



Diversity Calendar Resources for March 2026

March includes many important observances, which we have grouped under two main themes:
Equity and Accessibility.

Equity is about ensuring that everyone can participate and contribute by removing barriers to participation.

Accessibility means making it possible for everyone, including people with disabilities, to fully engage in university life, enabling meaningful contributions and creating an environment where everyone feels safe to bring their authentic selves, grow, and thrive.

EQUITY

International Women's Day: Mar 8

International Women's Day, observed on March 8, celebrates women's achievements across all areas of society while drawing attention to the gender based inequalities that persist globally. The day serves as a rallying point for advocacy, policy reform, and collective action to advance gender equity. It also emphasizes intersectionality, recognizing how race, disability, socioeconomic status, and other dimensions of identity shape women's lived experiences.

Women's History Month (International): March 2026

Women's History Month is an international observance that recognizes the historical and ongoing contributions of women across social, cultural, economic, political, and scientific spheres. The month provides an opportunity to reflect on progress toward gender equality while acknowledging persistent barriers such as gender-based discrimination, unequal access to resources, and underrepresentation in leadership. It also amplifies diverse voices, including Indigenous women, racialized women, women with disabilities, and gender diverse communities, reinforcing global commitments to equity and inclusion.

Zero Discrimination Day: Mar 1

Zero Discrimination Day promotes the right of all people to live with dignity, equality, and freedom from discrimination. Observed annually, the day encourages individuals, institutions, and governments to challenge stigma, exclusion, and systemic inequalities. It highlights the importance of inclusive policies and collective action to ensure no one is left behind.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia: Mar 15

This United Nations designated day addresses discrimination, prejudice, and violence targeting Muslim communities worldwide. It promotes dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for freedom of religion and belief. In 2024, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on measures to combat Islamophobia. The resolution addresses incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence against Muslims as manifested in attacks, desecrations, negative stereotyping, hatred and other acts of intolerance and calls on member States to take necessary legislative and policy measures to combat such hatred and to legally prohibit incitement to violence on grounds of religion or belief.



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Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day: Mar 20

Since 2021, the Two-Spirit team at Community Based Research Centre has been advocating for the creation and recognition of an annual Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day, to be held each March coinciding with spring equinox. This day celebrates the radiance and diversity of Two-Spirit identities, expression, and experience across Turtle Island. Indigenous-led organizations across Canada are invited to join in the proclamation of spring equinox as Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day by hosting local events, demonstrations, and celebrations in solidarity with satellite events happening across the country.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Mar 21



The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the anniversary of the day in 1960 when police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire on a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws,” killing 69 people. The day commemorates the victims of racial violence while encouraging continued action to dismantle systemic racism. It emphasizes education, advocacy, and policy reform as essential tools for achieving lasting change.

International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims: Mar 24

This day honours victims of gross human rights violations and those who sought truth and justice despite great risk. It emphasizes the importance of accountability, historical memory, and transparency. The observance encourages societies to confront past injustices as a step toward healing and reconciliation. Relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearances, abductions, missing persons, and torture have the right to know what happened to their loved ones. The right to the truth entails knowing the full and complete circumstances of the events, including how they occurred, who was involved, and the reasons behind the violations.

International Transgender Day of Visibility: Mar 31

International Transgender Day of Visibility celebrates transgender and nonbinary people while recognizing the discrimination and barriers they continue to face. Biased media portrayals have significantly shaped cultural understanding of trans identities and influenced how people respond to and treat trans individuals in everyday life. Hearing stories that reflect the lived experiences of trans people is crucial for changing hearts and minds, including those of media outlets that often fail to highlight anti-trans laws and policies affecting the lives of trans individuals.



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ACCESSIBILITY

Self-harm Awareness Day: Mar 1

Self-harm Awareness Day focuses on reducing stigma and increasing understanding of self-injury and mental health challenges. The day promotes compassionate conversations, early intervention, and access to mental health supports. It also emphasizes the importance of safe coping strategies and community-based care.

Disability Day of Mourning: Mar 1

Disability Day of Mourning is a Global Day of Remembrance for people with disabilities who have been killed by family members or caregivers. Vigils and reflections draw attention to ableism, violence, and systemic failures. The day calls for disability justice, safety, and the valuing of disabled lives.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week: Mar 16–22

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is an international initiative that challenges stereotypes about neurological differences such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia. It promotes strengths-based perspectives and inclusive environments in education, workplaces, and communities. The week encourages systemic change to better support neurodivergent individuals. The observance educates, raises awareness and motivates us to take informed action.



World Down Syndrome Day: Mar 21

World Down Syndrome Day raises awareness about Down syndrome and promotes the full inclusion and participation of people with Down syndrome in decision-making spaces. The day emphasizes rights, accessibility, and self-advocacy. It also challenges stereotypes by centering lived experiences and leadership.

Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness): Mar 26

On March 26th annually, people in countries around the world are invited to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness. Last year, people in more than 85 countries on all continents participated in Purple Day! Canada is the only country in the world that officially recognizes March 26th as Purple Day through the Purple Day Act implemented on June 28, 2012. The day focuses on reducing stigma, improving access to care, and increasing public knowledge about seizure disorders.