



NO PLACE FOR HATE®



Plains States Region
A Community and School Resource Guide

A Community Resource Guide

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is one of this country's leading civil rights and human relations agencies. When the ADL was established in 1913, its charter stated: "The immediate object of the League is to stop, by appeals to reason and conscience, and if necessary, by appeals to law, the defamation of the Jewish people. Its ultimate purpose is to secure justice and fair treatment to all." With this charter, the ADL has become a leader in the development of materials, programs and services that build bridges of communication, understanding and respect among diverse groups in the United States and around the world.

The Anti-Defamation League developed the No Place for Hate® campaign to the Plains States Region in 2004. This program was developed to organize communities to work together and develop projects that enhance the appreciation of diversity and foster harmony amongst diverse groups. No Place for Hate® empowers communities, schools, businesses, houses of worship and community groups to promote respect for individual and group differences while challenging prejudice and bigotry.

The ADL and our No Place for Hate® partners are pleased to present this new No Place for Hate® Community Resource Guide. This guide is designed to provide parents, students, educators, clergy, government officials, employers and other community leaders with the necessary tools to ensure that our communities are No Place for Hate®. It offers creative approaches and ideas on how to build environments where prejudice and hatred are rejected and diversity is respected. We encourage you to refer to this guide often. Explore ways to implement some of the suggested activities and familiarize yourself with the different religious and cultural observances. Share this guide with your family, friends, students, employees and colleagues.

We are especially grateful to our partners at the Omaha World-Herald for their visionary support of this invaluable guide. Remember that together, we can make our families, schools, houses of worship, workplaces and communities No Place for Hate®.

Alan Potash
Plains States Regional Director

How to Make Your Institution No Place for Hate®

- 1. Have the members of your institution sign the ADL's Resolution of Respect (page 2).**
- 2. Create a coalition to oversee the implementation of the anti-bias programs and projects.**
- 3. Complete three or more activities from the ADL's No Place for Hate Resource Guide (or devise your own).**
- 4. Complete and submit the Activities Fulfillment Form to the ADL to receive your official No Place for Hate® designation.**

resolution of **respect**

I **pledge** from this day forward to do my best to combat prejudice and to stop those who, because of hate or ignorance, would hurt anyone or violate their civil rights. I will try at all times to be aware of my own biases and seek to gain understanding of those who I perceive as being different from myself. I will speak out against all forms of prejudice and discrimination. I will reach out to support those who are targets of hate. I will think about specific ways my community members can promote respect for people and create a prejudice-free zone. I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an “innocent” bystander when it comes to opposing hate. I recognize that respecting individual dignity, achieving equality and promoting intergroup harmony are the responsibilities of all people. By signing this pledge, I commit myself to creating a community that is No Place for Hate®.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

By signing this Resolution of Respect you are taking personal responsibility for standing up against all forms of prejudice and discrimination and committing yourself to creating a world that is No Place for Hate®.



resolución de **respeto**

Yo me comprometo a partir de hoy a hacer todo lo que esté a mi alcance para combatir los prejuicios y a quienes por ignorancia maltratan a otro o violen sus derechos civiles. Trataré siempre de ser consciente de mis propios prejuicios y buscaré los medios para comprender a quienes considero diferentes a mí. Me expresaré en contra de toda forma de prejuicio o discriminación. Tenderé mi mano a los que son víctimas del odio. Pensaré en maneras específicas de promover el respeto entre los miembros de mi comunidad y así crear una zona libre de prejuicios. Creo firmemente que la participación de una person puede ser significativa y que nadie puede ser simplemente un espectador “inocente” en la oposición al odio. Reconozco que el respeto a la dignidad de los individuos, el promover la igualdad y la armonía entre los grupos son la responsabilidad de todos. Al firmar este documento me comprometo a crear una comunidad donde no hay lugar para el odio, No Place for Hate®.

MI FIRMA _____ FIRMA DEL TESTIGO _____

Al firmar esta Resolución de Respeto, usted acepta responsabilidad personal para luchar contra todo tipo de prejuicio y discriminación, y comprometiéndose a crear un mundo que no hay lugar para odio.

Get Involved

1. Have the members of your institution sign the ADL's Resolution of Respect (can be found on pages 2 of this guide).
2. Create a coalition to oversee the implementation of anti-bias programs and projects.
3. Complete three or more activities from the ADL's No Place for Hate[®] Resource Guide.
4. Complete and submit the Activities Fulfillment Form to the ADL to receive your official No Place for Hate[®] designation (see ADL website below).



In your family

1. Know your roots and **share your pride** in your heritage with others.
2. Celebrate holidays with extended family. Use such opportunities to **encourage storytelling** and share personal experiences across generations.
3. Invite friends from backgrounds different from your own to **experience the joy** of your traditions and customs.
4. Be mindful of your language; **avoid stereotypical remarks** and challenge those made by others.
5. Speak out against jokes and slurs that target people or groups. **Silence sends a message** that you are in agreement. It is not enough to refuse to laugh.
6. Be knowledgeable; provide as much accurate information as possible to **reject harmful myths and stereotypes**. Discuss as a

family the impact of prejudicial attitudes and behavior.

