

Diversity Calendar

2025 – 2026

Creating a culture of mutual respect and dignity



The University is made up of a diverse community of staff and students, and we strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

The Diversity Calendar 2025/2026 lists key diversity and awareness-raising days, as well as key days of observance and celebration in different faiths throughout the academic year. This calendar can be used to guide requests for flexibility on the grounds of religion or belief.

Calendar dates are accurate at the time of publishing, although some dates vary regionally in accordance with the lunar calendar.

For more information, please contact EDI@hud.ac.uk. You can read more about our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Framework on our [EDI webpages](#).

September 2025

East and South East Asian Heritage Month

In its fourth year, East and South East Asian (ESEA) Heritage Month is a month-long programme of events dedicated to East and South East Asian heritage, culture and history. It's a chance to celebrate, acknowledge and learn about the incredible ways in which East and South East Asian communities have helped shape the UK. The 2025 theme is Reframing Resilience inviting exploration of both the positive and negative ways that resilience (and the need for it) has affected communities.



National Inclusion Week

National Inclusion Week takes place 15th–21st September 2025! Founded by Inclusive Employers, National Inclusion Week is a yearly initiative designed to celebrate inclusion and encourage action in the workplace. This year's theme is **#NowIsTheTime** – emphasising the importance of I&D, urgency, resilience, and the need to push forward – focusing on practical steps that make inclusion sustainable and embedded within our organisations. To find out more visit the [NIW Website](#).



September 2025

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^ – work activities are restricted or forbidden on these day(s)

Awareness Days

- 1st – 30th East and South East Asian Heritage Month
- 10th World Suicide Prevention Day
- 15th – 20th National Inclusion Week
- 21st UN International Day of Peace
- 23rd Bi Visibility Day

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 1st First Parkash Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Sikhism)
- 4th-5th Milad-un-Nabi (Islam)*
- 4th-5th Onam (Hinduism)
- 22nd Autumn Equinox (Paganism)
- 22nd- 2nd Oct Navrati (Hinduism)
- 23rd-24th Rosh Hashana (Judaism)**^
- 28th-2nd Oct Durga Puja (Hinduism)

October 2025

Black History Month

October marks [Black History Month](#), a celebration of the culture, origins, history and achievements of African and Caribbean Communities and their diaspora.

In the UK, it's an opportunity to platform and celebrate the contribution of Black people to British society

The theme this year is "Standing Firm in Power and Pride" inviting individuals and communities to do just that and continue the work to actively shape a world where black voices are heard, celebrated and valued.



Sukkot (Sundown on the 6th to 13th October)

Sukkot is a joyful weeklong Jewish holiday that begins five days after Yom Kippur and celebrates both the harvest and God's protection of the people of Israel during their 40 years in the desert. Central to the observance is the sukkah, a temporary hut built in Jewish households to commemorate the shelters used during that time. Christians also mark this season with the Feast of Tabernacles, and many gather at the Kotel each autumn to hear the shofar. Sukkot is followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, extending the festive period. The holiday blends historical remembrance with spiritual reflection, community gathering, and gratitude for divine kindness.



October 2025

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Awareness Days

- 1st – 30th Black History Month
- 1st – 30th ADHD Awareness Month
- 1st International Day of Older Persons
- 6th – 12th Dyslexia Awareness Week (Day – 8th)
- 8th International Lesbian Day
- 13th – 19th Dyspraxia Awareness Week
- 15th International Pronouns Day
- 18th World Menopause Day

