the coming of spring/ Spring Equinox.

March 21st-22nd Baha'i Naw Ruz

New year celebration for the Baha'i faith. Baha'i is a religion introduced to Persia in the 19th century. The main principle of the religion is the belief that all religions have essential values for all people, who should unite as one.

March 25th Christian Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

A day to celebrate the Virgin Mary, who was told by the angel Gabriel that she would become the mother of Jesus Christ. Church services are offered to celebrate the day.

March 31st International Transgender Day of Visibility

A day to celebrate transgender people and show our support to those who face discrimination.

About the Calendar

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for the month of March 2022. There may be some celebrations that have not been included in this calendar and customs may vary. If you would like Afsana to add a special holiday or vary the customs, please send an email at afsana@gcmediation.com.

This calendar was produced by, Gibson Chowdhury – Clear Collaborative Mediation, through careful research and references to various sources and materials.

About Afsana

Afsana is a Qualified Mediator and a roster mediator at the Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program. She is the founder of 'Gibson Chowdhury', a Toronto-based mediation boutique, specializing in civil and commercial disputes, including contract, neighbour, and residential construction/renovation disputes. Afsana is the co-founder and Senior Vice President of the Diversified Dispute Resolution Institute of Canada and an Adjudicator at the Property Standards Committee for the City of Toronto. 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 on cultural competency and intercultural communications and dispute resolution. See her full bio at www.gcmediation.com.

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