7. Plan family outings to diverse neighborhoods in and around your community and visit local museums, galleries and exhibits that **celebrate art forms** of different cultures.
8. **Visit important landmarks** in your area associated with the struggle for human and civil rights such as museums, public libraries and historical sites.
9. Research your family tree and trace your family's involvement in the struggle for civil and human rights or the immigration experience. **Identify personal heroes** and positive role models.
10. Read and **encourage your children to read** books that promote understanding of different cultures and abilities as well as those that are written by authors of diverse backgrounds. *Visit our website at www.adl.org for a listing of multicultural books for grades K-6.*

In your school

11. Recite and sign the Resolution of Respect (Page 2), or a similar **pledge against prejudice** created by your student body at a school-wide assembly.
12. **Display a poster-size version of the pledge** in a prominent area of your school and encourage people to sign it.
13. **Establish a Diversity Club** that serves as an umbrella organization to promote harmony and respect for differences. Reach out to sports teams, drama clubs and language clubs for ideas and involvement. If your school already has a Diversity Club, hold a membership drive.
14. Initiate classroom discussions of terms such as bias, discrimination and prejudice. Then **compose a list of definitions** and post it in a prominent place.
15. Invite a motivational speaker who is a recognized civil or human rights leader to **address an all-school assembly**. Videotape the speech and publish an interview with the speaker in the school and local newspapers.
16. Organize an **essay contest** whose theme is either a personal experience with prejudice or a success story in the fight against it. Suggest that the winning entries be published in your school newspaper, featured in your town newspaper and/or highlighted on a local cable program.
17. Create an **anti-prejudice slogan for your school** that could be printed as a bumper sticker and sold in the wider community to raise funds for these efforts.
18. Hold a Town Meeting Day to allow a panel of students to **discuss diversity-related topics**. Before the session, establish discussion guidelines to ensure the session will take place in a safe environment.
19. Organize a Solidarity Day that allows students to hear from presenters who **address racial and gender-related issues**.
20. Invite your district attorney, police chief or a

5 ways to make our community no place for hate®

25. Create a flag or poster that symbolizes your **school's ideal of diversity** and display it at games, assemblies and school events.

26. Hold a **T-shirt contest** to come up with a diversity or anti-bias logo or slogan. The winning T-shirt design could be printed and sold at your school bookstore or in local shops, at community events or sports competitions.

27. Create a calendar with all the holidays and **important civil rights dates** represented in your school community. Ask your principal about announcing them over the PA system on the appropriate date.

28. Participate in a poster campaign that **encourages people to intervene** when confronted with instances of prejudice.

29. Create an orientation program that addresses the needs of **students of all backgrounds** so that they feel welcome when joining the student body.

30. Initiate a pin drive in which students look for pins with **positive slogans** and tack them onto a designated bulletin board in the student lounge or other central gathering area.

31. Poll your teachers about their ethnic/cultural backgrounds and their **experiences with prejudice**. Ask each to write a short paragraph on the subject that can be compiled along with photos in a teacher "mug book."

32. Produce a **"Proud Out Loud"** video comprised of interviews with students and their family members about their ethnic heritage.

33. Host a "Poetry Slam" in which students read original poems/raps that **break down stereotypes** and promote respect for diversity. Invite participants to present their work to community groups, PTA meetings, Chamber of Commerce events, etc.

34. Research pro-diversity websites. Then build a web page for your school and link it to others on the Internet.

representative from the attorney general's office to **speak to your school about civil rights**, hate crimes and other legal aspects of the fight against prejudice.

21. Have students participate in "Mix It Up at Lunch Day." The purpose is for students to identify, question and **cross the social boundaries** in their school by sitting somewhere new, with someone new, in their school cafeterias.

22. Publish a newsletter specifically devoted to promoting respect for diversity and publicizing multicultural events. Encourage local and community newspapers and Internet sites to do the same.

23. Encourage **representation of all students** on every school board, committee, group, publication and team.

24. Write an original **song/chant/rap** that celebrates your school's diversity and perform it at school rallies and other events.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday:

Celebrated on the third Monday in January to honor his commitment to securing civil rights for all people.

35. Incorporate games and **activities of a variety of cultures** during physical education classes.

36. Create a student-run speakers bureau where students of different backgrounds speak about their heritage. **Identify local community leaders**, civil rights veterans, Holocaust survivors and others to partner with students in this effort.

37. Devise a skit contest with themes that **promote diversity**.

38. Turn a school assembly into a game show for students of all grades called "Cultural Pursuit." Teachers could develop questions covering every discipline and **hold "Culture Bees"** in their classrooms to determine assembly contestants.

39. Devote time in art classes to designing a "Diversity Quilt" with each patch representing **a student's individual heritage**. Different classes could then combine their patchwork to form a school quilt for display in the community.

40. Organize a **"No-Ethnic/No-Homophobic-Humor Open-Mike Night"** featuring stand up comedy by students.

41. Hold an **International Food Festival** where people bring an international food item as a contribution. Label each item with its cultural origin and ingredients.

42. Request that a student/faculty committee establish an annual A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute Day when community members and leaders are invited to speak about and **explore diversity issues** with students.

43. Construct a multimedia display that examines how today's media perpetuates stereotypes.

Consider current films, television sitcoms, music and advertising campaigns, in addition to newspapers, magazines and books.



44. Research peace negotiations

going on around the world regarding ethnic or racial conflict. Then stage a mock summit in which students take on the roles of international leaders and try to resolve these crises.

45. Look for examples of youth who have struggled to overcome oppression throughout history and **create an original dramatic performance** piece based on their experiences.

46. Sponsor a "Dance for Diversity" and **approach a local radio station** about broadcasting live from your event. The station could also run student-written PSAs leading up to and following the event.

47. Establish a school exchange that matches students from different schools to bring youth of **differing backgrounds closer together**.

