



Equity & Inclusion **CALENDAR**

JANUARY 2022

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1: New Years Day (International): Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each new year for at least four millennia. Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and continue into the early hours of January 1 (New Year's Day). Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the new year and watching fireworks displays.

1: Emancipation Proclamation (African/Black American): the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 marked the official beginning of freedom for enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy, although many did not hear of it for several months. However, much of the enslaved population of the South had been finding its way to freedom for some time, as African Americans walked off plantations and farms in vast numbers, many making their way to the Union lines for food and clothing. This slow-spreading freedom eventually slowed the Confederate economy and helped guarantee its defeat at the hands of the Union.

6: Three Kings Day (Christian): In South America, Latin America and parts of Europe, the end of the Christmas season is a traditional time for gift giving.

6: Epiphany (Christian): In the Western church, this day celebrates the journey of the three Wise Men to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern Church it is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. On this day as well, the Armenians celebrate Christmas.

10: Seijin No Hi (Japan): This day celebrates Coming-of-Age of the youth of Japan who are twenty years old. They wear traditional clothes and visit the shrines where the family announce their adulthood to the spirits. This is a national holiday.

14: Makar Sankranti (India/ Hindu): The transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere is known as Makar Sankranti. The days gradually lengthen in the northern hemisphere.

14 - 17: Pongal Festival (India/ Hindu): or Thai Pongal is celebrated as the most important harvest festival in Tamil Nadu. It commemorates the blessings of the Sun God that leads to a good harvest and prosperity in life. It derives its name from the special sweet dish that is prepared on this day to be offered to the God of worship.

17: Tu Bishvat (Jewish): is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'Ilanot, literally 'New Year of the Trees'. In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration.

17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (USA): This day commemorates the leader of the Civil Rights movement in USA. People of all races and religions have benefited from the sacrifices and accomplishments made by this great man. He was a Nobel Prize winner (Peace Prize 1964) and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust (United Nations): On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

