

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



Universal Human Rights Month



Celebrate human rights

We all are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

December is the 75th Universal Human Rights Month!

Ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school:

- Use this [illustrated guide](#) to explore the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Display [this poster](#) at your school
- Acknowledge [Human Rights Day](#) & choose an activity from [this list](#) or [this one](#) to do with students on December 10th.
- [Choose a book](#) to read with your students about organizing for human rights for all.
- [Teach about peace](#) in your classroom.

Calendar - December

(Source: [Seramount](#))

For more information about the following events and holidays, [click here](#):

December 1: World AIDS Day commemorates those who have died of AIDS

December 2: [National Special Education Day](#)

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 8: Immaculate Conception of Mary

December 8: Bodhi Day, a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni, experienced enlightenment

December 10: International Human Rights Day

December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a religious holiday in Mexico commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531

December 13: St. Lucia's Day a religious festival of light in Scandinavia and Italy

December 16–24: Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration in Mexico commemorating the trials Mary and Joseph endured during their journey to Bethlehem

December 18–26: Hanukkah, eight days and nights that celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus

December 21: Yule Winter Solstice, celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans

December 25: Christmas Day, the day that many Christians associate with Jesus' birth

December 26: Boxing Day, celebrated in the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and South Africa

December 26–January 1: Kwanzaa celebrating universal African-American heritage

December 26: Zartosht No-Diso, a day of remembrance in the Zoroastrian religion.

December 26: St. Stephen's Day, a day to commemorate St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr

December 27: St. John's Apostle and Evangelist Day, feast day for St. John, celebrated by Christian denominations

December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents, a Christian feast in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus

December 30: Feast of the Holy Family, a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus, his mother, and his foster father, St. Joseph, as a family

December 31: Watch Night, a day for Christians to review the year that has passed, make confessions, and then prepare for the year ahead

NEC DEI-related events

DEI Committee Meeting: Join us for our monthly committee meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 3–4pm at the NSAU cafeteria.

Outside PD Opportunities:

- [Workshop on 12/8](#): Teaching *Rolling Warrior* and *Being Heumann* - 2 books on disability justice hosted by Facing History

Mailing List Link: tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity

Join our mailing list to get regular updates on DEI-themed PD, articles, videos and more!

DEI Keyword of the Month:

INALIENABILITY

The concept that human rights are universal and that they cannot be taken away under any circumstances

[Click here for more key terms related to human rights](#)

DEI Article of the Month:

Human rights belong at the heart of the climate change debate.

[Human rights belong at the heart of climate change debate, urges Türk | UN News](#)

Curriculum Resources

Great lesson plans and resources to teach what it means to have rights and what basic human rights are.

[Lesson 8 - What are human rights?](#)

DEI During the Holidays

As we start off the month of December, it is important to remember that not everyone celebrates the same holiday. As we honor Human Rights and equity, we ask that everyone take a moment to understand and honor all traditions.

[December Holiday Lesson Plans and Activities | Education World](#)

[Avoiding the Holiday 'Balance Traps' | Learning for Justice](#)

[Ten Ways to Celebrate Diversity During the Holidays](#)

[Winter Holidays Poster](#)

NEC Community Spotlight:

Representation during the holiday season

TVA Nurse, Paula Purcell is all about equity for all students. Her office is the definition of a safe space. For the holidays this year, she purchased an LGBTQ+ tree. On the tree, she has created an array of ornaments that represent different cultures, traditions, and ethnicities. It is the little things, a sticker on the door, a brightly colored tree, a bracelet, some symbol that represents DEI and Human Rights that staff can do to make our students feel safe, welcome, and represented.



We are accepting submissions: [Contact us](#) to contribute to this newsletter in the future.