



Activist Days

January

15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. This devotion gave direction to 13 years of civil rights activities. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and around the world. <http://www.mlkday.org/>

22nd Roe v. Wade Anniversary

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision in *Roe v. Wade* (410 U.S. 113 (1973)), a challenge to a Texas statute that made it a crime to perform an abortion unless a woman's life was at stake. The case had been filed by "Jane Roe," an unmarried woman who wanted to end her pregnancy safely and legally. Siding with Roe, the court struck down the Texas law. In its ruling, the court recognized for the first time that the constitutional right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973)." <http://www.saveroe.com>

22nd Blog for Choice Day

On January 22nd, the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, pro-choice bloggers are asked to blog about pro-choice issues. Blog for Choice Day is a chance to raise the profile of reproductive justice issues in the blogosphere and the media, and to let everyone know that a woman's right to choose is nonnegotiable. http://www.bushvchoice.com/blog_choice_day.html

February

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. <http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/>

12th National Freedom to Marry Day

National Freedom to Marry Day is an annual, non-official United States holiday designed to promote same-sex marriage. Host a local event; have a house party; start a conversation at your house of worship; ask your library, bookseller or book group to read and discuss *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality and Gay People's Right to Marry*; have a picnic or party where di-

verse couples – gay and non-gay – and their families can come together, talk about how they can get involved and celebrate each other. <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/>

14th V-Day

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. <http://www.vday.org/>

27th Equality Day

A day to promote equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual identity or orientation. Join your fellow citizens and religious leaders, and speak out for marriage equality! <http://www.hrc.org/>

March

Women's History Month

Each year, March is designated as National Women's History Month to ensure that the history of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces, and communities throughout the country. The stories of women's historic achievements present an expanded view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life. <http://www.nwhp.org/>

8th International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) seeks to connect all women around the world and inspire them to achieve their full potential. IWD celebrates the collective power of women past, present and future. <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

10th National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers

Co-sponsored by many national organizations and individuals, the National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers was initiated in 1996 as a way to help create a positive climate for and stop the isolation of abortion providers across the country. March 10th is the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. David Gunn, the first provider murdered by an anti-abortion extremist. It is a day to remember and honor Dr. Gunn and others who have and continue to put their lives on the line daily to make reproductive choice possible. <http://www.refuseandresist.org/>

21st International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

On March 21, 1960, police opened fire upon and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws" in Sharpeville, South Africa. 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. <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/racial/>

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), April is an annual opportunity to focus awareness on sexual violence and its prevention. It is also an opportunity to highlight the efforts of individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention service, while offering support to sexual assault survivors, victims and their families. SAAM raises awareness of sexual violence and its prevention through special events, highlights sexual violence as a major public health issue and reinforces the need for prevention efforts. <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/>

7th World Health Day

Each year on April 7th, the world celebrates World Health Day with thousands of events to mark the importance of health for productive and happy lives. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/health/>

18th National Day of Silence

The Day of Silence is an annual event held to commemorate and protest anti-LGBTQ bullying, harassment and discrimination in schools. Students and teachers nationwide observe the day in silence to echo the silence that LGBTQ students and allies face every day. The Day of Silence is one of the largest student-led actions in the country. <http://www.dayofsilence.org/>

24th Equal Pay Day

Each year, the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) organizes the national observance of Equal Pay Day to raise awareness about unfair pay for women and people of color in America. Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. <http://www.pay-equity.org/day.html>

26th Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work® Day program was founded by the Ms. Foundation for Women to create an opportunity for girls and boys to share and communicate their expectations for the future. <http://www.daughtersandsonstowork.org/>

May

National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Observed each May by states and communities throughout the country, National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (NTPPM) seeks to involve communities in promoting and supporting effective teen pregnancy prevention initiatives. From Hawaii to Maine, NTPPM's momentum continues to grow. Councils and other pregnancy prevention organizations continue to initiate new and innovative ideas. <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/ntpmm.htm>

2nd Sunday, Mothers' Day

The original Mother's Day Proclamation was made in 1870. Written by Julia Ward Howe, perhaps best known for the lyrics to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in 1862 when she was an anti-slavery activist, the original Proclamation was an impassioned call for peace and disarmament. <http://www.accuracy.org/newsrelease.php?articleId=304>

1st International Workers' Day

May Day honors the struggle of working people throughout the world. It came out of the movement for an eight-hour workday that rocked the US more than 100 years ago. On May 1, 1886, the American Federation of Labor called a national strike to put an end to the long work hours that were common. http://www.democracynow.org/2002/5/1/today_is_may_day_across_the

3rd World Press Freedom Day

World Press Freedom Day serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression globally and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or imprisonment to bring information to the people and truth to power. <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/press/>

15th International Day of Families

This annual observance reflects the importance that the international community attaches to families as basic units of society, as well as its concern regarding the situation for families around the world. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/index.html>

June

2nd Sunday, Father's Day

Father's Day is a secular celebration inaugurated in the early twentieth century to complement Mother's Day in celebrating fatherhood and parenting by males, and to honor and commemorate fathers and forefathers. Father's Day is a great way to tie in men's issues with your own!

