

Diversity Calendar

May 2023

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation
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May 1st Wicca Beltane/May Day

A Pagan holiday to signify the coming of summer. Often celebrated with a maypole, which has ribbons attached to it. Women and girls will hold the ribbons to dance around the maypole.

May 5th Mexican Cinco De Mayo

Remembrance of the Mexican Army's victory during Battle of Pueblo. The popularity of this celebration has grown over the years to mark a day of proud heritage. It is celebrated with military parades and music festivals.

May 17th International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

A day to raise awareness of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and the long endured violence and discrimination. Established in 2005.

May 18th Christian Ascension of Jesus

A day to remember Jesus Christ, when he left the earth and ascended to heaven 40 days after Easter.

May 21st World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

If you are reading and attempting to understand this calendar, you are already making great efforts to deepen your understanding of the values of culture, tradition and diversity around the world! This was the objective of the UN when they established this day.

May 23-24th Baha'i Declaration of the Bab

This was the day in 1844, when Baha'u'llah announced that he was the messenger of God. The Baha'i faith has grown steadily across the world since its invocation in 1853

May 22nd Canada Victoria Day

A celebration of the birthday of Queen Victoria. May 24th was declared a federal holiday in 1901. It is also a declaration of the arrival in Spring in Canada.

May 26th Buddhist Buddha Day /Visakha Puja

This is predominantly Buddhist holiday also celebrated by some Hindu followers in parts of South Asia. The day commemorates birth and enlightenment. It is also a celebration of the **death** of Gautama Buddha. The is spent in deep meditation and paying homage to the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

May 26th - 27th Jewish Shavuot

A celebration of the summer harvest, 7 weeks (50 days) after Passover. Shavuot is also associated with first time the Torah was given to the Children of Israel from Mount Sinai. It is customary to read the Book of Ruth, eat dairy products on the days and light candles.

May Facts:

Asian Heritage Month

In May 2001, the Canadian government officially designated May as the Asian Heritage Month to recognize the incredible contributions of the Asian population living in Canada.

Mother's Day - May 14th!

Happy Mother's Day to all mom's across North America. Enjoy your special day!

May 28th Christianity Pentecost

This is the seventh Sunday after Easter, remembering the Holy Spirit that descended on Jesus Christ and his apostles. Similarly to Shavuot, it is also a celebration of the summer harvest. Many Christians attend Church for worship. Traditionally the priests wear and decorate the altar in red.

May 29th Baha'i Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

Remembrance of the ascension on Baha'u'llah. He was the founder of the Baha'i faith in 1853.

About the Calendar

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for the month of May 2023. 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 to 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 lawyer and Qualified Mediator and founder of 'Gibson Chowdhury', a Toronto-based mediation boutique, specializing in race discrimination, civil and commercial disputes, business contracts, neighbour, and residential construction/renovation disputes. Afsana is an Adjudicator at the Property Standards Committee for the City of Toronto. She is currently the Chair of the OBA's ADR Section Executive board and has recently co-chaired a groundbreaking report as part of an OBA Working Group called "Neutral Diversity in Ontario". She has written several CLE programs on Equity Diversity and Inclusion and intercultural communications. She is a member of the International Academy of Mediators' DEI committee where she continues to build helpful tools for lawyers and mediators to help break down gender and racial barriers. Afsana is often asked to attend speaking engagements globally to present on issues concerning dispute resolution and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in ADR. Afsana is the recipient of the ADR Institute of Ontario, Star Award 2021.

Afsana is a British-born national and daughter of British Muslim Immigrant parents from Bangladesh. She is now a Canadian immigrant where she enjoys the company of her husband and three children, living in the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, also known as Toronto.

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