

2026 DIVERSITY CALENDAR

Holidays and Cultural Observances

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			New Year's Day 1		2	3 World Braille Day National Ribbon Skirt Day 4
5	Epiphany 6 Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern) 7	8	9	10	11
12	Lohri 13	Pongal 14-17 Orthodox New Year 14	15	16	Raoul Wallenberg Day 17	18
19	Martin Luther King Jr Day 20	Lincoln Alexander Day 21	22	23	International Day of Education / World Day for African & Afrodescendant Culture 24	25
Lailat al Miraj 26-27 26	International Holocaust Remembrance Day 27	Lunar New Year / Spring Festival 28	National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack & Action Against Islamophobia Sadeh 29	30	31	

- Alzheimer's Awareness Month (Canada)
- Tamil Heritage Month (Canada)

JANUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
14 -17	Pongal	Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated by the Tamil community. It is a celebration to thank the Sun, Mother Nature and the various farm animals that help to contribute to a bountiful harvest. (Hinduism)
1	New Year's Day	The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. (International)
4	World Braille Day	Observed to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. Celebrated on Louis Braille's birthday, the inventor of braille. (International)
4	National Ribbon Skirt Day	National Ribbon Skirt Day was declared by parliament in 2022 after Isabella Kulak, a young girl from the Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, was shamed for wearing a ribbon skirt at her school. Ribbon skirts represent an important part of the identity and history of Indigenous women and girls. On National Ribbon Skirt Day, Indigenous women and girls across Canada are encouraged to wear ribbon skirts to celebrate their culture, strength, and connection. (Canada)
6	Epiphany	A Christian festival that primarily commemorates the coming of the Wise Men (Magi) to the infant Jesus Christ. Celebrated on January 19 in some Orthodox churches that celebrate Christmas on January 7. (Christianity)
6	Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	Honors the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last human Guru. Date varies based on the Hindu Bikrami and lunar calendars; also celebrated on December 27, 2025. (Sikhism)
7	Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern)	The equivalent of December 25 on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas day on or near this date. (Orthodox Christianity)
13	Lohri	A popular wintertime Punjabi folk festival, celebrated primarily by Sikhs and Hindus from the Punjab region of Indian subcontinent. (Sikhism / Hinduism)
14	Orthodox New Year	The start of the new year under the Julian calendar. (Orthodox Christianity)

JANUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
17	Raoul Wallenberg Day	Raoul Wallenberg Day honours Raoul Wallenberg, Canada's first honorary citizen, who is credited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews. (Canada)
20	Martin Luther King Jr Day	An American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It falls on the third Monday of January, close to King's actual birthday on January 15. (United States)
21	Lincoln Alexander Day	A day commemorating The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, who was a pioneer in the fight for racial equity in Canada as the first Black Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, the first Black federal Minister, and the first Black Chair of the Worker's Compensation Board of Ontario. (Canada)
24	International Day of Education	United Nations designated day to advance Sustainable Development Goal 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. (International)
24	World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture	Established by UNESCO, World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture celebrates the many vibrant cultures of the African continent and African Diasporas around the world and promotes them as an effective lever for sustainable development, dialogue and peace. (International)
26 (sundown) - 27	Lailat al Miraj	A Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to recite Salat (ritual prayer) five times a day. Also known as Isra and Mi'raj, Al Isra'wal Miraj or Laylat al Miraj. (Islam)
27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Designated by the United Nations (UN), this day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and commemorates the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism. (International)
28 (evening) - 29	Lunar New Year / Spring Festival	Beginning of a calendar year based on the lunar calendar. While commonly known as Chinese New Year, LNY is celebrated in many Asian countries including Mongolia, Korea & Vietnam. In China, the Spring Festival is a celebration that begins on New Years Eve of the lunar calendar and lasts for fifteen days, ending with the Lantern Festival. (International)
29	National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia	A day commemorating the Islamophobic attack that took place at the Grand Mosque in Quebec City, which took the lives of six people and seriously injured 19 others. The Government of Canada established this commemorative day in 2021 to honour the victims and express solidarity with the survivors of this tragedy. (Canada)
29	Sadeh	An ancient Persian mid-winter festival, celebrating the end of the coldest days. Sadeh, meaning "one hundred" in Farsi, marks 50 days and 50 nights before the beginning of spring. (Persian/Iranian/Zoroastrianism)

