

# Diversity Calendar

## March 2024

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation  
[www.gcmediation.com](http://www.gcmediation.com)

### March 2nd (sundown) Ala (19 Days of Fast) Baha'i

A nineteen day fast begins for spiritual growth and closeness to faith. The end of the fast will mark 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 8th 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 8th 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 10th Christian Meat-fare Sunday (the Last Judgment)

Celebration of the last day for eating meat before Easter Sunday for many Orthodox Christians. It is a time for repentance and forgiveness.

### March 10th Islam Ramadan

Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. Some of the first revelations from the Qur'an were received by Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) during this month in 609 CE. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset for approx. 29 days. It is a month of prayers and devotion to God, awareness and charitable giving.

### March 17th 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 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 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 20th Pagan Ostara

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

### March 20th - 21st 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 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 23th - 24th Jewish Purim**

A celebration to mark the survival of Jewish communities from genocide during the 5th century BC.

On Purim, Jewish communities offer charity and share food with friends.

### **March 24th Christian Palm Sunday**

In commemoration of when Jesus entered Jerusalem, marking the beginning of the holy week.

In some Churches around the world, processions are started whilst holding palm leaves.

### **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 25th Sikh Hola Mohalla (Bikarami)**

A Punjabi holiday following 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 25th Sikh & Hindu Holi**

Celebrated by Sikh and Hindu communities around the world, including India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. This holiday is also known as the "festival of colour", and celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

People will usually take to the streets in large crowds throwing coloured powder at each other.

### **March 29th Christian Good Friday**

This is the Friday before Easter in recognition of the execution of Jesus Christ. Various religious services take place depending on the Church.

Orthodox Christians celebrate Good Friday on April 14th.

### **March 31st Christian Easter Sunday**

Easter is a commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day of his crucifixion. It is celebrated with fun traditions including decorating eggs and surprise visits to children by the Easter Bunny.

Celebrated as Pascha by the Orthodox Christians on the April 16th.

### **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 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](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 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 an active member of the Ontario Bar Association and is currently the Chair of the 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 topics such as 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, commonly 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/>