



# April 2022

## Equity & Inclusion CALENDAR

Click on the events to learn more!



**Arab-American Heritage Month**, National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) is a time for celebrating the history, contributions, and culture of the diverse population of Arab Americans. Arab Americans have ancestry in one of the world's 22 Arab nations, which are located from northern Africa through western Asia. The people of these nations are ethnically, politically, and religiously diverse but share a common cultural and linguistic heritage.



**Autism Acceptance Month**, Every April Autism Speaks celebrates World Autism Month, beginning with United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. Throughout the month, we focus on sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, fostering worldwide support. This year, we are committed to keeping the spirit of the month alive, as now more than ever we know the autism community needs support, kindness and compassion.



**Celebrate Diversity Month**, April is Diversity Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the beauty of our unique cultures, backgrounds, and traditions. It is important that we find value in each other's experiences, differences, and unique characteristics as it enables us to respond with relevance, empathy, and compassion. By celebrating and sharing our authentic selves, we gain a greater appreciation of each other and the diversity that surrounds us. Celebrating diversity not only boosts cultural awareness but most importantly creates spaces of inclusion and fosters belonging where people feel valued.



**Genocide Awareness Month**, April is designated as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month each year, as it marks important anniversaries for multiple acts of genocide in the 20th century. Throughout the month, individuals and organizations join together to commemorate and honor victims and survivors, educate the public about past and contemporary genocides, and advocate for prevention against future mass atrocities.

**1: Ugadi (Hindu)**, Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves. They eat bitter Neem leaves with sweet jaggery to signify the bitter and sweet of life.

**2: World Autism Awareness Day**: World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on April 2 every year, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world.

**2: Ramadan Begins (Muslim)**: This is the holiest month in the Islamic Year and begins at the sighting of the new moon. It commemorates the period during which Prophet Mohammad received divine revelations. Observing Muslims fast between the hours of sunrise and sunset during the entire month, read the Qu'ran and worship in the mosque or at home.

**8: Laylat al-Qadr, Arabic: "Night of Power" (Muslim)**: is a festival that commemorates the night on which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. It is believed to have taken place on one of the final 10 nights of Ramadan in 610 CE, though the exact night is unclear.

**10: Ram Navami (Hindu)**: celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of God Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayan, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.

**10: Palm Sunday (Christian)**: For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday, often referred to as Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.

**14: Vaisakhi / Baisakhi / Vishu (Sikh)**: marks the start of the Punjabi New Year, but it is also a day to celebrate 1699 - the year when Sikhism was born as a collective faith.

**15: Good Friday (Christian)**: This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Italian Catholics have a procession called the Way of the Cross.



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**15-23: Passover/Pesach (Jewish):** or Pesach is a holiday commemorating the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites, when the Lord "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus.

**17: Easter (Christian):** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

**20: Start of Ridvan (Baha'i):** Ridvan, also known as the Most Great Festival, commemorates an incredible period in history: it celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the garden of Ridvan on the outskirts of Baghdad in 1863 where He publicly declared His station as a Manifestation of God. The Ridvan Festival is 12 days long and, according to the Badi calendar, spans from 13 Jalal (the month of Glory) until 5 Jamal (the month of Beauty).

**21-23: Gathering of Nations (Native/Indigenous Americans),** is an event where more than 500 Native tribes can come together each year to celebrate and share culture, and a place where singers and dancers can feel confident that competition is fair to all.

**22: Earth Day (International):** is celebrated around the world and events such as festivals and rallies are often organized for the weekends before or after April 22. Many communities also celebrate Earth Month by organizing a series of environmental activities throughout the month of April. The purpose of Earth Day is to celebrate the earth and renew our commitment to building a safer, healthier and cleaner world for all of us.

**22: National Day of Silence (LGBTQIAA+):** The GLSEN Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration where LGBTQ students and allies all around the country—and the world—take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ people in schools.



**27-28: Yom Hashoah/ Holocaust Memorial Day (Jewish):** occurs on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan. Shoah, which means "catastrophe" or "utter destruction" in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. This is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah. The Shoah is also known as the Holocaust, from a Greek word meaning "sacrifice by fire."