

Diversity Calendar

December 2023

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation
www.gcmmediation.com

December 1st Global World AIDS Day

Est. 1988, this is a day to unite in our continued fight against HIV and show our support to those who suffer from the disease and to those who have lost a loved one.

2 million people die from AIDS each year.

December 3rd Global International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Est. in 1992 by the UN to promote our understanding of disabilities and support the dignity, rights and well-being of people suffering from a disability.

December 6th Christianity St. Nicholas Day

Celebration of St. Nicholas, who showed his generosity by giving gifts to children, or putting a coin in their boots. There are many ways of celebrating, depending on the various adaptations by each culture.

However, a common tradition is to leave a pair of boots/shoes by the front door or a fireplace, the night before. In the North American and British culture, St. Nicholas is famously known as Santa Claus/Father Christmas.

December 6th Canada National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Canada

Est. in 1991, this day is to mark the anniversary of the 14 women killed in Montreal's École Polytechnique.

Gender based violence is still prolific in Canada affecting many lives across the country. Today, let's raise our own awareness and speak up on violence against women.

December 7 - 15th Jewish Hannukah

Hannukah is an 8 day celebration of the festival of light. Each night, one of the 9 candles is lit on the menorah (a candelabra), followed by special prayers and food. The tradition of Hanukkah came following the defeat of the Greeks by Judah the Maccabee who then reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

December 8th Christianity Feast of the Immaculate Conception

A celebration of the Virgin Mary who conceived without sin. It is celebrated by attending Mass and festivities such as parades and special food preparation.

December 8th Buddhism Bodhi Day

Buddhists in Japan celebrate Bodhi as a day of Enlightenment.

The holiday is celebrated in monasteries by sitting in meditation over several days.

December 10th Global Human Rights Day

On the 10th December, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN, following WWII.

Women and men from all cultures, and religions drafted the Declaration, with one universal mission: to protect the fundamental rights of ALL humans.

December 13th Aga Khan's Birthday Islam (Ismaili)

Aga Khan was the Imam of the Ismaili sect of Islam. Following his death in 1881, the title Aga Khan was passed down to subsequent Imam's who lead the religious sect. Shah Karim al-Husayni is the current and 49th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims.

December

Seasons Greeting to everyone who has something special to celebrate in December!

December 16 - 24th Mexican Las Posadas

This is a Mexican tradition, to remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph and their search for an inn, for the safe birth of Jesus. This is a fun filled celebration with friends and family, songs & parades.

December 18th Global International Migrants Day

A day to raise awareness of the rights and freedoms of migrants, all over the world.

December 21st Pagan Yule - Winter Solstice

Winter Solstice marks the longest night of the year. It is a time of reflection, before the return of the sun (longer days). Celebrations include, decorating houses – with lots of greenery, including mistletoe, holding procession and gifts giving. Many of the traditions are still observed in the secular celebration of Christmas in many parts of the world.

December 25 Christianity Christmas

A celebration of the birth of Jesus. Traditions include gifts for children from Santa Claus, decorating trees, special dinners and gift exchanges with family and friends.

December 26th - 1st Jan African American Kwanza

Kwanza is a time for many African Americans around the world to celebrate their cultural values and heritage. The holiday was founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, as a way to bring African Americans together following riots based on race discrimination. The celebration is built on seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Each day of Kwanza is dedicated one of these principles.

About the Calendar

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations in December 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 Gibson-Chowdhury

Afsana is a lawyer and a Qualified Mediator. She is the founder of 'Gibson Chowdhury', a Toronto-based mediation boutique, specializing in workplace discrimination, civil and commercial disputes. Afsana is an Adjudicator at the Property Standards Committee for the City of Toronto. Afsana served as the Chair (2022/2023 term) of the Ontario Bar Association's ADR Section Executive Board, where she led initiatives to promote diversity in the mediation profession. Her dedication to fostering inclusivity is evident in the OBA Working Group's groundbreaking report, 'Neutral Diversity in Ontario,' where she served as co-chair. This effort aims to enhance diversity within the mediation field. Afsana further contributes to the field through her role as a committee member of the Winkler Institute, organizing cutting-edge material for the annual Winkler/Osgoode PD/IAM conference. Afsana is often asked to attend speaking engagements globally to present on issues concerning dispute resolution and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in ADR. She often attends Canadian Universities as a guest lecture to advance DEI in mediation. Afsana is the recipient of the ADR Institute of Ontario, Star Award.

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/>