

## January 2022

### National Poverty in America Awareness Month

Hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, disabilities, restricted access to participation in the democratic process. These are just some of the many manifestations of poverty. More than 40 million Americans live in poverty, but we can eradicate poverty. As Nelson Mandela said, "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings."<sup>1</sup>

### Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The significance of January originates from the Emancipation Proclamation, which President Abraham Lincoln issued on January 1, 1863, declaring 3.1 million slaves free. In 1865, Congress passed and the states ratified the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, officially outlawing slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States.

More than 20 years ago, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 enshrined the United States' commitment to combating modern slavery domestically and internationally. With this bipartisan law, the United States reaffirmed the fundamental promise of "forever free" enshrined within the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 2010, by presidential proclamation, January was declared National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Since then, eleven presidential proclamations have followed. These proclamations not only raise the profile of the issue, they are also snapshots of global trends and challenges, and significant U.S. anti-trafficking policy achievements.<sup>2</sup>

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.<sup>3</sup>

### International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Is an international memorial day on January 27<sup>th</sup>, this day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, the genocide of European Jews by Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945. Chosen to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp by the Red Army in 1945.

The day remembers the killing of 6 million Jews and 11 million others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. It was designated by United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 on 1 November 2005. The resolution came after a special session was held earlier that year on 24 January to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and the end of the Holocaust.<sup>4</sup>

### International Day of Education

January 24 was declared the international Day of Education by a resolution that was passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 3rd December 2018. Thereafter, on 24th January 2019 the first International Day of Education was celebrated. The message by UNGA is being spread across globe. Their sincere efforts worldwide have shown promising results in the betterment of an educated individual that constitute a cultured society, which is supported with optimism and opportunities.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.charities.org/news/january-national-poverty-america-awareness-month>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.state.gov/national-slavery-and-human-trafficking-prevention-month/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_Jr.\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr._Day)

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Holocaust\\_Remembrance\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Holocaust_Remembrance_Day)

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_of\\_Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Education)

## February 2022

### Black History Month

Is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland, and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.<sup>6</sup>

### National Freedom Day

Is a United States observance on February 1 honoring the signing by President Abraham Lincoln of a joint House and Senate resolution that later was ratified as the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. President Lincoln signed the Amendment abolishing slavery on February 1, 1865, although it was not ratified by the states until later. Later this date was celebrated as Black History Day.<sup>7</sup>

### Rosa Parks Day

Is a holiday in honor of the civil rights leader Rosa Parks, celebrated in the U.S. states in California and Missouri on her birthday, February 4, and in Ohio and Oregon on the day she was arrested, December 1. Rosa Parks Day was created by the California State Legislature and first celebrated in 2000.<sup>8</sup>

### World Day of Social Justice

Is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.

## March 2022

### Women's History Month

Is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of Persons Day on October 18.

The commemoration began in 1978 as "Women's History day" in Sonoma County, California, and was championed by Gerda Lerner and the National Women's History Alliance to be recognized as a national week (1980) and then month (1987) in the United States, spreading internationally after that.<sup>9</sup>

### National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and our partners work together to create a social media campaign that highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.

The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_History\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month)

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Freedom\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Freedom_Day)

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa\\_Parks\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks_Day)

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's\\_History\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_History_Month)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nacdd.org/ddam/>

### Gender Equality Month

Is observed in March. Gender Equality Month is a global celebration organized by the Womensphere Foundation and New Champions 5050, the global initiative for gender equality and empowering women and girls of the Young Global Leaders Community and Foundation Communities of the World Economic Forum.

The Womensphere Festivals bring together inspiring world-changing leaders, innovators, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, creators, restaurateurs, and all who are inspired to join forces in celebrating women, elevating humanity, and creating more equitable, more sustainable societies and institutions.<sup>11</sup>

### Ethnic Equality Month

Ethnic Equality Month takes place during the month of February. Racial and ethnic equality, gender equity, and social inclusion are critical to democratic stability that requires participation by all stakeholders, including central and local governments, law enforcement, multilateral organizations, civil society, businesses, and academia.

Ethnic Equality Month is an important time to recognize the similarities all people have, yet acknowledge, appreciate and respect the differences in all of us.<sup>12</sup>

### Lailat al Miraj

Lailat al Miraj celebrates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, where he then ascended to heaven. While sleeping in the Ka'bah, the sacred shrine of Mecca, Muhammad was visited by the archangels Jibril and Mikal. ... This is a very important and sacred day in the history of Islam.<sup>13</sup>

### Equal Pay Day

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap. In the United States, this date symbolizes how far into the year the average women must work (in addition to their earnings last year) in order to have earned what the average man had earned the entire previous year, regardless of experience or job type. The exact day differs year by year. In 2021, it was March 24. On average, women earn \$0.82 for every dollar men earned in 2019. After accounting for hours worked, career field, education, and employment sector, the wage gap by gender shrinks to 7% according to the American Association of University Women.<sup>14</sup>

### International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women.[3] It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.<sup>15</sup>

### United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as an official UN holiday for women's rights and world peace. It has since been commemorated annually by the UN and much of the world, with each year's observance centered on a particular theme or issue within women's rights.<sup>16</sup>

### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the laws of apartheid.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.personalizedcause.com/health-awareness-cause-calendar/gender-equality-month>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.personalizedcause.com/health-awareness-cause-calendar/ethnic-equality-month>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/diversity/lailat-al-miraj/#:~:text=Lailat%20al%20Miraj%20celebrates%20the,the%20archangels%20Jibril%20and%20Mikal.&text=This%20is%20a%20very%20important,in%20the%20history%20of%20Islam.>

<sup>14</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal\\_Pay\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal_Pay_Day)

<sup>15</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Women's\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women's_Day)

<sup>16</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Women%27s\\_Day#:~:text=In%201977%2C%20the%20United%20Nations,or%20issue%20within%20women%27s%20rights.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women%27s_Day#:~:text=In%201977%2C%20the%20United%20Nations,or%20issue%20within%20women%27s%20rights.)

Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.<sup>17</sup>

#### World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day is marked each year on March 21, beginning in 2006. The 21st day of March was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is observed to create awareness about Down syndrome.<sup>18</sup>

#### International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.<sup>19</sup>

The day honors and remembers those who suffered and died as a consequence of the transatlantic slave trade, which has been called "the worst violation of human rights in history", in which over 400 years more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims.<sup>20</sup>

#### International Transgender Day of Visibility

International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring on March 31 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_for\\_the\\_Elimination\\_of\\_Racial\\_Discrimination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_for_the_Elimination_of_Racial_Discrimination)

<sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Down\\_Syndrome\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Down_Syndrome_Day)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/events/slaveryremembranceday/>

<sup>20</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_of\\_Remembrance\\_of\\_the\\_Victims\\_of\\_Slavery\\_and\\_the\\_Transatlantic\\_Slave\\_Trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Remembrance_of_the_Victims_of_Slavery_and_the_Transatlantic_Slave_Trade)

<sup>21</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Transgender\\_Day\\_of\\_Visibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Transgender_Day_of_Visibility)