5th World Environment Day

World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. <http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/>

20th World Refugee Day

For years, many countries and regions have been holding their own refugee days and even weeks as a way to raise awareness to the plight of refugees around the world. One of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated in several countries. <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/refugee/>

28th Stonewall Riots Anniversary

On Friday evening, June 27, 1969, the New York City tactical police force raided a popular Greenwich Village gay bar, the Stonewall Inn. Raids were not unusual in 1969; in fact, they were conducted regularly without much resistance. However, that night the street erupted into violent protest as the crowds in the bar fought back. The backlash and several nights of protest that followed have come to be known as the Stonewall Riots. Prior to that summer there was little public expression of the lives and experiences of gays and lesbians. The Stonewall

Riots marked the beginning of the gay liberation movement that has transformed the oppression of gays and lesbians into calls for pride and action. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/exhibitions/sw25/case1.html>

July

4th Independence Day (U.S.)

Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

11th World Population Day

World Population Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about important population and development issues worldwide. <http://www.unfpa.org/wpd/>

August

12th International Youth Day

A major focus of this day is practical action to further encourage the empowerment and participation of youth in the processes and decisions that affect their lives. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm>

26th Women's Equality Day

Instituted by Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY) and first established in 1971, Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920.

September

1st Monday, Labor Day

Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a annual national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/aboutdol/laborday.htm>

15th Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/hhm1.html>

18th International Literacy Day

Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to 4 billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all — children, youth and adults — is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever-moving target. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/literacy/>

20th Love Your Body Day

Love Your Body Day is a day of action to speak out against advertisements and images of women that are offensive, dangerous and disrespectful. <http://loveyourbody.nowfoundation.org/>

21st International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. <http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>

28th Latin American and Caribbean Campaign for Decriminalization of Abortion

In an effort to address the public health crisis of unsafe abortion in Latin America, the September 28th Campaign was formed in 1990 at the Fifth Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Meeting, held in Argentina. http://www.iwhc.org/programs/latin_america/regional/colleagues.cfm

October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

For more than 20 years, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) has educated women about early breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment. NBCAM continues to reach out to women with several key messages, most notably, the importance of early detection through annual mammography. <http://www.nbcam.com/>

LGBTQ History Month

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) History Month is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions and culture of the LGBTQ community in the United States. In the 1990s, teachers and community leaders believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of LGBTQ history. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur during the same time period. <http://www.globthistorymonth.com/>

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities was conducted at the local, state and national levels. http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth_134.html

10th World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is an opportunity to raise public awareness about mental health issues. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2006/world_mental_health_day/en/index.html

11th National Coming Out Day

National Coming Out Day is an international event that gives lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people the opportunity to “come out” to others about their sexuality and provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the LGBTQ community. In the United States, the day is facilitated by the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project (NCOP). www.hrc.org/comingout/

15th-21st Ally Week

Ally Week is an opportunity for student and young activists to confront and raise awareness of anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment in American schools, as well as highlight the contributions of student clubs (often commonly known as Gay-Straight Alliances or GSAs) who are taking on these issues. <http://www.dayofsilence.org/ally/>

November

11/25-12/10, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates — November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day — in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates, including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

16th International Day of Tolerance

In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to observe the International Day for Tolerance on November 16, with activities directed towards educational establishments and the public. <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/tolerance/>

20th Universal Children's Day

A day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children, and an opportunity to promote the global welfare of children and the ideals and objectives of the United Nations Declarations of the Rights of the Child. http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/children_day/

20th Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world. <http://www.gender.org/remember/day/>

25th International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

Since 1981, women's activists have marked November 25 as a day against violence. This date marks the anniversary of the 1960 brutal assassination of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders of Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/violence/>

29th International Women Human Rights Defenders Day

Human rights are guaranteed under international law, but working to ensure their realization and defend those whose rights have been violated can be dangerous in countries all around the world. Human rights defenders are often the only force standing between ordinary people and the unbridled power of the state. They are vital to the development of

democratic processes and institutions, ending impunity and the promotion and protection of human rights. <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>

December

1st World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. <http://www.worldaidsday.org/>

3rd International Day of Disabled Persons

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of the intrinsic value of integrating persons with disabilities into every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disiddp.htm>

5th International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to highlight their contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at local, national and international levels. <http://www.unv.org/en/what-we-do/int-l-volunteer-day.html>

6th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre

For 45 minutes on December 6, 1989, an enraged gunman roamed the corridors of Montreal's École Polytechnique and killed 14 women. Marc Lepine separated the men from the women and before opening fire on the classroom of female engineering students he screamed, "I hate feminists." Almost immediately, the Montreal Massacre became a galvanizing moment in which mourning turned into outrage about all violence against women. <http://www.MontrealMassacre.net>

10th International Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed by the international community annually to commemorate the day in 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. <http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2006/index.shtml>

20th International Human Solidarity Day

International Human Solidarity Day, among other things, is an opportunity to promote poverty eradication. It is a day to celebrate unity in diversity; to remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements; to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity; to encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and a day of action to encourage new initiatives for poverty eradication. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/solidarity.htm>