# *Diversity Events Calendar October 2026*

*October is recognized for several diversity and awareness observances that honor the broad range of backgrounds, cultures, languages, identities, and lived experiences that enrich our communities. At CPCS, this month provides an opportunity to reflect, learn, and amplify voices that have historically gone unheard while recognizing the connections among our work, our clients, and our colleagues.*

*Throughout October, we encourage everyone to engage in meaningful conversations, participate in events that celebrate our shared humanity, and explore stories and perspectives that reflect the richness of diversity. By recognizing these important observances, we deepen our understanding, strengthen inclusion, and celebrate the diverse identities and experiences that help shape our communities and our collective future.*

**MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES** | Select any linked observance to learn more.

| OBSERVANCE | WHY IT MATTERS |
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| National Disability Employment Awareness Month | *Recognizes the skills and contributions of workers with disabilities and encourages accessible, equitable workplaces where people can participate fully.* |
| LGBTQ+ History Month | *Honors the people and movements that advance LGBTQ+ equality and build workplaces where every person can be open, safe, and respected.* |
| Filipino American History Month | *Recognizes the long history, culture, service, and civic contributions of Filipino Americans, of whom 27,000 are Massachusetts residents.* |
| Italian American Heritage and Culture Month | *Celebrates Italian American culture and achievements while creating space to learn about migration, identity, and the impact of stereotyping.* |

| OBSERVANCE | WHY IT MATTERS |
|---|---|
| **Polish American Heritage Month** | *Highlights the traditions, resilience, and civic contributions of Polish Americans and strengthens appreciation for the many cultures within our communities.* |
| **German American Heritage Month** | *Recognizes the cultural, scientific, civic, and labor contributions of German Americans and the many ways immigrant communities shape the United States.* |
| **National Hispanic Heritage Month** | *Honors the diverse histories, identities, languages, and contributions of people with roots in Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.* |
| **Global Diversity Awareness Month** | *Encourages curiosity, cultural humility, and respect for differences in language, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, and lived experience.* |
| **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** | *Raises awareness of abuse across communities, centers survivors, and promotes trauma-informed access to safety, advocacy, and justice.* |
| **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** | *Promotes early detection and support while drawing attention to unequal outcomes and barriers to high-quality care.* |
| **ADHD Awareness Month** | *Challenges stigma and supports neurodiversity, accurate information, appropriate accommodations, and the strengths of people with ADHD.* |
| **Dyslexia Awareness Month** | *Builds understanding of dyslexia and reinforces the value of accessible communication, evidence-based support, and multiple ways to learn and contribute.* |
| **Down Syndrome Awareness Month** | *Celebrates people with Down syndrome and promotes dignity and inclusion.* |
| **National Bullying Prevention Month** | *Raises awareness of bullying and promotes prevention, accountability, and belonging.* |
| **National Work and Family Month** | *Promotes flexible, fair, and supportive workplace practices.* |

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| Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month | *Honors families affected by pregnancy and infant loss, raise awareness, and encourages compassionate support for those grieving.* |
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# DAY-BY-DAY

**October 2026 observances and opportunities to learn** | Select any linked observance to learn more.

| DATE | EVENT / OBSERVANCE | WHY IT MATTERS |
|---|---|---|
| ***Oct. 1*** | China National Day | *Marks the founding of the People's Republic of China and is culturally significant to many Chinese colleagues, clients, and communities worldwide.* |
| ***Oct. 1*** | Nigeria Independence Day | *Commemorates Nigeria's independence in 1960 and celebrates the country's diverse peoples, cultures, languages, and global contributions.* |
| ***Oct. 1*** | International Day of Older Persons | *Recognizes older adults' contributions and calls attention to ageism, accessibility, caregiving, economic security, and equal participation.* |
| ***Oct. 2*** | International Day of Non-Violence / Gandhi Jayanti | *Honors Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the principle that lasting justice can be advanced through nonviolent action, dialogue, and respect.* |
| ***Oct. 2*** | Sukkot (Hoshana Rabbah) | *A seven-day festival recalling the Israelites' journey in the wilderness. Many observe through meals or prayer in a sukkah; the observance ends at sundown.* |
| ***Sundown Oct. 2-Oct. 4*** | Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah | *Honors Jewish traditions of prayer and remembrance and celebrates the completion and renewal of the annual Torah-reading cycle with joy and community.* |