48. Start an annual **multicultural film festival** at your school. Invite community groups and local theatres to be co-sponsors.

49. Recreate the Ellis Island Immigration Station for a school-wide event. Involve teachers from all disciplines to **create period costumes and scenery**, and to prepare traditional foods.



Issue passports to participating students and lead them through the interview process.

50. Collect samples of popular teen magazines/ comic **books from around the world.** Ask your librarian to set aside a special corner for them in the periodical room.

51. Research children's books representing the **experiences of different ethnic groups.** Initiate a reading program with a local bookstore or library featuring these books.

52. Survey local card and gift shops for product lines geared to diverse groups. Write to greeting card companies and local merchants to advocate expanding the **diversity of selections.** Coordinate a contest to create a line of cards/ notepaper that promotes respect for diversity.

53. Approach the guidance office about **hosting a career workshop** led by professionals who can discuss diversity in their respective fields.

54. Ask your school to host an Internship Fair for groups such as the ADL and other civic organizations that **recruit student interns.**

61. Make respect for **diversity a core value** in your school and articulate it as such in the student/parent handbook.

62. Take advantage of the ADL's diversity consultants and anti-bias training programs to assist you with **ongoing education** for your faculty and staff, students and parents.

63. Create a "cultural exhibit" display case and change it monthly to **reflect a different** culture or cultural celebration.

64. Publish and distribute to faculty and staff a **list of ethnic and/or religious holidays** and the meaning of the customs associated with celebrating them.

65. Provide fieldtrip opportunities for students to visit historical sites and **attend local cultural events** & exhibits.

**Refer to the Calendar of Observances before planning school events. Do not schedule important school events or meetings on days of significant religious observances.*

In your house of worship

66. Urge your leaders to use the pulpit to condemn all **forms of bigotry.**

67. Encourage friends of other faiths to **visit your religious services** and share your religious knowledge with them.

68. Invite clergy representing religions different from your own to participate in services and **deliver the sermon.**

69. Host a tour for elected and appointed city/ town officials to **learn more about your religion** and the programs and activities your religious community offers.

70. Ensure that **all faiths are represented accurately** in existing library materials and religious school curricula.

71. Reach out to diverse religious communities to **co-sponsor festivals and holiday observances** that highlight and celebrate our common humanity.

National Women's History Month:

Designated by Congress in March as a time to remember and salute women as significant agents of historical change.

55. Advocate for the production of school plays that are **sensitive to multiculturalism** and incorporate a variety of roles and perspectives representing a diverse cast, audience and story.

56. Ensure that musical selections of school bands and **choruses are culturally diverse.**

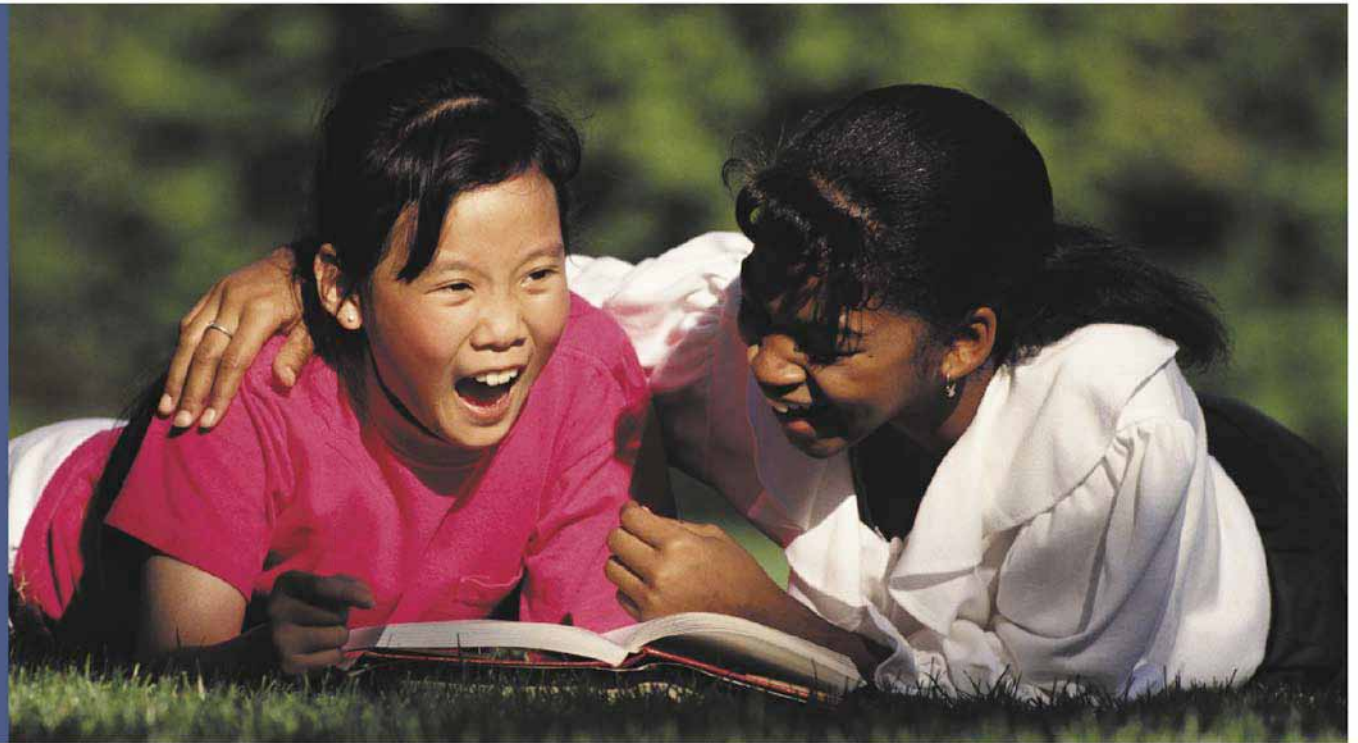
57. Speak to each of your teachers about posting a list of famous pioneers/leaders in their field with a **special focus on diversity.**

58. Collect **famous speeches about civil rights.** Put them together in a binder or in a video collection and make it available to your whole school community.

