

LGBTQIA+PRIDE MONTH

In June, we celebrate and recognize LGBTQ Pride Month to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising. This commemorative month aims to acknowledge the impact of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals on history, both locally, nationally, and internationally.



The Stonewall Riots were the result of a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in Greenwich Village on June 28th, 1969. The events of that day, fueled by anger due to police harassment and social discrimination, sparked six days of protests and energized the gay rights movement. The first gay pride parade in America was held on the one-year anniversary of the riots.



Let's come together to celebrate, educate, support, and, most importantly, be allies to one another.

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is an annual event that takes place on June 20th. It is a day to honor refugees and raise awareness of their situation. This day celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to persecution or conflict, and seeks to build empathy and understanding for their plight.



4th of July

As we move into July, we focus on another important event - Independence Day. July 4th is not just a historical milestone but a powerful symbol of the values we cherish in our organization, freedom, equality, and the pursuit of happiness. However, it's important also to acknowledge the complex history of this day. While celebrating independence, we must recognize the difficulties endured by those initially excluded from the nation's promise of freedom. The lingering impact of slavery, discrimination, and inequality serves as a stark reminder of our imperfect past, motivating our dedication to fostering a more inclusive future within our organization. As we celebrate Independence Day, let's not see liberty and justice for all as a destination but as a continuous journey. This July, let's reflect on our shared history, embrace our present, and imagine a future where all our employees can genuinely experience the liberty we commemorate. Let's use this day as a reminder of our ongoing work to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization.



Women's Equality Day

As we approach the peak of summer in August, we celebrate an important event in history - Women's Equality Day. Observed on August 26th, this day marks the certification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in the United States.

Women's Equality Day is a time to honor the courageous women who challenged societal norms and fought for their right to participate in politics, paving the way for future generations of women.

It's important to acknowledge that the struggle for women's equality did not end in 1920. From gender wage disparities to representation in leadership positions, from societal expectations to combating harassment, gender equality remains a global issue. Therefore, as we commemorate Women's Equality Day, let's not only recognize the progress we've made, but also the obstacles that still need to be overcome. Let's encourage discussions about gender equality in our homes, schools, and workplaces, recognizing that promoting equality is a collective responsibility for all of us.



As we continue to explore new ideas, let's remember to take a moment to embrace our differences and use them as strengths to create a more inclusive and welcoming workforce in Onondaga County, where every individual is valued and respected. We all matter.

-Monica Williams
Chief Diversity Officer