Religious & Cultural Dates

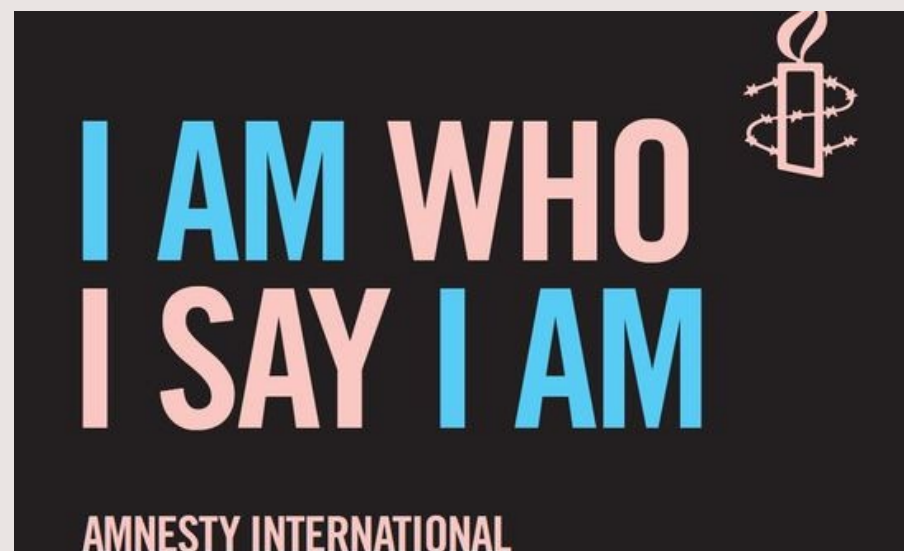
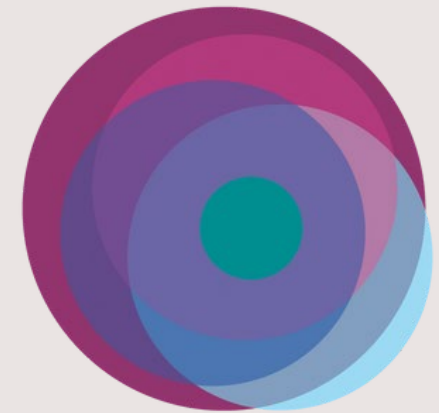
- 2nd Yom Kippur (Judaism)**^
- 2nd Vijayadashami / Dusshera (Hinduism, Sikhism)
- 7th–13th Sukkot (Judaism)*^
- 10th Karwa Chauth (Hinduism)
- 14th Shmini Atzeret (Judaism)*^
- 15th Simchat Torah (Judaism)*^
- 18th Dhanteras (Hinduism)
- 20th Diwali (Hinduism)
- 20th Installation of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikhism)
- 22nd Birth of the Báb (Baha’i)^
- 25th–28th Hinduism: Chhath Puja (Hinduism)
- 31st Samhain (Paganism)

November 2025

Inter -Faith Week (9th – 15th November)

Every year, Inter-Faith week begins on Remembrance Sunday and runs until the following Sunday, with an aim to foster good relations between people of different faiths and beliefs, and those with no religion or belief. The week also aims to increase understanding between different faith and non-faith communities and highlight work by local faith groups.

**Inter Faith
Week**



Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR)

On 20 November annually, TDoR is observed to honour the memory of transgender people who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence in the past year. TDoR observances typically involve respectful, candlelit vigils for those who have lost their lives, as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on the community's response to anti-transgender violence.

November 2025

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Awareness Days

- 1st–30th Islamophobia Awareness Month
- 9th–16th Inter Faith Week
- 16th Nov–15th Dec UK Disability History Month
- 19th International Men’s Day
- 20th Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 1st All Saints Day (Christianity)
- 2nd All Souls Day (Christianity)
- 5th Kartik Purinma (Sikhism, Hindusim)
- 5th Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikhism)
- 25th Day of the Covenant (Baha’i)
- 27th Ascension of Abdu’l-Bahá (Baha’i)

December 2025

Disability History Month

Disability History Month is an annual observance that marks the historical struggle for equality and human rights for people with disabilities. Each year, the organisation focuses on a new theme to galvanise action, thought, and understanding – 2025's theme will be 'Disability, Life and Death'. The month spans November and December to capture key dates such as World AIDS Day (1st Dec) and International Day of People with Disabilities (3rd Dec).



Winter Solstice

The Winter Solstice, also known as Yule/Midwinter, is an ancient festival rich in symbolism, marking nature's slumber and the sun's return. As winter settles over the Northern Hemisphere, diverse traditions gather to celebrate with unique rituals and shared hope. The Solstice reflects a powerful duality—embracing the beauty of darkness while celebrating the promise of light's return. It is celebrated among those who identify as Pagans, Wiccans, or simply nature-lovers seeking to honor the season's cycle. Rituals often involve candle lighting, altar decorations, dawn ceremonies, music, storytelling and reflecting on the past and future.

