

Diversity Calendar

January 2024

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation
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Jan 1st Gregorian Calendar New Year's Day

The first day of the year, celebrated around the world in accordance with the Gregorian calendar.

Happy New Year.

Jan 3rd Roman Catholic Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

This day is a formal way to appoint a time to honour the naming the Lord, Jesus Christ. Although it is not an official holiday, it has been celebrated by many since the 15th century on the 8th day of Christmas.

Jan 6th Christian Epiphany or Three Kings Day

This holiday commemorates the three wise men visiting Jesus. It marks the 12th day of Christmas. Some Orthodox Christian communities celebrate this day as being Christmas.

Jan 7th Eastern Orthodox Christian Christmas

Often referred to as "Old Christmas Day". Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian Calendar, rather than the Gregorian, celebrate Christmas 13 days after other Christian Churches.

Jan 13th Sikh and Hindu Lori-Maghi

Maghi is a Sikh Festival, in remembrance of 40 martyrs. It is often celebrated by taking a holy dip in water. Lohri is celebrated the night before Maghi by Hindu followers, by lighting bonfires and mid-winter festivals that marks the new harvest.

Jan 14th Orthodox Orthodox New Year

Marking the start of the Julian calendar, Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate the new year.

Jan 15th Hindu Makar Sankranti

This is a festive day dedicated to the Sun God. Puja (prayer) is offered during this time to celebrate the beginning of a new harvest.

Jan 15th Worldwide Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Remembering the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Martin was a social justice activist, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his work. He was assassinated in 1968. President Raegan created this day in 1983 in memory of the work he did.

Jan 21st World Religion Day

An event initiated by the Baha'i faith to be mindful that although differences may exist, kindness and understanding of each other's worldviews can bring humanity together.

January:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.-

Jan 20th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday

In the Sikh religion, a Guru is considered a master, who guides his followers with the words of one God. Each Guru of the past left an important teaching behind, such as the oneness of God (Guru Nanak - the first Guru).

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, is the Tenth Guru who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the Father of the Khalsa. Before his death, Guru Gobind Singh Ji declared the Sikh religion's only scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib. The day is celebrated through prayers and giving to the poor.

Jan 25th Buddhist Mahayana New Year

The Mahayana Buddhists, are the largest sect in Buddhism and are most prominent in Tibet, China, Mongolia, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. They celebrate this day to commemorate the first full-moon in January.

Jan 27th Global International Day of Commemoration

A day to remember the victims of the Holocaust, during WWII.

About the Calendar

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for the month of January 2024. There may be some celebrations that have not been included in this calendar and customs some 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 materials.

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About Afsana

About Afsana Gibson-Chowdhury Afsana is a lawyer and a Qualified Mediator. She founded '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 lecturer 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/>