

# AUGUST NEWSLETTER

## **This Month's Celebrations**



1st Purple Heart Day

7th: Al-Hijra / Muharram (Islamic: July 7th- August 4th)

9th: World Indigenous Peoples' Day

12th: Tisha B'Av (Jewish) (August 12 - August 13)

13th: Obon (Buddhist) (August 13 - August 15)

15th: Assumption of Mary (Christian)

18th: Ullambana (Buddhist)

19th: Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)

22nd: International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence  
Based on Religion or Belief

23rd: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its  
Abolition

26th: Krishna Janmashtami/Jayanti (Hindu)

26th: Women's Equality Day\*

31st: International Day for People of African Descent



\*We use the term women to include all persons who identify as such.



## Spotlight on: Women's Equality Day

August 26 is Women's Equality Day. The Day marks the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, granting women the right to vote. Decades of significant organizing efforts predate the passage of the 19th Amendment - it was a long road from the "Declaration of Sentiments" signed at Seneca Falls in 1848 to the 19th Amendment. When designating Women's Equality Day in 1971, Congress recognized that the "women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens" and acknowledges the efforts taken to ensure equal rights by stating that women "have united to assure" equal rights.\* Section 1 of 19th Amendment states that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Despite the 19th Amendment language, many women of color remained disenfranchised. Black women were prevented to exercise their right to vote by, for instance, literacy tests, poll taxes, and voting ID requirements. Despite their tireless advocacy, the contributions of Black women to the suffrage movement have been "seriously underestimated and often neglected."\*\* The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (45 years after the 19th amendment!) sought to remove these barriers.

Women who could not become citizens remained excluded from the right to vote after the passage of the 19th Amendment. Native American women did not have the right to vote until 1924, despite having played crucial roles in the suffrage movement. Chinese and Japanese Women, among many others, faced similar restrictions.

Despite progress, gender equality and inclusion remain an elusive goal worldwide. Women and their allies persist in fighting for social, economic, and political rights. Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and the first to seek a major party nomination as a presidential candidate in 1972, thus described her legacy: "I want to be remembered as a woman...who dared to be a catalyst of change."\*\* Chisholm's legacy is a constant reminder (and a powerful invitation) to all who fight for social justice.

\*Women's Equality Day - National Women's History Alliance  
([nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org](https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org))

\*\*Valethia Watkins, Ph.D, J.D., Votes for Women: (jstor.org)

\*\*\*Shirley Chisholm | National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)  
Not All Women Gained the Vote in 1920 | American Experience | Official Site | PBS  
50 of the World's Most Sexist Laws: A Snapshot of Gender Inequality  
([unfoundation.org](https://unfoundation.org))

## **Spotlight on: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**

In August, the United Nations celebrates two international days marking the strength of the African community: the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, on August 23, and the International Day for People of African Descent, on August 31. Why so many international days? The United Nations international days offer educational opportunities around important issues, celebrating achievements and fostering political action.

August 23 marks the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The date refers to the 1791 uprising in Haiti that initiated a rebellion against slavery and, ultimately, French control. The International Day offers an opportunity “for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy” and for the understanding of how it shaped relationships between multiple continents.\*

Rooted in racist ideologies, the Transatlantic Slave Trade enslaved millions of Africans. As the UN Secretary General described, this “evil enterprise lasted over 400 years,” its legacy “haunts us to this day.” Between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, approximately 13 million Africans were trafficked over the Atlantic Ocean – about 10.7 million survived the cruel crossing.\*\*

This report by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) provides as detailed account of how the slave trade impacted Africa, Europe, and the Americas. As the report aptly characterizes, the “Transatlantic Slave Trade represents one of the most violent, traumatizing, and horrific eras in world history. Nearly two million people died during the brutal Middle Passage across the ocean. The African continent was left destabilized and vulnerable to conquest and violence for centuries. The Americas became a place where race and color created a caste system defined by inequality and abuse.”\*\*

The Transatlantic slave trade shaped continents. Its legacy - still present and often unacknowledged or denied - affects all, hindering the establishment of just social orders.

\*International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition | UNESCO

\*\*The Transatlantic Slave Trade - Equal Justice Initiative Reports (eji.org).  
Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) • Global African History • (blackpast.org).  
Slavery Remembrance Day 2024 | National Maritime Museum (rmg.co.uk).  
Records of the General Conference, 29th session, Paris, 21 October to 12 November  
1997, v. 1: Resolutions - UNESCO Digital Library  
2023 Remembrance Programme | United Nations

## **Spotlight on: International Day for People of African Descent**



The International Day for People of African Descent highlights the numerous contributions of the African diaspora and raises awareness about the harmful effects of discrimination. The International Day for People of African Descent emphasizes equality, challenging conceptions of racial superiority:

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. Any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust, and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races.” \*

The International Day also celebrates the strength of the African diaspora and its significant contributions to cultures around the world. [This video](#) describes the origins of the Day and its continued significance. The organization BlackPast also provides resources in its African Diaspora Archives - its article on “Transatlantic Food Migration: the African Culinary Influence on the Cuisine of the Americas” offers (delicious!) insight into how African influences permeate daily life in the Americas.

[International Day for People of African Descent - United States Department of State](#)

[\\*International Day for People of African Descent - EN | United Nations](#)

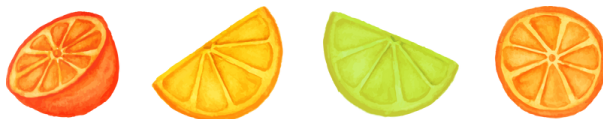
[You searched for African diaspora • \(blackpast.org\).](#)

## At the Diversity & Equity Center

See You Outside: Tabling with E&I! Visit our tent on August 7, from 11:30am-1:00pm to learn about the Diversity & Equity Center, the Scholars Program, and resources around campus. Or ... simply stop by to say hello and enjoy a sweet treat.



Eat Dessert First! Why not? Stop by the Center on August 6, 12pm-1pm to eat dessert and take a break in the day.



**We hope to see you!**



## **(Free) Community Resources**

Seattle Art Museum - free admission first Thursday of every month

African Art Collection: [Works - Collection Highlights - eMuseum \(seattleartmuseum.org\)](#)

Jacob Lawrence: American Storyteller  
- [Jacob Lawrence: American Storyteller | Seattle Art Museum](#)

Haitian Paintings:  
[Remember the Rain | Seattle Art Museum Home - American Art: The Stories We Carry \(seattleartmuseum.org\)](#)

[Black Business Directory - Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle](#)

Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders  
[Home - WSCACL](#)

[Register to Vote in Washington State | WA Secretary of State](#)