December 2025

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Awareness Days

- 16th –15th Dec Disability History Month
- 1st World AIDS Day
- 2nd International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 8th Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
- 15th–22nd Hanukkah / Chanukah in Hebrew (Judaism)*
- 21st Winter Solstice (Paganism)
- 24th Christmas Eve (Christianity)
- 25th Christmas Day (Christianity)

January 2026

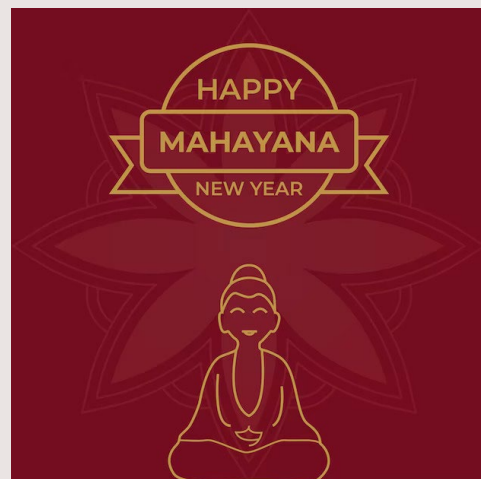
Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January)

Holocaust Memorial Day is observed in remembrance of the 6 million Jewish people murdered during the holocaust, alongside the millions of others who lost their lives under the Nazi regime. 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

The Holocaust Centre North is a permanent exhibition and learning centre on campus, as a partnership between the University of Huddersfield and the Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association, open Monday – Thursday, 10am – 4pm. Visit [their website](#) to find out more about the story and history of the centre and view their collections.



Mahayana New Year (3rd January)



Mahayana New Year is observed by Buddhists around the world as a time of spiritual reflection and renewal. As one of the two main branches of Buddhism, Mahayana is primarily practiced in Northeast Asian countries and communities around the world. The date of celebration varies depending on local customs, with some observing it on January 1 and others on the full moon of January. Traditional rituals include temple visits, prayers, bathing statues of Buddhist deities, lighting candles for luck, and singing devotional songs. It is also a time for practicing mindfulness and meditation and setting intentions for the year ahead.

January 2026

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Awareness Days

- 4th World Braille Day
- 8th Ethnicity Pay Gap Day
- 19th Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 18th World Religion Day
- 24th International Day of Education
- 27th Holocaust Memorial Day

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 3rd Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)
- 6th Epiphany (Christianity)
- 6th Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti (Sikhism)
- 7th Christmas (Christianity – Eastern Orthodox)
- 13th Pongal (Hinduism)
- 14th Maghi (Sikhism)
- 14th Makar Sankranti (Hinduism)
- 23rd Vasant Panchami (Hinduism)

February 2026

LGBT+ History Month

For the past 20 years, UK LGBT+ History Month has celebrated the remarkable contributions and achievements of LGBT+ people throughout history in all areas of life. It has created a dedicated space to celebrate a rich and diverse history, herstory, theirstory, and contributed to the work of Schools Out (the founders) to #educateOUTprejudice and usualise LGBT+ lives so that all LGBT+ people feel safe, seen, and supported. The 2026 theme is yet to be announced – watch this space.



Ramadan (17th February - 18th March)

Ramadan is one of the holiest months in the Islamic calendar, marked by fasting, prayer, and reflection. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. The month is also a time of spiritual renewal, with increased Qur'an reading and special prayers. Those unable to fast, such as pregnant or nursing women, the sick, or elderly people & children, are exempt from fasting.

Many mosques host daily iftars where the community gathers to break the fast, offering support especially to students and those in need.

February 2026

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Awareness Days

- 1st – 28th LGBT+ History Month
- 1st World Hijab Day
- 2nd-8th Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Week
- 2nd-8th Race Equality Week
- 6th International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 11th International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 9th International Epilepsy Day
- 17th Lunar New Year / Chinese New Year
- 20th World Day of Social Justice

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 2nd Tu B'Shevat (Judaism)*
- 3rd Lailatul Barat (Islam)
- 15th Parinirvana (Buddhism)
- 17th Feb-18th Mar Ramadan (Islam)**
- 18th Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) (Christianity)
- 25th-28th Ayyam-i-Hai (Baha'i)

March 2026

Women's History Month

Women's History Month, celebrated every March raises awareness of gender inequalities worldwide. It is recognised by businesses, organisations, and governments, with International Women's Day (IWD) as a key event during the month. IWD has been observed since 1911 and belongs to everyone who cares about gender equality. While it's easy to see gender issues as distant, IWD encourages us to reflect on challenges still impacting women's advancement today.



