

# Diversity Calendar

## July 2023

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation  
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### July 1st Turtle Island/Canada Canada Day

Marks the enactment of the Constitution Act in 1867, which formed the united nation now known as Canada. Those celebrating are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.

### July 3rd Buddhism Asalha Puja

This is a celebration amongst the Theravada Buddhist community, (Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Laos) of the first sermon by the Buddha following his enlightenment. It is one of the most important celebrations in the Buddhist Community.

### July 4th America Independence Day

Marks the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776 after the original 13 colonies now known as the United States of America gained independence from Britain.

### July 9th Baha'i Martyrdom of the Báb

An observation to commemorate the execution of the Báb (founder of the Baha'i faith) in 1850, as ordered by the Persian Empire.

### July 14th France Bastille Day

This day in 1789 marked the start of the French Revolution after the storming of a prison in Paris known as the Bastille, which held a number of political prisoners.

### July 14th Global International Non-Binary People's Day

A day to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by non-binary people.

### July 18th Global Nelson Mandela International Day

The U.N. General Assembly announced this day in 2009 to recognize Nelson Mandela's speech and call to young people to take leadership and address the world's social injustices. It is also Nelson Mandela's birthday

### July 19 - 20th Islam Hijri New Year

Islamic New Year. It is the year 1443. Islam is the youngest religion of all the major religions and the fastest growing religion in the world. Happy New Year to everyone who celebrates.

### July 26 - 27th Jewish Tisha B'Av

Tisha B'Av is the end of a three week period which marks the destruction of two sacred temples by the Babylonians and the Romans. To commemorate the loss, the Jewish community offer prayer by reading select passages from the Torah and fast on the 9th Av.

# July Fun facts

The month of July was named after Julius Caesar. Caesar invented the Julian calendar, which was eventually succeeded by the Gregorian calendar still in use today.

July 17th is National Emoji Day. Have some fun and reach out to a friend or three!



## July 27-28th Islam Ashura

In remembrance of Moses, when he was saved by God from the Egyptians. It also marks the last day of Muharram observed by Shia Muslims and a day of mourning for the martyrdom Hussein, (grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)). The day is observed with prayers and fasting.

## July 30th Global International Day of Friendship

A day announced by the U.N. General Assembly in 2011, for bridging friendships between people, cultures, religions, countries and communities.

### About the Calendar

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for the month of July 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 at [afsana@gcmediation.com](mailto: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 Awards 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](mailto:afsana@gcmediation.com) or via her online calendar <https://gcmediation.com/calendar-and-fees/>