59. **Research civil unrest** in this country, from rebellions during slavery to Chicago in the '60s to Los Angeles in the '90s.

60. Invite a panel of representatives to speak to the high school senior class about **"Prejudice on the College Campus."**





72. Be respectful of everyone who attends your religious services whether they are members of or visitors to your congregation.

73. Turn one bulletin board into a display space where newspaper and magazine clippings depicting **current events related to forms of religious persecution**, or human rights violations, can be posted for all to read.

74. Organize an interfaith retreat for young people to increase understanding of each other's beliefs and **build lasting friendships**.

75. Raise funds to cover travel expenses to **visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** in Washington, DC.

In your community

76. Establish and participate in a Human Rights Commission and a Community Watch Group in your city/town.

77. Organize a local multicultural committee that serves as an umbrella organization for groups that raise awareness about prejudice and **provide support for cultural events**, holiday programs or community efforts that promote intergroup harmony.

78. Volunteer to serve on one of these organizations' committees and work to support their initiatives.

79. Provide ongoing awareness programs about the **value of human diversity** for all city employees and community leaders.

80. Incorporate diversity as a community goal. Secure a **commitment from a high percentage of community leaders**.

81. Create a display area or website where citizens can **post notices of events** and activities happening in their communities.

82. Sponsor a mentoring program and **reach out to students** in neighborhood schools.

83. Sponsor a lunchtime "brown-bag" series that features speakers on **diversity topics** for community members.

84. Establish an event that **supports the health and welfare** of society.

85. Petition government officials to issue a proclamation making your city/town a **prejudice-free zone** and a No Place for Hate® community.

86. Plan or participate in a community-wide "Walk/Run Against Hate" event in which sponsored participants would donate all monies pledged to an anti-bias or other **human rights organization**.

87. Become aware of your city/town's demographics and compare it to others around the state to **better understand the diversity** in your community.

88. Hold a community **"Human Rights Day"**

89. Build a community float that promotes understanding and respect for the **diversity of your community** and march in local and state parades. Contact parade officials to make sure that groups of all different backgrounds are invited to march.

90. Suggest to your local newspaper that it devote a corner of the editorial page each month to at least one **opinion piece relating to anti-prejudice** and pro-diversity themes.

91. Meet with school and community librarians and local bookstores to discuss **ways to highlight literature** representative of all cultures.

92. Compile a citizen's **directory of the businesses** and organizations that exist to support diverse groups in the community.

93. Research your town/community's involvement in **struggles for civil and human rights** throughout history, e.g. abolition, the civil rights movement etc., and create an exhibit for the local library/town hall.

94. Discuss **alternative accessibility routes** such as ramps, stairs and elevators in your community and invite speakers into your school and community groups to talk about such initiatives.

95. Make sure your public facilities **accommodate the needs** of all residents.

96. Collect traditional family recipes from local residents for a community cookbook. Solicit ads to support the cost of reproducing and distributing the book as part of a **welcome wagon program**.

97. Organize a citywide "Hoops for Harmony" basketball tournament with proceeds from ticket sales going to a local non-profit organization that



promotes awareness of and respect for diversity.

98. Hold a "Paint-Out Day" to **eliminate graffiti that promotes bigotry** and culminate the effort with a potluck supper.

99. Create opportunities to learn about neighbors' backgrounds and share your own. Ask questions that **invite explanation and answer** with the same.

100. Encourage local school districts to **create opportunities for schools** in their district to become No Place for Hate® sites.

101. Foster respect, sensitivity and understanding by putting together small groups of **culturally diverse people** and having them interact in informal settings.

**Consider religious observances before planning school events. Do not schedule important school events or meetings on days of significant religious observances.*

In your workplace

102. Make **respect for diversity** a core value in your company and articulate it in the company's handbook/employee manual.

103. Provide ongoing awareness programs about the **value of human diversity** for all employees in the organization.

104. Take advantage of **diversity consultants** and training programs such as ADL's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute's A WORKPLACE OF DIFFERENCE™ to assist you with ongoing education

105. Incorporate diversity as a business goal. Secure a **commitment from a high percentage of employees.**

106. Become aware and **respectful of individual work** styles.

107. Create an environment conducive to the **exploration of diversity.**

108. **Learn about co-workers' backgrounds** and share your own. Ask questions that invite explanation and answer with the same.

109. Create a display area where employees can **post notices of events** and activities happening in their communities.

110. Publish and distribute to all staff a **list of ethnic and/or religious holidays** and the meaning of the customs associated with celebrating them.

111. Sponsor a lunchtime **"brown-bag" series** that features speakers on diversity topics.

112. Sponsor a mentoring program and **reach out to students** in local high schools and colleges.

113. Provide opportunities to **attend local cultural events** and exhibits.

114. **Participate as a sponsor** in community events that support the health and welfare of society.