International
Women's Day



Eid-al-Fitr (19th/20th March)

Eid al-Fitr, meaning "Festival of Breaking the Fast," marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Muslims around the world. It begins with the sighting of the new moon and the start of Shawwal, the tenth month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrated globally, Eid al-Fitr is a time for communal prayers, feasts, and acts of charity, with a focus on spiritual renewal and gratitude. It is one of two major Islamic holidays, the other being Eid al-Adha, which takes place later in the year during Dhul Hijjah. The essence of Eid lies in its message of unity, generosity, and thankfulness for the strength to complete the fast and share blessings with others.

March 2026

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Awareness Days

- 1st International Wheelchair Day
- 3rd World Hearing Day
- 3rd-9th LGBT+ Adoption and Fostering Week
- 8th International Women’s Day
- 15th International Day to Combat Islamophobia
- 9th-13th University Inclusion Wek
- 16th-22nd Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- 21st World Down Syndrome Day
- 21st Int’l Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 31st International Transgender Day of Visibility

Religious & Cultural Dates

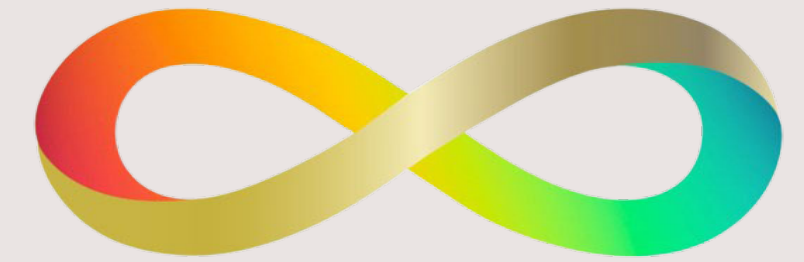
- 17th Feb-18th Mar Ramadan (Islam)**
- 1st- 20th Nineteen Day Fast (Baha’i)
- 1st Sunday of Orthodoxy (Christianity – Orthodox)
- 3rd Magha Puja (Buddhism)
- 3rd Purim (Judaism)
- 4th Holi (Hinduism, Sikhism)
- 4th-6th Hola Mohalla (Sikhism)
- 15th Laylat al-Qadr (Islam)
- 19th-20th Eid al-Fitr (Islam)**
- 21st Naw -Ruz (Baha’i New Year)
- 25th Feast of the Annunciation (Christianity – Catholic)
- 26th Rama Navami (Hinduism)
- 29th Palm Sunday (Christianity)
- 30th Ugadi New Year (Hinduism)
- 31st Mahavir Jayanti (Jainism)

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April 2026

World Autism Awareness Day (2 April)

Since its designation by the UN in 2007, World Autism Awareness Day has aimed to promote the full rights and inclusion for autistic individuals. The original resolution emphasized raising public awareness, but the movement has since evolved to focus on acceptance and appreciation. Autistic advocates have played a vital role in bringing lived experiences into global conversations. Today, the day highlights the contributions of autistic people and the importance of their equal participation in society.



Vaisakhi (14th April)

Vaisakhi is a major harvest and religious festival for Hindus and Sikhs. For Sikhs, it commemorates Guru Gobind Singh's founding of the Khalsa in 1699. The Guru gave the Khalsa a distinct identity through the Five Ks—symbols of faith and discipline. These Five Ks are kesh (uncut hair), representing holiness and simplicity; kara (steel bracelet) for self restraint; kanga (wooden comb) for a clean mind and body; kaccha (cotton underwear), readiness for battle on horseback; and kirpan (sword), the obligation to defend oneself and those in poverty and oppression. Celebrated especially in Punjab and across the world, Vaisakhi is a spiritual occasion rooted in sacrifice, unity, and devotion.



April 2026

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Awareness Days

- 2nd World Autism Awareness Day
- 7th Sexual Assault Awareness Day of Action
- 6th International Asexuality Day
- 7th World Health Day
- 8th International Romani Day
- 22nd Stephen Lawrence Day
- 26th Lesbian Visibility Day

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 1st-2nd Hanuman Jayanti (Hinduism)
- 5th Easter Sunday (Christianity)
- 13th Theravada New Year (Buddhism)
- 14th Vaisakhi (Sikhism)
- 14th Yom HaShoah (Judaism)*
- 18th Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Sikhism)
- 19th Akshaya Tritiya (Hinduism, Jainism)
- 21st First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 29th Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

May 2026

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT), observed annually on 17 May, is a global moment of solidarity and visibility for LGBTQIA+ communities. Founded in 2004, it aims to raise awareness of the violence and discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ people and promote positive change across more than 130 countries. It is easy to see homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia as something that happens 'elsewhere', but IDAHOBIT prompts us to look closer to home, too and reminds us that the fight for safety, dignity, and equality is far from over.



