

## Dates of Significance – December 2024

Date	Category	Day of Significance
December 2	Anti-racism/Anti-oppression	<b><u><a href="#">International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</a></u></b> A day to highlight that more than 150 million children are subject to child labor and though modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking.
December 3	Disabilities/Diverse Abilities	<b><u><a href="#">International Day of Persons with Disabilities</a></u></b> A day to increase public awareness, understanding and inclusion of people with disabilities and celebrate their achievements and contributions.
December 6	Gender Equity	<b><u><a href="#">National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women</a></u></b> A day to remember the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989) and take action to eliminate acts of violence against women.
December 8	Faith-based Buddhism	<b><u><a href="#">Bodhi Day</a></u></b> A Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha (Shakyamuni) is said to have experienced enlightenment, also known as bodhi in Sanskrit and Pali.
December 9	Anti-racism/Anti-oppression	<b><u><a href="#">International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime</a></u></b> Celebrates the day the convention was signed and signifies the international community's commitment to "never again".
December 10	Anti-oppression	<b><u><a href="#">International Human Rights Day</a></u></b> A celebration of the day on which the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
December 13	Faith-based Ismaili	<b><u><a href="#">Salgirah</a></u></b> Ismailis around the world celebrate Mawlana Hazar Imam's birthday — an occasion to reflect on the unique spiritual bond that links each <i>murid</i> to the Imam-of-the-Time.

December 21	Cultural	<a href="#"><u>Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere)</u></a> The shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year. This date is celebrated by, and has significance to, multiple cultures and religions.
December 24 – January 7	Indigenous	<a href="#"><u>Qviasukvik</u></a> Inuit winter feast and festival observed by the Inuit, Yupik, Aleut, Chukchi, Iñupiat, and NunatuKavut. Celebrates the coming year and placates the roaming spirits for good luck in the year to come.
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Faith-based Christianity Cultural</b>	<a href="#"><u>Christmas Eve</u></a> <b>The evening or entire day before Christmas Day, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus.</b>
December 25	Faith-based Christianity Cultural	<a href="#"><u>Christmas Day</u></a> A Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been observed as a cultural and secular holiday by Christians and non-Christians.
December 25- January 2	Faith-based Judaism	<a href="#"><u>Hannukah</u></a> Hannukah, or the Festival of Rededication, celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement by the Syrian Greeks in 164 BCE. The eight-day festival has become a beloved and joyous holiday. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and usually takes place in December, at the time of year when the days are shortest in the northern hemisphere.

N.B. Schools and departments are encouraged to avoid scheduling any significant day and evening meetings/events on dates shown in **bold**.