115. **Brainstorm 114 more ways** to make your community **No Place for Hate®!**

National Black History Month:
Commemorates the past achievements and ongoing contributions of African Americans in the United States.

How to Make Your Institution No Place for Hate®

1. Have the members of your institution sign the ADL's Resolution of Respect (page 2).
2. Create a coalition to oversee the implementation of the anti-bias programs and projects.
3. Complete three or more activities from the ADL's No Place for Hate Resource Guide (or devise your own).
4. Complete and submit the Activities Fulfillment Form to the ADL to receive your official No Place for Hate® designation.



Definition of a Hate Crime

Nebraska state law defines a hate crime as a criminal act motivated because of the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age or disability. This may include, but is not limited to, threatening phone calls, hate mail, physical assaults, vandalism, cross burnings, destruction of religious symbols and fire bombings.

Definition of a Hate Incident

Hate-motivated incidents are defined as an expression of hostility against a person, persons, or property committed because of bias or prejudice against a group identified by race, color, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, gender or sexual orientation.

Hate-motivated incidents include those actions that are motivated by bias, but do not meet the necessary elements required to prove a crime. This may include such behavior as, non-threatening name-calling, using racial slurs or disseminating racist leaflets.

Developing a Common Language

Stereotype

A stereotype is an oversimplified idea about an entire group of people without regard for individual differences. A Stereotype is a belief.

Prejudice

Prejudice is making a decision about a person or group of people without enough knowledge. Prejudice is based on stereotypes and is an attitude.

Discrimination

Discrimination refers to actions that exclude people or treat them unfairly. Some forms of discrimination are illegal, such as refusing to rent an apartment to someone because of their race. Other forms try to unfairly exclude people.

Scapegoating

Scapegoating is the action of blaming a person or group for something when there may not be a person or group responsible for the problem.

Ableism

Ableism is prejudice and/or discrimination against people because of their mental or physical abilities.

Ageism

Ageism is prejudice and/or discrimination against people because of their age.

Racism

Racism is prejudice and/or discrimination against people based on physical characteristics such as skin color, hair texture and eye shape.

Classism

Classism is prejudice and/or discrimination against people because of their social or economic status (how much money their families have or do not have; where they live, the kind of clothes they wear, etc.)

Heterosexism

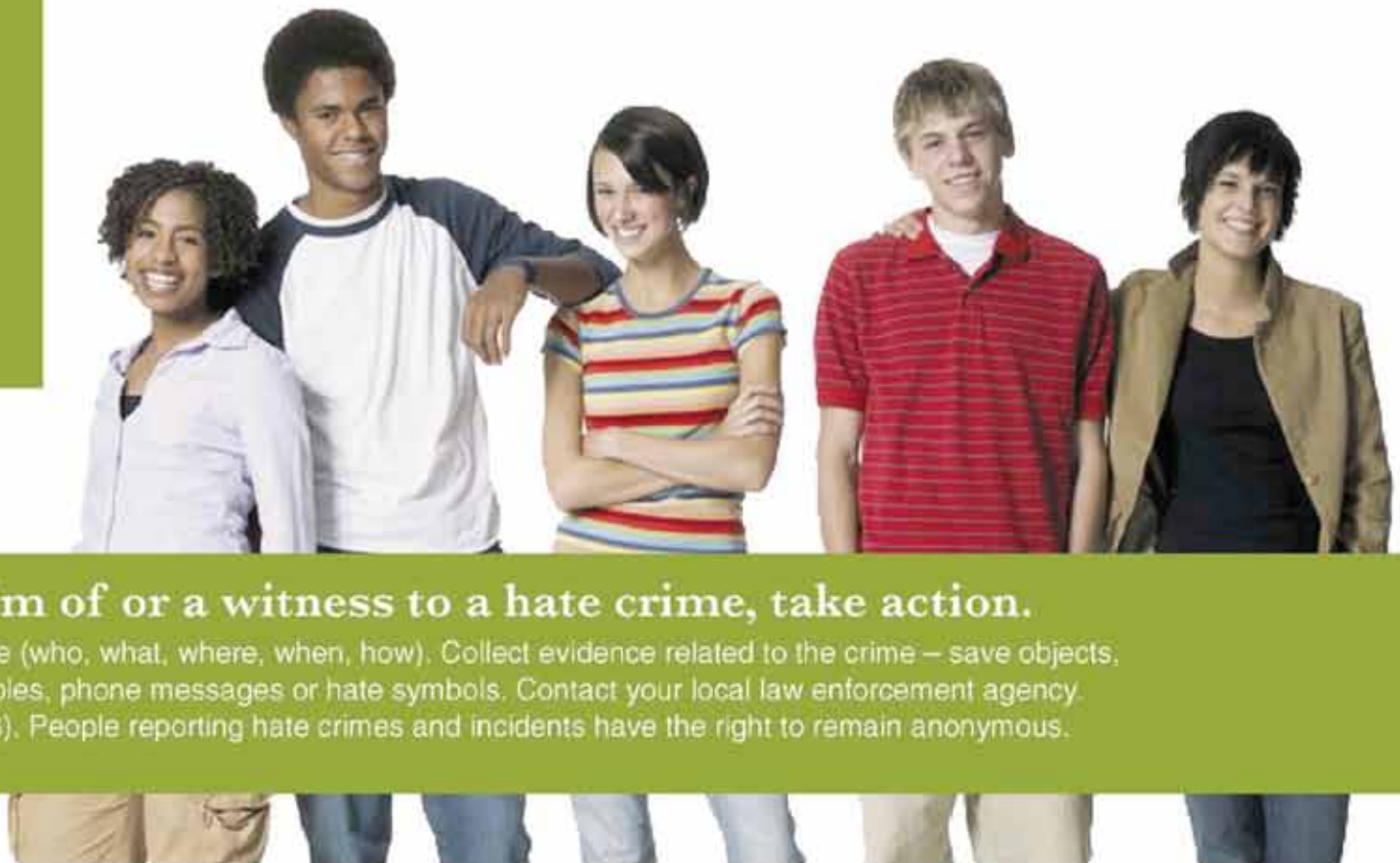
Heterosexism is based on the thinking that all people are straight, that all boys date only girls, and girls date only boys. Homophobia is prejudice and/or discrimination against people who are or who are believed to be gay.

