



# Indian Diaspora Council International

*Shared heritage, aspirations and interests*

[www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org](http://www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org)

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Press Release



## INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026 IN THE USA

The **Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)**, in collaboration with its global membership and affiliates, proudly joins organizations, institutions, and individuals across the United States in observance of **Black History Month 2026**. This annual observance honors the enduring contributions, leadership, resilience, and cultural influence of African Americans in shaping the history, democracy, and social fabric of the United States. Black History Month, first established in 1926 by historian **Dr. Carter G. Woodson** as “**Negro History Week**,” became a month-long national observance in 1976. It continues to serve as both a celebration of achievement and a reminder of the ongoing struggle for *equality, justice, and full civic participation*.

In 2026, this observance carries renewed urgency. While the United States has witnessed historic progress over several decades—including the expansion of voting rights, civil liberties, and representation in public office—many communities today express **growing concern about the potential erosion of civic rights that were hard-won through decades of sacrifice, advocacy, and activism**. These concerns underscore the importance of remembrance, vigilance, and collective responsibility in safeguarding democratic freedoms for future generations.

The African American experience is foundational to American identity. From the legacy of enslavement and segregation to leadership in civil rights movements, arts, science, athletics, education, and public service, African Americans have profoundly shaped American culture and global influence. Contributions in music, literature, cuisine, language, political thought, and social movements continue to define and enrich the nation. Black History Month also offers an opportunity for cross-cultural reflection and solidarity. As a community representing people of Indian origin worldwide, the Indian Diaspora Council recognizes shared histories of colonialism, migration, resistance, and the pursuit of dignity and equal opportunity.

IDC reaffirms its commitment to standing with African American communities in advancing equity, inclusion, and justice. IDC also acknowledges the leadership of African Americans who have broken barriers and expanded representation across all sectors of society—including government, the judiciary, civil rights advocacy, and global diplomacy—demonstrating the power of perseverance and democratic participation.

As the nation looks ahead, IDC encourages *education, dialogue, and civic engagement*, particularly among younger generations, to ensure that the lessons of history inform present-day action. Honoring Black history is not only about recognizing the past—it is about **protecting the rights, freedoms, and democratic values that remain essential to America’s future**. -*Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council*

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*Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.*