



CIVIC SPACE

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR MEDIA

SPEAK OUT, ORGANISE, AND TAKE ACTION

The freedoms of association, assembly and expression – the rights that make up ‘civic space’ - are an essential part of a vibrant society; where debate and discussion thrive, and where people are able to contribute to important decisions that affect them. The following dates are opportunities on the international development calendar to highlight these issues that affect everyone, everywhere.



20 FEB WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Recognises the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.



8 MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality.



21 MARCH INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Commemorates lives lost to fight for democracy and equal human rights in South Africa during the Apartheid regime, now recognised globally as a call to intensify efforts against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.



25 MARCH INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH CONCERNING GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND FOR THE DIGNITY OF VICTIMS

Promotes the right to truth and justice around human rights violations, marks the 24 March 1980 anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, of El Salvador, who vocally denounced human rights violations in his country.



22 APRIL EARTH DAY

Events worldwide are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network and celebrated in more than 193 countries each year.



3 MAY WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

An opportunity to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, assess the global state of press freedom, defend the media from attacks on their independence, and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



20 JUNE WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Commemorates the strength, courage, and resilience of millions of refugees around the world.



12 AUGUST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

An opportunity to draw attention to youth issues worldwide, during IYD, concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings involving national and local government officials and youth organisations take place around the world.



19 AUGUST WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

An annual reminder of the need to act to alleviate the suffering. It is also an occasion to honour the humanitarian workers and volunteers toiling on the frontlines of crises.



30 AUGUST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A day created to draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives.



16 SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

An opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world and to encourage active participation and support for democratic ideals among the international community, national governing bodies, civil society and individuals.



21 SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Commemorates the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples, a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to building a culture of peace.



2 OCTOBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

Marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, this is an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness, to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence.



24 OCTOBER WORLD DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION DAY

Draws the attention of world public opinion each year to development problems and the necessity of strengthening international co-operation to solve them.



16 NOVEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

Commemorates UNESCO's Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, which qualifies tolerance not only as a moral duty, but also as a political and legal requirement for individuals, groups and States, promoting equal treatment and opportunity for all groups and individuals.



10 DECEMBER HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an opportunity to assess progress towards securing human rights and showcase those fighting for rights around the world.

TIPS FOR JOURNALISTS

- Ask the question – do people have the freedom to speak out, organise, and take action around the themes raised for each day? Why is civic space important for making progress around each of these issues?
- For each of the days, find out what the theme for the year is and focus your coverage around these.
- Free to use visuals are often available and can be found in an online search.
- Look for the untold stories – who is most excluded? Where are the marginalised voices?
- New reports and statements are often launched to shed light on the current situation, seek these and find out how your country rates.

FOR A FULL LIST OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCES, SEE

<http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>