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						World Interfaith Harmony Week 1-7 World Hijab Day Imbolc / Imbolg / Oimealc / Candlemas 1
White Cane Week 2-8 Groundhog Day Vasant Panchami 2	3	World Cancer Day 4	5	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 6	7	8
9	10	International Day of Women & Girls in Science Thaipusam 11	Lantern Festival Māgha Pūjā 12	World Radio Day 13	Valentine's Day 14	National Flag of Canada Day Parinirvana / Nirvana Day 15
Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week 16-22 16	Family Day Islander Day Louis Riel Day Nova Scotia Heritage Day 17	18	19	World Day of Social Justice 20	International Mother Language Day 21	22
23	24	25	Pink Shirt Day Maha Shivaratri 26	27	Nineteen Day Fast Losar (Tibetan New Year) Ramadan 28	

- Black History Month (Canada)
- African Heritage Month (Nova Scotia)

FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
1-7	World Interfaith Harmony Week	World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February, after General Assembly designation in 2010. The General Assembly pointed out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. (International)
2-8	White Cane Week	White Cane Week, occurring the first full week of February, was created by the Canadian Council of the Blind to raise public awareness of the reality of life for Canadians living with vision loss. (Canada)
16-22	Aromantic Spectrum Awareness	Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week (ASAW) is an annual, international event meant to spread awareness and acceptance of aromantic spectrum identities and the issues we face, as well as making more people aware of our existence while celebrating it. (International)
28 (sundown) – March 19	Nineteen Day Fast	A period when adult Bahá'ís fast from sunrise to sunset each day, coinciding with the 19-day Bahá'í month of Alá (loftiness) and immediately preceding the Bahá'í new year. This period of fasting is a time of prayer, meditation, and spiritual rejuvenation. (Bahá'í)
1	World Hijab Day	Founded by Nazma Khan, World Hijab Day recognizes the millions of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab and was created to foster religious tolerance and understanding by inviting women (non-Hijabi Muslims/non-Muslims) to experience the hijab for one day. (International)
1	Imbolc / Imbolg / Oimelec / Candlemas	Imbolc is a festival of the returning light when days are getting noticeably longer, and signs of new plant life emerge. “Imbolc” comes from an archaic Gaelic expression “in the belly”, which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. Traditionally, Imbolc is a time of cleansing and purification. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
2	Vasant Panchami	A Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring, and is dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, learning, and art. (Hinduism)
2	Groundhog Day	A popular tradition in Canada and the United States derived from Pennsylvania Dutch superstition. If a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow, winter is said to continue for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring is said to arrive early. (International)
4	World Cancer Day	An international awareness day led by the Union for International Cancer Control to raise worldwide attention and inspire action for a cancer-free world. (International)

FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, and to engender greater focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education, and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences. (International)
11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	A day designated for the dismantling of gender stereotypes – specifically to end institutional and systemic gender imbalances in science. (International)
11	Thaipusam	A Hindu festival celebrated by the Tamil community in India and by the Tamil diaspora worldwide. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and wisdom over ignorance. (Hinduism)
12	Lantern Festival	The Lantern Festival, celebrated in China and other Asian countries by decorating homes and streets with colourful lanterns, honours deceased ancestors and promotes reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness. The holiday occurs on the 15 th day of the first month of the lunar calendar and marks the first full moon of the new lunar year and the end of the Spring Festival. (International)
12	Māgha Pūjā	An important Buddhist festival, celebrated on the full moon day of the third lunar month in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Sri Lanka and on the full moon day of Tabauing in Myanmar. It celebrates a gathering between the Buddha and 1,250 of his first disciples. (Buddhism)
13	World Radio Day	An international day for recognizing the enduring power of radio to promote the pluralism, representation, and diversity that is needed to build a more peaceful and inclusive world. (International)
14	Valentine's Day	A day of romance when people celebrate their love for one another. The origin of this holiday dates back to the 5th century and is named after a Christian martyr, St. Valentine. (International)
14	Chötrul Düchen	Chötrul Düchen, the “Festival of Miracles”, takes place on the 15th day of the first Tibetan lunar month during the full moon. It is one of the four Buddhist festivals commemorating four events in the life of the Buddha and celebrates the first fifteen days of the year when Buddha displayed a different miracle on each day. (Buddhism)
15	National Flag of Canada Day	A day that commemorates the inauguration of the Canadian flag in 1965. The day is marked by flying the flag, occasional public ceremonies, and educational programs in schools. (Canada)

FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
15	Parinirvana / Nirvana Day	An annual Mahayana Buddhist festival that commemorates of the death of Buddha and his entry into Nirvana, which is believed to be a release from the cycle of death and rebirth. Sometimes celebrated on February 8 th . (Buddhism)
17	Family Day	Civic holiday in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, which celebrates the importance of family. (Canada)
17	Islander Day	A civic holiday observed in Prince Edward Island in celebration of family and community. (Canada)
17	Louis Riel Day	Civic holiday in Manitoba which commemorates the life of Louis Riel, Métis leader of the Red River Resistance of 1869-70 and the driving force behind Manitoba becoming Canada's fifth province. (Canada)
17	Nova Scotia Heritage Day	Civic holiday in Nova Scotia to remember the province's storied past and honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to the province's unique heritage. (Canada)
20	World Day of Social Justice	A day which recognizes the International Labour Organization's 'Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization'. It is premised on the tenet that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations - by removing barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or disability. (International)
21	International Mother Language Day	A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. (International)
26	Pink Shirt Day	An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying. (International)
26	Maha Shivaratri	Sanskrit for "Great Night of Shiva", Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the god Shiva. The festival is one of the one of the most significant Hindu spiritual festivals, and is observed by fasting, jagran (all-night vigil), and worship. (Hinduism)
26 (sundown) - 27	Lailat al Miraj	A Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to recite Salat (ritual prayer) five times a day. Also known as Isra and Mi'raj, Al Isra'wal Miraj or Laylat al Miraj. (Islam)
28	Losar (Tibetan New Year)	A new year's festival celebrated on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar, which corresponds to a date in Feb. or Mar. in the Gregorian calendar. It is one the most festive periods of the year observed with many religious & cultural events. (Tibet)

MARCH

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Lent (Western) 1 - 31 Ramadan Great Lent, or the Great Fast (Orthodox / Eastern) Zero Discrimination Day Self-harm Awareness Day Disability Day of Mourning)	1	Black Mental Health Week 2 - 8 Nineteen Day Fast Black Mental Health Day Purim	2	Māgha Pūjā Lantern Festival Chōtrul Düchen	3	Hola Mohalla 4 - 6 Holi Employee Appreciation Day	4	5	6	7
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International Women's Day	8	Laylat al-Qadr	9	10	11	12	Hola Mohalla 14-16	13	14
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International Day to Combat Islamophobia	15	Neurodiversity Celebration Week 16 - 22	16	Saint Patrick's Day Chaharshanbe Suri	17	18	Navratri / Navaratri Ugadi / Yugadi Nowruz / Norouz	19	20	21
							Nowruz / Norouz Eid Al-Fitr Ostara / Spring Equinox International Francophonie Day International Day of Happiness Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day		International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination World Down Syndrome Day	

World Water Day	22	23	24	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	25	26	Khordad Sal Purple Day Ram Navami	27	28
			International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims			Muslim Women's Day			

Holy Week (Western) Palm Sunday (Western)	29	30	31	Mahavir Jayanti / Mahavir Janma Kalyanak International Transgender Day of Visibility
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MARCH 2026

Date	Name	Description
All Month	<p>Women's History Month (International)</p> <p>Irish Heritage Month (Canada)</p> <p>Bangladeshi Heritage Month (Ontario)</p> <p>Multiculturalism Month (Newfoundland and Labrador)</p> <p>Epilepsy Awareness Month (Canada)</p> <p>Endometriosis Awareness Month (Nova Scotia & Ontario)</p>	
2-8	Black Mental Health Week	Started in 2021, Black Mental Health Week aims to provide greater opportunity to cultivate greater awareness of the impacts of anti-Black racism on Black communities, families and individuals. (Toronto)
2-20	Nineteen Day Fast	A period when adult Bahá'ís fast from sunrise to sunset each day, coinciding with the 19-day Bahá'í month of Alá (loftiness) and immediately preceding the Bahá'í new year. This period of fasting is a time of prayer, meditation, and spiritual rejuvenation. (Bahá'í)
16-22	Neurodiversity Celebration Week	A worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported, and recognizing the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual. (International)
Feb 23 - Apr. 11	Great Lent, or the Great Fast (Orthodox / Eastern)	A 40-day period of fasting (including Sundays) in preparation for the feast of Pascha. This period is observed by abstaining from certain foods, drinks, and activities, increased prayer, personal improvement, and participating in charity (almsgiving). Fasting is continued during the Great and Holy Week between Lent and Pascha. (Orthodox Christianity)
4-6	Hola Mohalla	This annual festival was started by the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, as a gathering of Sikhs for military exercises and mock battles on the day following the festival of Holi (sometimes coinciding with Holi). The festival exists to remind people of valor and defense preparedness. (Sikhism)
9-19	Laylat al-Qadr	Laylat al-Qadr (Arabic: "Night of Power") is an Islamic festival that commemorates the night on which God first revealed the Qur'ān to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibrīl). It is most commonly observed on the 23rd night of Ramadan for Shi'ah Muslims and on the 27th for Sunni Muslims. (Shi'ah Islam)