Ridván (Bahá'í Faith)

Ridván is a twelve-day festival that celebrates the beginnings of the Bahá'í Faith in 1863. It commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he was a Manifestation of God. Ridván means paradise, and is named for the Garden of Ridván outside Baghdad, where Bahá'u'lláh stayed for twelve days, and made this declaration. Ridván is observed according to the Bahá'í calendar. Days 1 (21st April), 9 (29th April) and 12 (2nd May) are Bahá'í Holy Days on which work is suspended. In addition to gatherings and prayers, flowers are also an important part of the celebrations, recollecting the garden.

May 2026

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Awareness Days

- 5th African World Heritage Day
- 13th National Day for Staff Networks
- 11th-17th Mental Health Awareness Week
- 21st Global Accessibility Awareness Day
- 17th Int’l Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 21st World Day for Cultural Diversity
- 24th Pansexual Awareness and Visibility Day
- 30th MS Awareness Day

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 1st Vesak (Buddhism)
- 2nd Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)^
- 14th Ascension Day/Feast Saint Matthias (Christianity)
- 17th Trinity Sunday (Christianity)
- 22nd-23rd Shavuot (Judaism)*^
- 24th Declaration of the Bab (Baha’i)^
- 24th-29th Hajj (Islam)**
- 26th Waqf al Arafah (Islam)*
- 26th-30th Eid al Adha (Islam)**
- 29th Ascension of the Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)^

June 2026

Carers Week (8th -14th June)

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It seeks to highlight the inequalities faced by unpaid carers – including a greater risk of poverty, social isolation, poor mental and physical health – and invites employers and organisations to develop their practice to better support carers in the workplace. For information on support here at the University visit the [Carer's at Work webpage](#).



Men's Health Week (8th -14th June)

Men's Health Week is an annual event that raises awareness about the physical and mental health challenges men face. Observed in the week leading up to Father's Day it encourages men to prioritize their well-being and seek preventive care. The week serves as a platform for open conversations about health, aiming to engage fathers, sons, brothers, and friends. It also highlights the importance of men's health within families and communities.

June 2026

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Awareness Days

- 1st-30th LGBTQI+ Pride Month
- 8th-14th Carers’ Week / Men’s Health Week
- 18th Autistic Pride Day
- 20th World Refugee Day
- 22nd UK Windrush Day
- 23rd International Women in Engineering Day
- 28th Stonewall Riots Anniversary

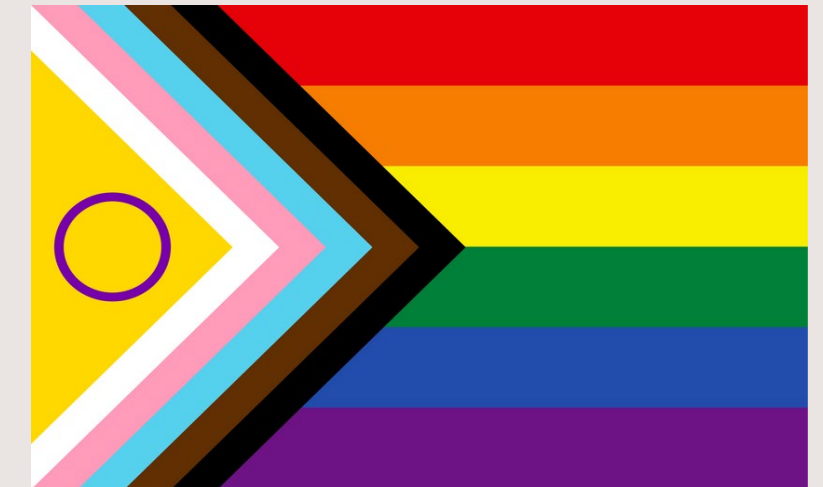
Religious & Cultural Dates

- 2nd Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christianity – Catholic)
- 4th Corpus Christi (Christianity – Catholic)
- 8th-15th The Apostles’ Fast (Christianity – Orthodox)
- 12th Sacred Heart of Jesus (Christianity – Catholic)
- 16th Martrydom of Guru Arjun Dev (Sikhism)
- 16th-17th Al-Hijra / Muharram – New Year (Islam)**
- 24th Feast of Saint John the Baptist (Christianity)
- 24th Pentecost (Christianity)
- 24th Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (Christianity)
- 25th-26th Ashura (Islam)**
- 29th Feasts of Saints Peter and Paul (Christianity)

