Inclusion & Diversity Calendar 2022

Creating an inclusive culture by celebrating our differences
At PwC, we want to contribute to solving important problems. We do this by bringing together people with many different backgrounds and cultures in unexpected combinations. And combining their different perspectives, ingenuity, and passion with the latest technology. By connecting even more with one another, with our clients, and with our stakeholders, we can together build trust and deliver sustained outcomes for a new tomorrow. It is crucial that we ensure an inclusive environment where all talents are seen and different ideas are heard. This calendar reminds us to celebrate the power of diversity every day and, most importantly, to be considerate of (holi)days that are important to others.

For more information about our inclusion & diversity strategy, please go to our website www.pwc.nl/diversiteit
6 January | Epiphany

Epiphany (or revelation of God) is a Christianity holiday which is celebrated every 6th of January. On this day the Christians celebrate the visit of the three wise men to the child Jesus in Bethlehem. A wonderful star brought them to him.
3 February | Setsubun Sai

Setsubun-sai is a fun Japanese festival celebrated the day before the first day of spring. Families celebrate by throwing roast soybeans outside the door of their house to chase out the oni (naughty ogres or spirits) or, even more fun, throwing roasted soybeans at dad dressed up like an oni!
Nawruz, which means “new day” in Persian, is the Baha’i New Year. It is celebrated by Baha’is (adherents of the Baha’i Faith which is a religion teaching the essential worth of all religions, and the unity and equality of all people). The day is celebrated around the world each year on the date of the Spring Equinox, and it is the only Baha’i Holy Day with no direct relation to the life of a Messenger of God.
3 April | First day of Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Muslims worldwide fast (or swam) during the hours of daylight in Ramadan. They also focus on reading the Koran (Qu’ran), donating to charities (zakaat). During the evenings, communal prayers and meals are held. Connected Cultures, the diversity network focused on cultural diversity in PwC the Netherlands, organizes a traditional iftar meal at sunset in the month of Ramadan.
4 May | Remembrance day (Dodenherdenking)

Remembrance gatherings are held throughout the Netherlands. Every year, people dedicate two minutes of silence at 8pm (local time) on May 4 to pay their respects to soldiers and civilians who died during World War II, as well as other military conflicts and peacekeeping missions. Wreaths are laid at various places such as the National War Memorial in Amsterdam.
Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday or Whitsunday, is an important Christian holiday in the Netherlands. It marks the Holy Spirit’s descent from heaven onto Jesus’ followers. It is generally a normal spring Sunday and a popular time for outdoor music festivals, short breaks and longer vacations.
Keti Koti is an annual holiday on Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles celebrating the abolition of slavery. Slavery was abolished by the Netherlands in July 1863 which finally emancipated the Surinamese people from slavery in the Netherlands Antilles (formerly Dutch West Indies) and in Suriname. As for the festival, Keti Koti, meaning ‘Broken Chains’ in Surinamese, is a free celebration of liberty, equality and solidarity.
Raksha Bandhan is a popular, traditionally Hindu, annual rite, or ceremony, which is central to a festival of the same name, celebrated in parts of the Indian subcontinent, and among people around the world influenced by culture from the Indian subcontinent. On this day, sisters of all ages tie a talisman, or amulet, called the rakhi, around the wrists of their brothers, symbolically protecting them, receiving a gift in return, and traditionally investing the brothers with a share of the responsibility of their potential care.
The Jewish New Year always falls on the first and second day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. The words “Rosh Hashanah” literally mean “beginning/head of the year”. It is the day God created Adam and Eve, and it’s celebrated as the head of the Jewish year. The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is hearing the sounding of the shofar, the ram’s horn. It is a mitzvah to hear the shofar on both morning’s of the holiday (except if the first day is Shabbat, in which case they only blow the shofar on the second day).
24 October | Diwali

Diwali (or Deepavali, the “festival of lights”) is an ancient Hindu festival celebrated in autumn (northern hemisphere) or spring (southern hemisphere) every year. Arguably the most important festival in Hinduism. The festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness or good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Its celebration includes millions of lights shining on housetops, outside doors and windows, around temples and other buildings in the communities and countries where it is observed. The festival preparations and rituals typically extend over a five-day period, but the main festival night of Diwali coincides with the darkest, new moon night of the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika.
Sint Maarten is also known as the Feast of Saint Martin (in Dutch: feest van Sint Maarten) is the feast day of Saint Martin of Tours (Martin le Miséricordieux) and is celebrated on November 11 each year. This is the time when autumn wheat seeding was completed and the annual slaughter of fattened cattle produced “Martinas beef”. Historically, hiring fairs were held where farm laborers would seek new posts. Nowadays it is celebrated in different ways. In Holland, kids celebrate it in the evening: stopping by at houses in the street, singing a song and asking for candy.
Christmas or Christmas Day (old English: Crīstesmæsse, meaning “Christ’s Mass”) is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, and most commonly takes place on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration. The traditional Christmas narrative, the Nativity of Jesus, as written in the New Testament, states Bethlehem as Jesus’ birthplace; when Joseph and Mary found no room in the local inn and were offered a stable where the Christ Child was born, and with angels spreading this news.