



Diversity Calendar 2023 - 2024

SEPTEMBER 2023



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(06 to 07)
[Krishna Janmashtami](#)

Janmashtami is considered a big festival of Hinduism marking the incarnation of Lord Vishnu into the form of Shri Krishna.

(10)
[World Suicide Day](#)

Raise awareness to create a world of fewer people die by suicide.

(15 to 17)
[Rosh Hashanah](#)

Rosh Hashanah, literally the “head of the year” is the Jewish New Year. It is a time of inner renewal and divine atonement.

(18) [International Equal Pay Day](#)

The day represents the efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.

(23) [Bi Visibility Day](#)

The day highlights bisexuality and the challenges posed by biphobia and bisexual erasure.

(24) [World Deaf Day](#)

The day recognises the rights of deaf people all around the world.

(24 to 25)
[Yom Kippur](#)

Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance.

(29 to 06)
[Sukkot](#)

It is one of the three biblically mandated festivals Shalosh regalim on which Jews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem.



OCTOBER 2023



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[Black History Month](#)

The first Black History Month in the UK was held in London on 01 October 1987 when Dr. Maulana Karenga from the US was invited to an event about Black people's contributions to history.

(06 to 07) [Shemini Atzeret](#)

Jewish people celebrate Shemini Atzeret, also spelled Shmini Atzeret, on the day after Hoshana Rabbah, the last day of the Sukkot festival.

(07 to 08) [Simchat Torah](#)

Simchat Torah or Simḥath Torah “Rejoicing with/of the Torah” is a Jewish celebration marking the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings.

(10) [World Mental Health Day](#)

The day aims to tackle the stigma that limits peoples’ willingness to seek help.

(14 to 21) [National Hate Crime Awareness Week](#)

In October 2009, the first London Vigil Against Hate Crime was organised after the death of Ian Baynham.

(15 to 23) [Navaratri](#)

Navratri is a 9 day festival dedicated to the Hindu deity Durga which starts on the first day of the Lunar month of Ashwin.

(18) [International Pronouns Day](#)

International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.

(20) [Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth](#)

On this day in 1708, the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, announced that he would be the last in a line of living Sikh Gurus.

(22 to 28) [Care Experienced Week](#)

Established in 2002, National Care Leavers week was an event created to celebrate the Care Experienced community.



NOVEMBER 2023



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'Movember' Men's Health Awareness Month

In 2003, Travis Garone and Luke Slattery, inspired by a friend's mother who was fundraising for breast cancer, they decided to make their moustache campaign about men's health and prostate cancer.

(01) All Saints Day

All Saints' Day is a Christian solemnity celebrated in honour of all the saints of the church.

(02) All Souls Day

All Souls' Day is a Christian day set aside to pray for those who have departed from this world.

(02 to 08) Dyslexia Awareness Week

Dyslexia Week is an annual event to raise awareness of dyslexia.

(12) Diwali

Deepawali or Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights and is one of the most celebrated festivals of the year.

(12 to 19) Interfaith Week

Remembrance Sunday was chosen as a start day to encourage people to remember together the contributions of all faiths and none, and to consider how best to create a just, peaceful, and harmonious world.

(19) International Men's Day

The day focuses on men's health, improving gender relations, highlighting male role models, and promoting positive expressions of masculinity.

(20) Transgender Day of Remembrance

Started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

(25 to 10 Dec) 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The campaign was started by activists at the inauguration of the Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991.

(30) Guru Nanak Jayanti

This Sikh festival is marked with prayer processions, hymns, free sweets, and martial arts ('Gatka').



DECEMBER 2023



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[Universal Month for Human Rights](#)

In 1948 with the memory of World War II still fresh, the United Nations crafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The very first article states: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

(01) [World Aids Day](#)

First recognized in 1988, World AIDS Day is dedicated to spreading awareness of the AIDS pandemic spread by the spread of HIV infection, and to mourning those who have died of the disease.

(03) [International Day for Persons with Disabilities](#)

The observance of the Day, began in 1992, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

(07-15) [Hanukkah](#)

Hanukkah also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.

(08) [Bodhi Day](#)

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holiday observed to mark the moment that took place 2,500 years ago when Siddhartha Gautama achieved enlightenment and became the Buddha or 'awakened one'.

(10) [International Human Rights Day](#)

On 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

(25) [Christmas](#)

Christmas is an annual Christian festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration.



JANUARY 2024



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(06) [Epiphany](#)

Epiphany is celebrated as Christmas Day in most Orthodox Christian religions.

(13) [Maghi - Lohri](#)

Sikhs make a pilgrimage to the site of this Sikh-Muslim war and take a dip in the sacred water tanks of Muktsar.

(24 to 25)
[Tu B'Shevat](#)

This Jewish celebration is also called "The New Year of the Trees" and it is one of four "New Years" mentioned in the Mishnah.

(25) [Burn's Night](#)

The Scottish national holiday celebrates the life and work of Robert Burns, a famous poet who is known all over the world. Burns Night is often celebrated with a Burns supper which usually includes haggis, neeps and tatties.