MARCH 2026

Date	Name	Description
Feb. 17 (sundown) - Mar. 19	Ramadan	In Islam, Ramadan is the holy month whereby Muslims fast during daylight hours. It is a period that aims to cleanse one's body and soul from impurities and re-focus oneself to the worship of God. Prayers begin in the evening and fasting begins on the next day. (Islam)
Feb 18 - Apr. 2	Lent (Western)	A 40-day period of fasting (excluding Sundays) in preparation for Easter. This period is observed by abstaining from certain foods, drinks, and activities, increased prayer, personal improvement, and participating in charity (almsgiving). (Christianity)
1	Zero Discrimination Day	Zero Discrimination Day celebrates the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. It highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace, and a movement for change in order to end all forms of discrimination. (International)
1	Self-harm Awareness Day	Self-harm Awareness Day (also known as Self-injury Awareness Day) is dedicated to ending the stigma around self-harm and raising awareness about available supports and alternative coping methods. (International)
2	Black Mental Health Day	First recognized in 2020 by the City of Toronto, Taibu Community Health Center, CAFCAN and Strides Toronto, Black Mental Health Day is observed each year on the first Monday in March. Black Mental Health Day is a call to recognize the ongoing impact on mental health that results from experiences of anti-Black racism and to raise awareness of the specific mental health needs of Black communities. (Toronto)
4	Holi	A Hindu spring festival celebrated predominantly in India by both Hindu and non-Hindu people, also known as the "festival of colours" or the "festival of love". Holi represents the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil, and on this one day, the usual rankings of caste, gender, status, and age are ignored in favour of celebrating together by throwing colored water and powders on one another. (Hinduism)
4	Employee Appreciation Day	Employee Appreciation Day falls on the first Friday of March and acts as a reminder of the importance of showing appreciation to employees and building a culture of appreciation. (International)
8	International Women's Day	A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. (International)

MARCH 2026

Date	Name	Description
21	World Down Syndrome Day	A day to raise public awareness of Down syndrome and the effective and meaningful inclusion and participation of all people with Down Syndrome in spaces where decisions are being made about matters relating to or affecting their lives. (International)
20	Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day	Advocated by the Two-Spirit community and created in partnership with the Two-Spirit Program at the CBRC, this annual event will recognize and celebrate the diverse sexualities and gender expressions that exist within Indigenous communities. (Canada)
22	World Water Day	World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. (International)
24	International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	This day was started in remembrance of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was assassinated in 1980 for denouncing violations of human rights. Its purpose is to honour the memories of victims and heroes whose lives were devoted or lost in the pursuit of human rights or its denial therein. (International)
25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	This is a United Nations international observation that offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. First observed in 2008, the international day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. (International)
25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	This is a United Nations international observation that offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. First observed in 2008, the international day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. (International)
27	Muslim Women's Day	Muslim Women's Day was launched in 2017 by muslimgirl.com with the aim to elevate stories and share experiences from the community in the mainstream media. (International)
29	Palm Sunday	A Christian celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week prior to his death and resurrection, which marks the start of Holy Week. (Christianity)

