

Equality, Diversity and Faith events and celebrations Calendar 2019



Equality, Diversity and Faith Events and Celebrations

Joining in with national and local Equality, Diversity and Faith events helps to

- make E&D 'visible', raising awareness and the profile of E&D
- link with work on actively promoting British values
- provide the 'lived experience', counteracting negative stereotypes and unconscious bias
- meet the needs of the local community. For example:
 - Tackling harmful myths, for example that your organisation is not welcoming to people with a particular belief or characteristic
 - Working together in partnership with local organisations, which can help raise the profile of festivals and cultural events such as Diwali, Holocaust memorial day, LGB&T history month
- demonstrate to Ofsted how you are meeting the needs and interests of the local and national community and actively promoting British values
- ensure a whole-college approach, if all departments (teaching and non-teaching) get involved.



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

Barak Obama,
44th President of the United
States

How does your organisation recognise, contribute to or celebrate festivals and E&D events? Consider, for example, visiting speakers, events, posters, displays, showing films, charity runs, interviewing staff or students with different protected characteristics or backgrounds.

How does your department join in with college-wide activities? For example, during Black History Month, the Hair and Beauty Department putting on a henna hand painting day, the Art Department exploring the symbolism behind Rastafarian imagery, the Admissions Department putting on a display of Bhangra dancing.

How do you personally contribute, for example volunteering to speak at student gatherings? Or aligning teaching and learning activities with college-wide events, for example a plumbing tutor exploring how to build a sanitation unit with just pebbles, sand and stones, which are all that is available in some countries without easy access to fresh water.

Equality and Diversity Calendar 2019

Please note, this list is only a starting point; people should add to this list.
Some events may take place on different dates, according to the year.

January

- World Religion Day (20)
 - Holocaust Memorial Day (27)
- Sikh celebration of birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (5), a three-day celebration and time of prayer

February

- LGB&T+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) History Month
 - Fair trade fortnight (25 Feb – 10 March)
- Buddhist Nirvana day (15), marks the death of Buddha and commemorates his attainment of Nirvana

March

- International Womens' Day (8)
 - World water day (22)
- Beginning of Lent (6), a 40-day period of prayer and fasting preceding Easter Sunday

April

- World autism awareness week (1-7)
- Christian Good Friday (19) and Easter Sunday (21), latter celebrating the resurrection of Jesus
- Jewish Passover (19), marks liberation of Israelites from slavery

May

- Mental Health Awareness Week (13-19)
 - IDAHOTB Day (International day against homophobia, trans and bi phobia) (17)
- Ramadan begins (6), the holiest month of the Muslim year; food and water are abstained from sunrise to sunset
- Visakha Puja (18), marks 3 significant events in the life of Buddha

June

- World Refugee week (17-23)
 - Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month
 - National Women in Engineering Day (23)
- Eid al-Fitr (5-7), celebrates end of Ramadan, see above
-

September

- World Peace Day (21)

Rosh Hashanah (29 Sept – 1 Oct), begins the Jewish New Year and period of reflection about the past year and the year to come

October

- International day of older persons (1)
- Black History Month
- Dyslexia awareness week (7-13)

Hindu Dasara (8), a festival celebrating power of good over evil

Jewish Yom Kippur (9), a day of prayer, fasting and repentance

Diwali (Sikh – Hindu) (27), an important celebration festival of the year

November

- Inter-Faith Week (11-18)
- World Toilet Day (19)
- Transgender Day of Remembrance (20)
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25)
- Disability History Month (19 Nov-22 Dec)

Birthday Guru Nanak (12), celebrates the birth of the founder of Sikhism

December

- International Human Rights Day (10)
- International Day of Disabled People (3)

Festival Hanukkah (23-30), commemorates restoration of Jewish independence and freedom

Christmas (25), celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