



Diversity Calendar Resources for April 2026

RESPONSES TO HARM

Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month (Canada)

Bill 94 (2019), proclaims April as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month. It recognizes several genocides, including: the Armenian Genocide (1915); the Ukrainian Holodomor famine (1932–1933); the Nanjing Massacre (1937–1938); the Holocaust against the Jewish people (1941–1945); the Rwandan (Tutsi) Genocide (1994); and the communist atrocities in Kampuchea (1975–1979). Genocides also recognized by Ontario include: the Pontian Greek Genocide (1915); the Assyrian, Chaldean, and Syriac Genocide (1915); the Yazidi Genocide in Iraq (2014–2017) under ISIS; the persecution of Christian populations in Iraq and Syria (2014–2018) under ISIS; the genocide of Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka; and the genocide of the Rohingya Muslims.

The bill emphasizes the importance of teaching history so that harmful ideologies such as racism and intolerance are less likely to spread. By learning about past genocides, people can recognize early warning signs such as hate, discrimination, and dehumanization before they escalate. It ensures these events are not forgotten, validates the experiences of affected communities, and reminds us that preventing genocide is a collective responsibility.

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda: April 7

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.

This observance recognizes the role of education, memory and intergenerational dialogue in sustaining remembrance, promoting peace and preventing future atrocities.

Journey to Freedom Day (Canada): April 30

It reflects on the tragic events surrounding the exodus of Vietnamese refugees in search of freedom, pays tribute to all Canadians who rose to the challenge and welcomed thousands of refugees with open arms and celebrates the incredible contributions that Vietnamese refugees have made to building our great country.





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INCLUSION FOR ALL



Autism Acceptance Month

Autism Acceptance Month supports autistic individuals by raising awareness, promoting acceptance, and celebrating their contributions. Recognizing autistic role models helps increase understanding of lived experiences and fosters inclusion in workplaces and communities.

Parkinson's Awareness Month

April is also Parkinson's Awareness Month, dedicated to raising awareness about Parkinson's disease and its impact on over 110,000 Canadians. It encourages the public to learn more and support those affected. On April 11, the "Light Up Canada" campaign highlights the cause, with landmarks like the CN Tower and Niagara Falls illuminated in red to show support and promote awareness.

World Autism Awareness Day: April 2

The UN has worked to promote the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for autistic individuals, ensuring their equal participation in society. Significant progress has been made through the efforts of autistic advocates who have worked tirelessly to bring the lived experiences of autistic individuals to the forefront of global discussions.

World Health Day: April 7

This year's theme "Together for health. Stand with science", launches a year long campaign celebrating the power of scientific collaboration to protect the health of people, animals, plants, and the planet.

Day of Pink: April 8

This year's theme, "Echo," calls on us to listen to the voices of queer and trans communities, past and present. It honors milestones such as the 2000 Supreme Court victory of Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium against censorship and legislative changes recognizing same-sex couples in Canada, marking important steps toward equality and inclusion.

Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day: April 23

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)

World Day for Health and Safety at Work: April 28

The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28 promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries.



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RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS

National Caregiver Day – First Tuesday in April in Canada: April 7

This day recognizes the vital role of caregivers, including family members, friends, and professionals, who support individuals with complex needs. It is both a thank-you and a call to action to better support caregivers now and in the future.



National Volunteer Week: April 19-25

National Volunteer Week celebrates the impact of volunteerism across Canada. With approximately 80% of Canadians over age 15 participating in volunteer activities, it highlights the important role individuals play in strengthening communities.