MARCH 2026

Date	Name	Description
26	Purple Day	Purple Day is an international grassroots epilepsy awareness initiative created in Nova Scotia by Cassidy Megan. People are encouraged to wear purple on March 26 to promote epilepsy awareness worldwide. (International)
27 (sundown) – 28	Laylat al-Qadr (Sunni)	Laylat al-Qadr (Arabic: “Night of Power”) is an Islamic festival that commemorates the night on which God first revealed the Qur’ān to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibrīl). Laylat ul Qadr falls on odd nights during the last ten days of Ramadan (in the Hijri calendar). It is most commonly observed on the 23rd night of Ramadan for Shi’ah Muslims and on the 27th for Sunni Muslims, but an exact date is not specified and many muslims will dedicate additional prayers on all odd nights during this period. (Sunni Islam)
19	Ugadi / Yugadi	Ugadi / Yugadi is derived from two Sanskrit words, "yuga" (age) and "ādi" (beginning), to mean "the beginning of a new age". It is celebrated as the first day of the year as it is believed that it was on this day that Lord Brahma created the universe. (Hinduism)
30 19-22 sundown	Eid Al-Fitr	A Muslim celebration to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of dawn to sunset fasting. This day is celebrated with feasts, gifts, and prayers in honour of God. Eid Al-Fitr falls on the sighting of the crescent moon at the end of the month of Ramadan, which may vary between 29 and 30 days. The exact date remains uncertain until the night before and may differ among countries due to variations in moon sightings. Celebrations may last up to 3 days. (Islam)
31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	The International Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the struggles, sacrifices and achievements of those who fought, and continue to fight, for gender equity. This day highlights our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours who contribute to the diversity in Canada, and it encourages us to recognize that transgender and non-binary individuals continue to resist oppression by simply being exactly who they are. (International)

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			Lent (Western) Great Lent, or the Great Fast (Orthodox / Eastern) Holy Week (Western) Passover / Pesach	1 Theravada New Year World Autism Awareness Day Sizdah Be-dar Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday (Western)	2 Good Friday	3 4
Palm Sunday	5 Easter Monday International Asexuality Day	6 National Caregiver Day International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda World Health Day	7 Birthday of Buddha International Roma Day International Day of Pink	8 Day of Valour / Araw ng Kagitingan Holy Thursday (Orthodox / Eastern)	9 Equal Pay Day Good Friday / Holy Friday (Orthodox / Eastern)	10 11
Easter / Pascha (Orthodox / Eastern)	12 Vaisakhi / Baisakhi Yom HaShoah	13 Sinhala and Tamil New Year Vishu	14	15	16	17 18
National Volunteer Week 19	19	20 Ridván - 30	21 Earth Day	22 Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day	23 Armenian Genocide Memorial Day	24 25
	26	27 Day of Mourning World Day for Health & Safety at Work	28	29 Journey to Freedom Day	30	

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
1-9	Passover / Pesach	Passover celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. The first two nights are commemorated with telling the story of the exodus from Egypt over a special meal called a Seder. (Judaism)
2	Theravada New Year	Celebrated for three days following the first full moon in April, Theravadan Buddhists celebrate the new year by going to the temple, offering prayers, wearing new clothes, cleaning their homes, and hosting feasts. The date and length vary among different countries and the diaspora. (Buddhism)
5-11	Great and Holy Week (Orthodox / Eastern)	A period of continued fasting and religious observance following the Great Fast (Great Lent), beginning on Lazarus Saturday and ending with the feast of Pascha. (Orthodox Christianity)
20 - 26	Canadian Fertility Awareness Week	A week to raise awareness and recognize the unique difficulties experienced by people affected by infertility. (Canada)
21 – May 2	Ridván	"Ridván" translates to "paradise". The 12-day festival is the holiest time for Bahá'ís. It commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced that he was the prophet whose coming had been foretold. Bahá'ís do not work on the 1st, 9th or 12th days of Ridvan. (Bahá'í)
19-25	National Volunteer Week	National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million volunteers. (Canada)
7	National Caregiver Day	Unanimously adopted by the Members of Parliament of Canada to recognize the importance of the "invisible" unpaid work, this day provides an opportunity for formal recognition of caregivers and their contributions.
2	World Autism Awareness Day	The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. (International)
2	Sizdah Be-dar	Also known as Nature Day, this festivity marks the end of the Nowruz celebrations, and is often celebrated by picnicking outdoors in nature. (Persian/Iranian/Zoroastrianism)

