

# Diversity Calendar

## April 2024

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation  
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### April 1st Christian Easter Monday

Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, which was confirmed to the visitors of his tomb by an angel.

### April 5th Islam Laylat al-Qadr

The last 10 nights of Ramadan are highly spiritual and sacred for Muslims. Laylat al-Qadr (the night of decree) was when the Qur'an was first revealed. The exact date is unknown but many use the 27th night as a guide although all 10 nights are spent in prayer, asking for forgiveness and reciting the Qur'an.

### April 9th Hindu Chaitra Navratri

A nine day celebration of the goddess Durga. Each day is celebrated to mark goddess Durga's 9 forms. Daily rituals, special recitals and fasting are all a part of the festivities during this time.

### April 9th - 10th Islam Eid-Ul-Fitr

This is one of the holiest celebrations in the Islamic calendar that marks the end of Ramadan and the 1st of the month of Shawwal. Eid is spent with family and friends who begin the day by attending Eid prayer at the Mosque. It is a day to offer charity in the form of food to those in need. One of the many traditions of Eid is to wear new clothes and visit friends and family and prepare special feasts.

### April 13th Hindu, Sikh Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi or Vishu is the celebration of the spring harvest and when Guru Gobind Singh established the order of 'Khalsa'. This is huge celebrations among the communities that observe the day with prayers, street parades and markets, and lots of singing and dancing too.

### April 17th Hindu Ram Navami

A celebration of the birthday of Lord Rama, who is the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu. This is one of five major holy festivals celebrated across the Hindu religion. Usually red garments are worn in celebration with extravagant flowers offered to the God in temples. Some devotees also fast from sunrise until the next morning.

### April 21st Jain Mahavir Jayanti

Celebrating Lord Mahavir's birthday is one of the largest festival in Jainism. The day is spent leaning about Mahavir, and observing peace and harmony in the community. The day is celebrated through visits to lavishly decorated temples and ceremonial baths.

### April 21st - May 2nd Baha'i Ridvan

This festival is celebrated over 12 days to remember Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith. Believers refrain from working or going to school on the first day of Ridvan. The day is celebrated in prayer and festivities including extravagant garments and food.

### April 22nd - 30th Jewish Passover

Passover begins and continues for 8 days. It is a celebration of the Israelites release from slavery, from ancient Egypt. Prayers and food festivities are offered in celebration. "Chag Pesach Sameach!" (Happy Passover)

# *April:*

**Autism Acceptance Month** is observed in April to raise awareness about and acceptance of the developmental disability that impacts individuals.

## **About this Calendar**

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for April 2024. 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 email [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 a Qualified Mediator. She founded 'Gibson Chowdhury', a Toronto-based mediation boutique, specializing in workplace discrimination, civil and commercial disputes. Afsana is an Adjudicator and Chair of 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](mailto:afsana@gcmediation.com) or via her online calendar <https://gcmediation.com/calendar-and-fees/>