Religious Bigotry

Religious bigotry is prejudice and/or discrimination against people based on their real or perceived religious beliefs and practices.

Sexism

Sexism is prejudice and/or discrimination based on a person's sex. Example: Someone tells a joke or puts a person down because the person is male or female.



If you are the victim of or a witness to a hate crime, take action.

Immediately document the crime (who, what, where, when, how). Collect evidence related to the crime – save objects, take pictures, keep writing samples, phone messages or hate symbols. Contact your local law enforcement agency. In Omaha, call 444-HATE (4283). People reporting hate crimes and incidents have the right to remain anonymous.

Responses to Hate in School



Responding to a Hurtful Situation

We can't control the hurtful things that people say and do, but we can control how we respond to them. Below is a five-step process to help you respond to a situation that you find offensive.

1. Begin by clarifying for yourself what you want to get out of the situation.
2. Try to assume good will. Many people who say or do hurtful things do so out of ignorance. Because they do not intend harm, they assume no harm is done.
3. Sometimes it helps to talk to the person privately.
4. Start the conversation by letting the person who hurt you know that he or she is important to you and that is why you want to have the conversation. "I wanted to talk to you, because our friendship is important to me..."
5. Be honest about your feelings and state them directly. Using the word "I" to start the conversation lets the other person know how you feel without him/her feeling attacked. For example, "I was hurt when I heard what you said about..." You have every right to let someone know how you feel; but you do not have the right to dictate what others can or can not say.

Stay in a group. Kids who bully like to pick on kids who are by themselves a lot – it's easier and they're more likely to get away with their bad behavior. If you spend more time with other kids, you won't be an easy "target" and you'll have others around to help you if you get in a bad situation!

Make a joke. Sometimes it's hard to make a joke in a serious situation, but humor can help! Kids who bully tend to pick on people who are easily upset. If someone is picking on you and you make a joke out of it, you'll show them you aren't easily upset. And, who knows, the person bullying you might think it's pretty funny! Remember, it is not your fault that you are being bullied. No one deserves to be bullied.

So you're being bullied, huh? That can feel pretty awful. But, no matter how bad it makes you feel sometimes, you should know you're not alone. That's right...there are plenty of kids all over the world who go through the same things you do everyday. And, even though you may feel helpless sometimes, there are a lot of things you can do to help yourself out. So listen up and give these tips a try.

Always tell an adult. It's hard to talk about serious things with adults sometimes, but they can help put a stop to bullying. Tell your teacher, your parents, your school counselor – any adult you feel you can talk to. If you've told a grown-up before and they haven't done anything about it, try telling someone else – a teacher or school official who may have noticed the bullying. And if you're afraid to tell an adult that you have been bullied, get someone else to go with you. Having someone else there to support you can make it a lot less scary.

Try to stand up to the person who is bullying you. If the person who is bullying you thinks you won't do anything about it, they are more likely to keep picking on you. This doesn't mean you should fight back. Instead, tell the person bullying you that you don't like it and that they should stop! The person bullying you should know that what they are doing is wrong. If you're afraid to talk to the person who is bullying you by yourself, then try getting someone else to go with you. Kids who bully are more likely to listen, and less likely to bully you, when you're not alone. If you're not comfortable doing this, that's OK. But be sure to tell an adult.

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Take a Stand, Lend a Hand, Stop Bullying Now, a project of the Health, Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Visit their website at www.stopbullyingnow.org.

2009 • 2010

Glossary of Observances

Armenian Martyrs' Day:

Commemorates the extermination of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915–1923 in Turkey.

Every holiday involves celebrations and rituals that create a singular flavor. While many are observed privately or inconspicuously, some religious days that involve the wearing of certain symbols, fasting and abstention from work are more visible to the public.

Please note that some dates are not specified because they are determined by the lunar calendar. Jewish, Baha'i and Islamic holidays begin at sunset the previous day. The dates for certain Hindu holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar.

We wish to express our appreciation to members of the clergy and scholars of the various religious communities who joined the staff of the Anti-Defamation League in defining and describing the different holidays and cultural observances.

SHABBAT • Jewish

Each week the seventh day, Saturday, is observed by Jews as a day of holiness, rest, and rejoicing. (The Christian Sabbath is observed on Sunday.)

NEW YEAR'S DAY – January 1

The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.

TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist – January 1

Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.

EPIPHANY • Christian – January 6

Known as Theophany in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.

CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian January 6

Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.

CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian – January 7

Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

ASHURA • Islamic – January 7

A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which started on December 29, 2008. On Ashura, Shi'ites mourn the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad, at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.

MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist – 1/11/09, 1/30/10

In Mahayana countries, the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu – January 14

Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.

WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í January 18

Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY – 1/19/09, 1/18/10

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is celebrated on the third Monday in January.