July 2026

Anniversary of the first Pride parade in the UK (1st July)

Inspired by the Stonewall uprising, the first UK Gay Pride march and carnival took place on 1st July 1972, organized by the London Gay Liberation Front. It empowered LGBTQ+ people to be visible, demand rights, and stand in solidarity with other marginalized groups. While the fight against transphobia and for equal rights continues, Pride remains a vital platform for advocacy and visibility. [Pride in London](#) now hosts the UK's largest and most diverse annual event, with more towns and cities joining in each year including [Kirklees Pride](#) and [Huddersfield Alternative](#) Pride. More than a celebration, Pride is a reminder of the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ equality.



Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene (22nd July)

Mary Magdalene, often called the “Apostle to the Apostles,” holds a unique place in Christian history as a symbol of faith and devotion. Both Eastern and Western churches have developed traditions around her, some based on scripture and others on legend. Her feast day is celebrated with gospel readings, prayers, and symbolic acts such as lighting myrrh-scented candles or incense. and preparing spiced treats. These practices reflect the deep reverence for Mary Magdalene and her enduring legacy in Christian spirituality.

July 2026

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Awareness Days

- 1st–31st Disability Pride Month
- 1st Anniversary of the first Pride Parade in the UK
- 14th International Non-Binary People’s Day
- 18th Jul–17th Aug South Asian Heritage Month
- 18th Nelson Mandela International Day
- 30th World Day against Trafficking Persons

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 5th Birthday of Guru Hargobind (Sikhism)
- 7th Birthday of Guru Har Krishan (Sikhism)
- 10th Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
- 15th Saint Vladimir the Great Day (Christianity – Orthodox)
- 22nd Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene (Christianity)
- 25th Saint James the Great Day (Christianity)
- 29th Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) (Buddhism)

August 2026

South Asian Heritage Month (18 July to 17 August)

South Asian Heritage Month runs each year, celebrating British South Asian heritage in the UK. South Asia is made up of 8 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. South Asian influences are found everywhere in Britain – such as in food, clothes and textiles, music, and yoga classes. This month aims to amplify and celebrate South Asian cultural heritage in the UK, as well as look at what it is like to be British South Asian in the present day. People of South Asian heritage are a significant part of the British population, at around 4.5 million as of 2025.



Ganesh Chaturthi (14th -15th September)

This 10-day festival not only celebrates the birthday of Lord Ganesh, one of the most widely known and worshipped deities in the Hindu faith, it is also a social event that brings people together from different communities and backgrounds. The festival is celebrated with prayer, hymns, fasting, group feasting, athletic events and martial arts competitions. Modak, believed to be the favourite sweet of Ganesh, is made and shared as prasad (religious offering).

August 2026

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Awareness Days

- 18th Jul-17th Aug South Asian Heritage Month
- 1st-7th World Breastfeeding Week
- 9th International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
- 19th World Humanitarian Day
- 23rd International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 31st International Day of People of African Descent

Religious & Cultural Dates

- 1st Lammas (Christianity, Paganism)
- 6th Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord (Christianity)
- 28th Raksha Bandhan (Hinduism)
- 10th Feast of Saint Lawrence (Christianity)
- 15th Assumption Day (Christianity)
- 15th Dormition of the Theotokos (Christianity – Orthodox)
- 22nd Queenship of Mary (Christianity – Catholic)
- 24th Saint Bartholomew the Apostle (Christianity)

The University will recognise many of the awareness days, weeks and months listed with events and communications across the academic year.

You can see upcoming events organised by the EDI team on our [EDI Newsletter](#) and other regular communications on the Staff Hub.

You will also receive updates on EDI activities via your school or service's [Diversity Champion](#).

If you would like to request more information, provide feedback, or suggest an event or day to be recognised, please [contact the EDI team directly](#)