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
2	Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday (Western)	Falling on the Thursday before Easter, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. (Christianity)
3	Good Friday (Western)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. (Christianity)
5	Easter (Western)	This is one of the holiest days in the Christian (Western) calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion. (Christianity)
5	Palm Sunday (Orthodox / Eastern)	A Christian celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week prior to his death and resurrection, which marks the start of the Great and Holy Week. (Orthodox Christianity)
6	International Asexuality Day	International Asexuality Day is a coordinated worldwide campaign promoting the asexuality umbrella, including demisexual, grey-asexual and other ace identities. The four themes of International Asexuality Day are: advocacy, celebration, education, and solidarity. (International)
6	Easter Monday (Western)	Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries. (Christianity)
7	National Caregiver Day	Unanimously adopted by the Members of Parliament of Canada to recognize the importance of the "invisible" unpaid work, this day provides an opportunity for formal recognition of caregivers and their contributions. (Canada)
7	International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda	On April 7, UNESCO commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government. Within just over 100 days, more than 1 million Tutsi were systematically murdered. Moderate Hutu and others who opposed the massacres were also killed during this period. (International)

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
7	World Health Day	A global observance day where each year draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. (International)
8	Birthday of Buddha	Commemorates the birth of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Buddha's birthday is celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists in East Asia and around the world on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, April 8th (Japan), or on the second Sunday of May (Taiwan). The exact date may vary depending on the calendars and calculations used in different traditions and countries. (Mahayana Buddhism)
5	International Roma Day	International Roma Day is devoted to Europe's largest ethnic minority, the Roma, a predominant part of whom suffer from discrimination and isolation. This day also focuses on Roma history, culture, language and aspirations, which remain largely unknown in Europe, even though they are key to mutual understanding and can contribute to closing the gap between communities. (International)
8	International Day of Pink	Celebrated on the second Wednesday of April, this is a day when people around the world are encouraged to put on a pink shirt and stand in Solidarity with the LGBTQ2S+ community to continue fighting for equality and acceptance. (International)
9	Day of Valour / Araw ng Kagitingan	Day of Valour, also known as "Araw ng Kagitingan", commemorates the Fall of Bataan and the courage of Filipino and American defenders during WWII. (Philippines)
9	Holy Thursday (Orthodox / Eastern)	Falling on the Thursday before Pascha, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. (Orthodox Christianity)
10	Equal Pay Day	First recognized in Ontario in 2014, Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap by highlighting that women must work longer than men to earn the same amount. Equal Pay Day shifts each year, marking the date that an average woman would have to work into the new year to earn what an average man earned in the previous year. Current date reflects last year's date as we are not yet aware of this year's date. Please see organization website for accurate date. (Ontario)

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
10	Good Friday / Holy Friday (Orthodox / Eastern)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. (Orthodox Christianity)
12	Easter / Pascha (Orthodox / Eastern)	One of the holiest days in the Christian (Eastern) calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion. (Orthodox Christianity)
13	Vaisakhi / Baisakhi	The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing, and worship. (Sikhism)
13-14	Yom HaShoah	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is an international day of commemoration, started in Israel, on which the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust are memorialized. (Judaism / international)
14	Sinhala and Tamil New Year	In Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese and Tamil communities celebrate the new year, known as 'Aluth Avurudha' in Sinhala and 'Puththandu' in Tamil, as the sun moves from Pisces to Aries marking the end of the harvest season. The new year is celebrated by both communities through various rituals and customs. (Sri Lanka)
14	Vishu	Vishu is a spring festival observed by Malayali Hindus in Kerala and in adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu, India. Vishu (Sanskrit: "equal") celebrates the vernal equinox when day and night are roughly equal length. (Hinduism)
22	Earth Day	Earth Day aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world. (International)
23	St. George's Day	This day is meant to celebrate the feast day of the Christian saint, St. George, who was a roman soldier and martyr. It is also observed as a provincial holiday in Newfoundland and Labrador. (Christianity)
23	Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day	This is a designated day for the creation of a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies. (International)

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Date	Name	Description
24	Armenian Genocide Memorial Day	Armenian Genocide Memorial Day is a public holiday in Armenia and is observed by the Armenian diaspora to commemorate the victims of the Armenian genocide (also called Medz Yeghern in Armenian, meaning "great crime") of 1915. (International)
28	Day of Mourning	The National Day of Mourning, held annually in Canada on April 28, is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job or a work-related tragedy. (Canada)
28	World Day for Health and Safety at Work	The National Day of Mourning, held annually in Canada on April 28, is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job or a work-related tragedy. (Canada)
30	Journey to Freedom Day	A national day of commemoration of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees and their acceptance in Canada after the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. (Canada)