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK – 1/19-23/09, 1/18-22/10

Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.

LUNAR NEW YEAR – 1/26/09, 2/14/10

On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.

UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY January 27

Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – February

Celebrates Black History and African-American culture in the United States.

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY – February 1

Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.

AYYÁM- I -HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS

• Bahá'í – February 6 – March 21

The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year.

National Asian Pacific American Month:

A celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States and their historical and contemporary contributions

RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY

2/8/09, 2/14/10

Created in 1922 by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

TU B SHVAT • Jewish – 2/9/09, 1/30/10

New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

VALENTINE'S DAY – February 14

Celebrates the idea of romantic love.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY –

February 15

Susan B. Anthony, born February 15, 1820, was a pioneer in the women's movement.

NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist – February 15

Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8th.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD WEEK –

2/15-21/09, 2/14-20/10

Designated by the National Conference of Community and Justice to emphasize the importance of brotherhood and sisterhood.

PRESIDENTS' BIRTHDAY – 2/16/09,

2/15/10

Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.

MAHA SHI VARATRI • Hindu – 2/23/09,

2/12/10

Also called Shiva Ratri, it is the Great Festival of Shiva.

SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian –

2/24/09, 2/16/10

A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.

ASH WEDNESDAY • Christian – 2/25/09,

2/17/10

The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – March

Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian –

3/2/09, 3/15/10

The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.

NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í

March 2–20

Bahá'ís between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation. Exemptions from the Fast occur for illness, pregnancy, nursing mothers, extended travel and arduous physical labor.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8

Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

MILAD AL-NABI • Islamic – 3/9/09, 2/26/10

Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

PURIM • Jewish – 3/10/09, 2/28/10

The Feast of Lots marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist – 3/11/09,

3/30/10

Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 arahants, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

HOLI • Hindu – 3/11/09, 2/28/10

Also called Holaka or Phagwa, this festival celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY – March 17

Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

VERNAL EQUINOX – March 20

The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION – March 21

Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

NAW-RÚZ • Bahá'í – March 21

New Year's Day, astronomically fixed to commence the year on the spring equinox.

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY – March 31

Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu – 4/3/09, 3/24/10

Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

PALM SUNDAY • Christian – 4/5/09, 3/28/10

Observed the Sunday before Easter to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist –

4/9/09, 4/28/10

In Theravada countries, the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish – 4/9-16/09,

3/30/10–4/6/10

The eight-day Feast of Unleavened Bread celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

HOLY THURSDAY • Western Christian –

4/9/09, 4/1/10

Also known as *Maundy Thursday*, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

GOOD FRIDAY • Christian – 4/10/09, 4/2/10

Observed the Friday before Easter, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity.

PALM SUNDAY • Christian – 4/5/09, 3/28/10

Observed the Sunday before Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

EASTER • Christian – 4/12/09, 4/4/10

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity.

**DAY OF SILENCE – 4/15/09, 4/14/10**

Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

HOLY THURSDAY • Eastern Christian – 4/16/09

Celebrated on the Thursday before Pascha commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

GOOD FRIDAY • Western Christian – 4/17/09

Observed the Friday before Easter, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity.

PASCHA • Eastern Christian – 4/19/09

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Known as Easter in Western Christianity.

YOM HASHOAH • Jewish – 4/21/09, 4/11/10

“Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

FESTIVAL OF RIDVAN • Baha’i April 21-May 2

Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá u lláh, the prophet - founder of the Bahá í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God’s messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha is suspend work.

ARMENIAN MARTYRS’ DAY – April 24

Memorializes the extermination of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

YOM HAATZMAUT • Jewish 4/29/09, 4/19/10

Israel Independence Day celebrates the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. It is fixed as the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH – May

Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

INTERNATIONAL WORKER’S DAY May 1

Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers strike for an eight-hour work day.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY May 3

Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

CINCO DE MAYO – May 5

In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.

BUDDHA DAY • Buddhism 5/9/09, 5/27/10

Also known as Vesak or Visakha Puja, it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha.

MOTHER’S DAY – 5/10/09, 5/9/10

Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers.

LAG B OMER • Jewish – 5/12/09, 5/2/10

Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva’s lifetime (died c. 135 CE).

WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT – May 21

Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.

ASCENSION DAY • Christian – 5/21/09, 5/13/10

The 40th day after Easter, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

THE DECLARATION OF THE BAB • Baha’i – May 23

Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

MEMORIAL DAY – 5/25/09, 5/31/10

Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars.

ASCENSION DAY • Eastern Christian – 5/28/09

Celebrated 40 days after Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

ASCENSION OF BAHÁ’U’LLÁH • Baha’i – May 29

Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá u lláh, the prophet- founder of the Bahá í Faith.

SHAVUOT • Jewish – 5/29-30/09, 5/19-20/10

The Feast of Weeks celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

PENTECOST • Christian – 5/31/09, 5/23/10

Also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH – June

Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Pride Day is the last Sunday in June.

PENTECOST • Eastern Christian – 6/7/09

The seventh Sunday after Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.

ANNE FRANK DAY – June 12

Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family’s experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of gentile friends.

National Hispanic Month(Sept. 15–Oct. 15)

A recognition of the contribution of people of Hispanic heritage to the history of the United States.

LOVING DAY – June 12

Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia* which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.

FLAG DAY – June 14

The anniversary of the adoption of our national flag by Congress, June 14, 1777.

RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá'í – June 14

Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

JUNETEENTH – June 19

Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY – June 20

Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

SUMMER SOLSTICE – June 21

In the northern hemisphere, the longest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of summer.

FATHER'S DAY – 6/21/09, 6/20/10

Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers.

INDEPENDENCE DAY – July 4

Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.

DHARMA DAY • Buddhist – 7/7/09, 7/26/10

Also known as Asala Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.

MARTYRDOM OF THE BAB • Baha'i – July 9

Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabriz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophetherald of the Bahá'í Faith.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) DAY – July 26

Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

TISHA B'AV • Jewish – 7/30/09, 7/20/10

Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu – 8/5/09, 8/24/10

Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.

NI SF SHABAAN • Islamic – 8/7/09, 7/27/10

“Night of Repentance” in preparation for the fast of Ramadan. Fixed as the 15th day or middle (nisf) of the eighth month of Shabaan in the Islamic calendar.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – August 9

Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY – August 12

Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.

KRI SHNA JAYANTI • Hindu – 8/14/09, 9/2/10

Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

RAMADAN • Islamic – 8/22-9/20/09, 8/12-9/9/10

A month of strict fasting from dawn until dusk in honor of the first revelations of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION – August 23

Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.

GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu – 8/23/09, 9/11/10

Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.

ULAMBANA • Buddhist – 9/3/09, 8/24/10

Buddhist Ghost Festival. The unsettled spirits of dead ancestors are calmed with chanting and offerings to enable them to pass peacefully into the next world.

LABOR DAY – 9/7/09, 9/6/09

Celebrates the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY – September 8

Call to action for universal literacy.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH – September 15 through October 15

Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

CONSTITUTION DAY/CITIZENSHIP DAY – September 17

Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.

LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic – 9/17/09, 9/7/10

“The Night of Power” marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. Often fixed as the 27th day of the Islamic month of Ramadan, Sunnis may also observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th. Shiites observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd of Ramadan.

NAVARATRI • Hindu – 9/19/09, 10/8/10

Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.



**ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish – 9/19-20/09
9/9-10/10**

Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

EID AL-FI TR • Islamic – 9/21/09, 9/10/10

The Feast of the Breaking of the Fast marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX – 9/22/09, 9/23/10

The date when night and day are nearly of the same length. It marks the first day of fall.

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY – September 28

Celebrates Native American history and culture.

DASSERA • Hindu – 9/28/09, 10/17/10

Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga.

YOM KIPPUR • Jewish – 9/28/09, 9/18/10

The Day of Atonement marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh HaShanah.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH – October

Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.

**NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT
AWARENESS MONTH – October**

Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.

SUKKOT • Jewish – 10/3-9/09, 9/23-29/10

The week-long Feast of Booths commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

**SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish – 10/10/09,
9/30/10**

“The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.

**SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish – 10/11/09,
10/1/10**

“Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.

COMING OUT DAY – October 11

Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.

COLUMBUS DAY – 10/12/09, 10/11/10

Marks Christopher Columbus's landing at San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Known as *Día de la Raza*, “Day of the Race”, in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
ERADICATION OF POVERTY – October 17**

Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

DIWALI • Hindu – 10/17/09, 11/5/10

Also called Deepavali, “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

BIRTH OF THE BAB • Baha’i – October 20

Bahá í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, the Báb, the prophet -herald of the Bahá í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.

UNITED NATION’S DAY – October 24

Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.

**REFORMATION DAY • Christian –
October 31**

Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.

HALLOWEEN – October 31

The eve of All Saints’ Day.

**NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE
MONTH – November**

Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.

**ALL SAINTS’ DAY • Western Christian –
November 1**

Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

ALL SOULS’ DAY • Christian – November 2

Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as *Día de los Muertos* between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.

ELECTION DAY – 11/3/09, 11/2/10

A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.

KRISTALLNACHT – November 9

Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.

VETERANS DAY – November 11

Honors the U. S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.

**BIRTH OF BAHÁ’U’LLAH • Baha’i –
November 12**

Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá u lláh, prophet -founder of the Bahá í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

United Nation’s Day:

United Nation’s Day was established by Presidential Proclamation to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations in 1945.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE – November 16

Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK – 11/16-22/09, 11/15-21/10

Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE – November 20

Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í – November 26

Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Baha'u'llah's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

THANKSGIVING DAY – 11/26/09, 11/25/10

Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.

EID AL-ADHA • Islamic – 11/28/09, 11/17/10

The Feast of Sacrifice concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.

ADVENT • Christian – 11/29/09, 11/28/10

Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

WORLD AIDS DAY – December 1

International day of action on HIV and AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS – December 3

Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

BODHI DAY • Buddhist – December 8

Also known as *Rohatsu*, it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – December 10

On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

DAY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian – December 12

Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY – December 15

Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.

MUHARRAM • Islamic – 12/18/09, 12/7/10

The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. The first day of the month, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'ite Remembrance of Muharram, a period of intense grief and mourning of the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.

CHANUKAH • Jewish – 12/12-19/09, 12/2-9/10

Eight-day "Festival of Lights", celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.

WINTER SOLSTICE – December 21

In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.

CHRISTMAS • Western Christian – December 25

Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

KWANZAA – December 26 – January 1

A seven-day celebration honoring African-American heritage and its continued vitality. Kwanzaa means first fruits (of the harvest) in Swahili.

ASHURA • Islamic – 12/27/09, 12/16/10

A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.

WOUNDED KNEE DAY – December 29

On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.



This resource guide was prepared by the Anti-Defamation League's Plains States, Southwest regional offices in conjunction with the ADL's National Education Division, and the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

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