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|---|---|---|
| ***Oct. 4*** | ***Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*** | *Honors St. Francis and his devotion to people experiencing poverty, peace, animals, and the natural world.* |
| ***Oct. 5*** | ***World Teachers' Day*** | *Recognizes teachers' essential role and the need for inclusive, well-supported education that gives every learner a fair opportunity.* |
| ***Oct. 6*** | ***National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding*** | *Invites faith communities and allies to reduce stigma, support recovery, and respond compassionately to people and families affected by mental illness.* |
| ***Oct. 6*** | ***German American Day*** | *Marks centuries of German immigration and recognizes contributions to American civic, cultural, scientific, and economic life.* |
| ***Oct. 8*** | ***International Lesbian Day*** | *Celebrates lesbian identities and communities while drawing attention to discrimination, erasure, safety, and equal rights.* |
| ***Oct. 8*** | ***World Sight Day*** | *Promotes vision-loss awareness, accessibility, and inclusion.* |
| ***Through Oct. 10*** | ***Pitru Paksha; Sarva Pitru Amavasya*** | *A time of prayer and offerings in the Hindu faith to honor and remember ancestors. Traditions vary.* |
| ***Oct. 10*** | ***World Mental Health Day*** | *Reduces stigma and promotes accessible, culturally responsive care and support.* |
| ***Oct. 11*** | ***National Coming Out Day*** | *Supports LGBTQ+ people while respecting that coming out is a personal choice.* |
| ***Oct. 11*** | ***International Day of the Girl*** | *Centers girls' voices and calls for equal access to education, safety, health, justice, leadership, and opportunity.* |

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|---|---|---|
| ***Oct. 11-20*** | ***Navratri*** | *Hindu festival over nine days honoring forms of the Goddess Durga through prayer, fasting, music, and dance. Customs and dates may vary by region and community.* |
| ***Oct. 12*** | ***Columbus Day*** | *Recognizes Italian American heritage and encourages reflection on colonization's impact on Indigenous peoples.* |
| ***Oct. 12*** | ***Indigenous Peoples' Day*** | *Indigenous Peoples' Day honors Native peoples, living cultures, sovereignty, and resilience. The federal holiday remains officially named Columbus Day, making the date an opportunity to learn history truthfully.* |
| ***Oct. 14*** | ***Day of the Defenders (Ukraine)*** | *Honors those who have defended Ukraine and remembers those who died in service. Since 2023, the national observance has been held on October 1 rather than October 14.* |
| ***Oct. 15*** | ***Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day*** | *A day to remember babies lost during pregnancy or infancy. The **Wave of Light** invites people to light a candle at **7:00 p.m. local time** in remembrance.* |
| ***Oct. 15*** | ***White Cane Awareness Day*** | *Recognizes the white cane as a tool of independence and emphasizes accessible environments, safe travel, and the civil rights of blind people.* |
| ***Oct. 15*** | ***Spirit Day*** | *Encourages visible solidarity with LGBTQ+ youth and action against bullying, harassment, and exclusion.* |

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| ***Oct. 15*** | ***International Day of Rural Women*** | *Recognizes rural women's essential work and highlights unequal access to land, services, safety, education, and economic opportunity.* |
| ***Oct. 16*** | ***World Food Day*** | *Supports sustainable food systems and nutritious, culturally appropriate food for all.* |
| ***Oct. 17*** | ***International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*** | *Centers the experiences and expertise of people living in poverty and calls for systems that protect dignity, rights, and opportunity.* |
| ***Oct. 17-21*** | ***Durga Puja*** | *A major celebration of Goddess Durga, especially in Bengali communities, marked by worship, art, gatherings, food, and cultural programs.* |
| ***Oct. 17-26*** | ***Ayambil Oli / Navpad Oli*** | *A nine-day period devoted to the Navpad through prayer, study, meditation, and a simple one-meal fast for some observers.* |
| ***Oct. 20*** | ***Dussehra / Vijayadashami*** | *Concludes Navratri and celebrates the defeat of harmful forces, with traditions honoring Durga or Rama depending on region and community.* |
| ***Oct. 20*** | ***Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib as Eternal Guru*** | *Commemorates the Sikh scripture's installation as the enduring Guru, a writing also composed by Hindu and Muslim saints, affirming guidance through sacred teaching and the equality of all people.* |
| ***Oct. 21*** | ***International Pronouns Day*** | *Promotes respectful pronoun use and safer, inclusive environments.* |
| ***Oct. 22*** | ***International Stuttering Awareness Day*** | *Challenges stigma about stuttering and encourages patient listening, self-advocacy, and respect for diverse ways of speaking.* |

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|---|---|---|
| ***Oct. 24*** | ***United Nations Day*** | *Celebrates the UN's founding and promotes peace and human rights.* |
| ***Oct. 26*** | ***Intersex Awareness Day*** | *Raises awareness of intersex people and promotes dignity, informed consent, bodily autonomy, and freedom from stigma and discrimination.* |
| ***Oct. 28*** | ***National Immigrants Day*** | *Recognizes immigrants' cultural, civic, and economic contributions and invites attention to dignity, belonging, due process, and equitable access to opportunity.* |
| ***Oct. 31*** | ***Reformation Day*** | *Commemorates the Protestant Reformation and its lasting influence on Christian traditions, literacy, religious debate, and freedom of conscience.* |
| ***Sundown Oct. 31-Nov. 1*** | ***Samhain*** | *Marks the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter in many Pagan traditions, with reflection on ancestors, endings, and renewal.* |
| ***Oct. 31*** | ***Halloween*** | *A widely observed cultural celebration with roots connected to the eve of the Christian feast of All Saints and older seasonal customs; practices vary widely.* |