(27) [Holocaust Memorial Day](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.





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LGBT History Month

It is marked across the UK throughout February to connect and reflect on the past and present of the LGBT Community.

(10) Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations of the year among East and Southeast Asian cultures.

(13) Shrove Tuesday

Christian holiday that precedes Ash Wednesday and therefore the feast before beginning Lent.

(14) Vasant Panchami

Vasant Panchami day is a Hindu holiday dedicated to Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, science and technology.

(15) Nirvana Day

It is celebrated to commemorate the death of the Buddha when he attained complete nirvana or parinirvana.

(16) National Care Day

It's an event where the 5 Nations (Become, EPIC, VOYPIC, Who Cares? Scotland and Voices From Care Cymru) come together to celebrate care experienced children and young people, their stories and their achievements.

(20) World Day of Social Justice

The day recognises the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.

(21) International Mother Language Day

UNESCO believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity for sustainable societies.

(24) Magha Puja Day

Buddhist holiday observed annually on the full moon day that falls during the third lunar month.



MARCH 2024



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(08) [International Women's Day](#)

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

(11) [Ramadan begins](#)

Ramadan is the ninth month on the Islamic calendar and one of the holiest times for Muslims as it marks a four-week period of fasting that Muslims worldwide take part in.

(11 to 17) [Sign Language Week](#)

This annual event is organised by the British Deaf Association (BDA) to promote awareness of issues affecting sign-language users and, more generally, the welfare of Deaf people in the UK.

(21) [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

It is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.

(24) [Purim](#)

A Jewish holiday that celebrates the Jewish people being saved from persecution over 2000 years ago.

(25 to 31) [World Autism Acceptance Week](#)

A week dedicated to raising awareness and promoting acceptance of autism.

(29) [Good Friday](#)

Good Friday is a Christian observance that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

(31) [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

It is a day to recognise the diversity of transgender identities and to support the transgender community.

(31) Easter Sunday

A Christian holiday, also called Pascha, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



APRIL 2024



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(02) [World Autism Awareness Day](#)

It aims to shine a light on autism to increase awareness about life for Autistic adults and children. It's also an event used for tackling misinformation and myths about living with autism.

(10) [Eid al-Fitr](#)

Eid al-Fitr is celebrated within Islam. It is held immediately after Ramadan. Its name comes from an Arabic term that translates as the "feast of breaking the fast".

(22) [Earth Day](#)

It is the annual event dedicated to awareness about the various environmental challenges that face our planet.

(22) [Passover](#)

Passover is celebrated by Jews every year, commemorating the anniversary of our miraculous Exodus from Egyptian slavery, as told in the Bible.

(28) [International Workers' Memorial Day](#)

It is a day when the International Labour Movement remembers those who have been killed or injured in workplace accidents and those who have died from occupational diseases.





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(06 to 12) [Deaf Awareness Week](#)

Each year, the week brings awareness to the isolation that deaf people can experience, whilst promoting social inclusion of those with hearing loss.

(13 to 20) [Mental Health Awareness Week](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week is an ideal time for us all to think about mental health, tackle stigma, and find out how we can create a society that prevents mental health problems from developing and protects our mental well-being.

(17) [International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia](#)

The date of May 17 was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization’s decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.





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LGBT Pride Month

Pride month is a time for the entire LGBTQ+ community to come together globally and celebrate Pride in a full spectrum of activities, pride events, campaigns and much more! Pride month falls in June every year as it is also the month which saw the Stonewall riots.

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month

Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM) was established in Britain in 2008 as a way of raising awareness of these communities and their contributions to society, and to offset negative stereotyping and prejudices.

(17) [Eid al-Adha](#)

Eid al Adha is known as the Holiday of Sacrifice celebrated in Islam. It comes after Arafat Day, the second day of the week-long Hajj pilgrimage.





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(15) World Skills Day	Each 15 July, the WorldSkills movement alongside the United Nations, recognises the importance of global skills development.
17 Ashura	Ashura is a holy day for Muslims all over the world. The Shia Muslims see it as the climax of the Remembrance of Muharram and the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali (the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad) at the battle of Karbala. For the Sunnis, Ashura is the day Moses fasted to show his gratitude for the freedom of the Israelites.
(21) Asalha Puja Day	The festival pays homage to the Buddha and commemorates the Buddha's first sermon. It is also the celebration of the 'Four Noble Truths'- Dukkha, Tanha, Nibbana, and the eightfold path preached by Buddha after his enlightenment.





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(12) [International Youth Day](#)

The idea for International Youth Day was proposed in 1991 by the young people who were gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

(19) [Raksha Bandhan](#)

It is an annual Hindu festival celebrated by siblings i.e. brothers and sisters. The word Raksha means “to protect” and Bandhan means “Bond”, so Raksha Bandhan is a festival celebrating the bond of protection and care between brothers and sisters.

