

## November 2023

### Hindu Heritage Month



November is Hindu Heritage Month in Canada. The [Government of Ontario](#) proclaimed November as Hindu Heritage Month in 2016 to recognize “the important contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to Ontario’s social, economic, political and cultural fabric. Hindu Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate, and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the significant role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario.

In 2022, the [House of Commons](#) has passed a unanimous resolution to proclaim November as the Hindu Heritage Month to “recognize the contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to the socio-economic development of Canada, and their services to the Canadian society, the richness of Hindu Heritage and its vast contribution to the world of arts and science, astronomy to medicine, and its culture and traditions and the importance of educating and reflecting upon it for our future generations in Canada…”.

[Statement by Minister Hussen on Hindu Heritage Month \(2022\)](#)

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) was founded in 1999 by trans writer and activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith, as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a Black trans woman and loved community member who was killed in November 1998. The vigil transformed into an annual day of commemoration and support for those lost and to support efforts to eradicate transphobia.



[Here](#) you can find details for local vigils and community gatherings to attend on November 20th (TDoR).

In 2017, the province of Ontario passed the [Trans Day of Remembrance Act](#) to proclaim November 20 as the Trans Day of Remembrance, officially recognizing TDoR. Members of the Assembly pause to observe a minute of silence at 10:29 a.m. on November 20 each year.

[Statement by Minister Marci Ien on Transgender Day of Remembrance \(2022\)](#)

[CUPE on Trans Day of Remembrance](#)

#### The more you know:

[Trans Day of Remembrance: A History \(Queer Events\)](#)

### International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 November



The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25 is “a moment to reflect on, renew, amplify, and strategize to achieve commitments to eliminate violence against women by 2030.” It is followed by 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence (Nov. 25-Dec.10).

Since 1981, November 25 has is observed as a day against gender-based violence by women’s rights activists. The date was chosen to honour the [Mirabal sisters](#) – Patria, Minerva and María Teresa – three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were assassinated in 1960 by order of the country’s then ruler, Rafael Trujillo, for opposing him and his regime.

[Statement by Minister Ien on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence \(2022\)](#)

#### The more you know:

[The WHO on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)

[Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence

November 25 – December 10

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence is an annual international campaign that begins on November 25, the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#), and goes until December 10, Human Rights Day. The campaign was started in 1991 and continues to be coordinated every year by the [Centre for Women's Global Leadership](#).



In Canada, the [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#) is also observed during the 16 Days of activism to honor and remember the 14 women who were killed in the tragic mass shooting at École Polytechnique de Montréal on December 6, 1989 – a senseless act of violence motivated by the perpetrator's hatred of feminism and women.

The Government of Canada's [theme](#) for 2023 is "Listen. Learn. Act." The theme "addresses the key steps to tackling gender-based violence (GBV). LISTEN refers to supporting survivors who share their experience, and to the experts that work on the frontlines. LEARN encourages us to educate ourselves on what GBV is, how to spot it, and how we can prevent it and take action. ACT is for taking the information and applying it in our daily lives."

The global theme of this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence is "[UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls.](#)"

[Statement by Minister Ien on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence \(2022\)](#)

### The more you know:

[Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)

## International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

November 29



With the adoption of [A/RES/32/40](#) in 1977, November 29 is annually observed by the United Nations as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The resolution on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People also encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.

The International Day of Solidarity is "an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property, from which they have been displaced."

### The more you know:

At CUPE's national convention (Oct 2023) in Quebec City, delegates passed Emergency Resolution 804, "which called on the Canadian government to demand an immediate ceasefire in Israel-Palestine...passing with a 70% majority".

*As the region grapples with armed conflict, and the ensuing violence that has claimed many lives, we extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to all those affected.*

*We understand that there are differing opinions on the conflict, and we humbly ask everyone to choose empathy and respect when engaging with one another on this issue.*

## RESOURCES TO ADD TO YOUR TOOLKIT



[We Believe You: Sexual Violence & Harassment in Union Spaces](#)



[Simpson Did It! How Unions are Portrayed in Pop Culture](#)

The RJC is committed to being a transparent and responsive committee and we welcome feedback on the content of our newsletters and other relevant communications. Your voices are vital to our commitment to continuous learning in order to be stronger community members and allies.

If you are interested in joining the RJC or have comments, please contact us at [cupe2424@carleton.ca](mailto:cupe2424@carleton.ca).

