



Diversity Calendar and Planner, 2020-21



International Youth Day Wednesday 12th August, 2020

IYD raises the profile of issues our young people are facing. Concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings involving national and local government officials and youth organisations take place around the world.



International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - *Sunday* 23th August, 2020

A tribute to the night of 22 to 23 August 1791, when the uprising of slaves took place in Saint Domingue.

Multifaith Dates – August, 2020

1st Lughnasadh or Lammas (Pagan)

The time of the corn harvest when Pagans give thanks to the Goddess for her gifts.

3rd Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)

Festival that celebrates siblings and love. Traditionally, sisters tie a *rakhi*, a bracelet made of interwoven red and gold threads, around their brothers' wrists to celebrate their relationship.

11th Janmashtami (Hindu, -12th) Hindus celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna.

22nd Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)

Celebrates the birth of Ganesh, god of wisdom and prosperity.

Al-Hijra - Islamic New Year (Islam)

First day of Muharram, first month in the Islamic calendar.

29th Ashura (Muslim)

Muslims remember the martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali.



Also this month:

- 1 st World Breastfeeding Week starts (-7th)
- 9th International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 29th Individual Rights Day

"We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race"

Kofi Annan, Ghanaian diplomat, ex UN (1938 - 2018)

August

- Equality Planner, 2020 -

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European Day of Languages

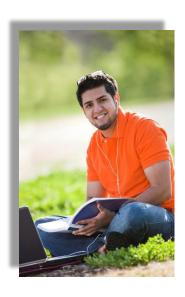
Saturday 26th September, 2020

There are over 6000 languages spoken in the world and behind each and every one of them lies a rich and diverse culture.

This day provides an opportunity to show people across Europe how important languages are and what fun can be had learning them.

💠 Also this month:

- 5th International Day of Charity
- 10th World Suicide Prevention Day
- 15th International Day of Democracy
- 16th Working Parents' Day
- 21st International Day of Peace
- 23rd International Day of Sign Languages
- 26th World Contraception Day
- 29th World Heart Day





Multifaith Dates – September, 2020

- 1 st **Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)** Sikhs celebrate the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Scripture) in 1604.
- 19th Rosh Hashanah (Jewish, -20th) The Jewish New Year festival.
- 22nd Autumn Equinox (Pagan) Celebrated when day and night are of equal length, the final festival of the harvest season.

28th Yom Kippur (Jewish)

Translates as the Day of Atonement and is the holiest date in the Jewish calendar.

"In a multicultural, diverse society there are countless ways in which people negotiate the everyday lived experience and reality of diversity"

Randa Abdel-Fattah, Author (1979 -)

September

- Equality Planner, 2020 -

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Black History Month

October, 2020

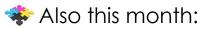
Black History Month is a time when we highlight and celebrate the achievements of the Black community and uncover hidden history about our communities.

UK Older People's Day

Thursday 1st October, 2020

Highlights older people's contribution to society and the economy.

This day aims to celebrate the opportunities and achievements that later life can bring.



- 5th Dyslexia Awareness Week
- 10th World Mental Health Day National Hate Crime Week
- 12th National Work Life Week
- 13th Ada Lovelace Day
- 15th World Students' Day
- 18th Anti-Slavery Day



Multifaith Dates – October, 2020

3rd **Sukkot (Jewish, -10th)** Jews remember the Israelites' 40 years of desert exile. Begins in the evening.

]]th Simchat Torah (Jewish)

Jewish holiday marking the day after the end of Sukkot.

- 17th Navaratri (Hindu, -25th) Hindus worship the female expression of the divine.
- 20th Guru Granth Sahib declared Guru for all times (Sikh) The tenth and last living Guru of the Sikh faith.
- 31st Samhain (Pagan)

Marks the Celtic New Year and the beginning of what Pagans call the Wheel of the Year.



"Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better"

- Equality Planner, 2020 -

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1928 - 1968)

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Armistice Day

Wednesday 11th November, 2020

A two minute silence is observed at 11am on 11th day of the 11th month.



The Great War, or World War One, came to an end 102 years ago in 1918. Today, this anniversary is used to remember everyone that has died while at war.

Remembrance Sunday falls on 8th November in 2020.



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Friday 20th November, 2020

A day to remember and honour the lives of those individuals who have been killed because of their gender identity or expression.

Also this month:

- 1st 'Movember' Men's Health Month
- 9th World Freedom Day
- 16th Anti-Bullying Week (-20th)

- 16th International Day for Tolerance
- 19th International Men's Day
- 30th St Andrew's Day Carers' Rights Day

Multifaith Dates - November, 2020

1st All Saints' Day (Christian)

Christians remember all the saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history.

2nd All Souls' Day (Christian)

Christians remember and pray for the dead, especially family members.

- 14th **Divali (Hindu, Sikh and Jain)** Known as the Festival of Lights.
- 24th Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh) Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He was martyred in 1675.

29th Advent Sunday (Christian) The four week period before Christmas when Christians prepare for the coming of Christ.

30th Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh)

Guru Nanak was the founder of the Sikh faith and the first of its 10 ten Gurus.



Regional variations possible, not an exhaustive list. Muslim, Jewish and Pagan entries may commence on the evening prior to the date shown. "When you learn something from people, or from a culture, you accept it as a gift, and it is your lifelong commitment to preserve it and build on it"

Yo-Yo Ma, Cellist (1955 -)

November

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International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Thursday 3rd December, 2020



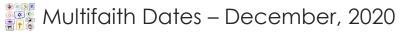
Approximately 1 in 6 people has a disability and/or learning difficulty. This day represents a united means of tackling disability equality. Disability is defined as a "physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term effect on the ability to carry out day-to-day activities".



An opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died.

Also this month: 1st

- Rosa Parks Day
- 2nd International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 5th International Volunteer Day
- 10th Human Rights Day
- 18th International Migrants' Day



8th Bodhi Day (Buddhist)

Buddhists from the Mahayana tradition celebrate the Buddha's attainment of enlightenment.

1] th Hanukah (Jewish, -18th) Jewish festival also known as the festival of lights.

21st Yule (Pagan)

Marks the Winter Solstice - the shortest day of the year.

24th Christmas Eve (Christian)

Celebrations traditionally start on Christmas Eve with Midnight Mass.

25th Christmas Day (Christian)

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, whom they believe to be the son of God.



"Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children, and not for the education of all adults of every age?"

Erich Fromm, psychologist, psychoanalyst, sociologist, philosopher (1900 - 1980)

December

- Equality Planner, 2020 -

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Holocaust Memorial Day

Wednesday 27th January, 2021

The day for everyone to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed in Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides across the globe.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

HMD 2021 marks 76 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 26th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

'Be the light in the darkness' is the theme for 2021.



Multifaith Dates – January, 2021

- 6th **Epiphany (Christian)** Falls on the 12th day after Christmas and signals the end of the Christmas season for Western Christians.
- 20th **Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)** Guru Gobind Singh was the last of the 10 human Gurus of the Sikh faith. He was born in 1666.



Regional variations possible, not an exhaustive list. Muslim, Jewish and Pagan entries may commence on the evening prior to the date shown.





- 1st 'Love Your Liver' Month, 'Dry January'
- 4th World Braille Day
- 17th World Religion Day

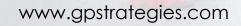
"No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive"

Mohandas Gandhi, leader of Indian nationalism (1869 - 1948)

January

- Equality Planner, 2021 -

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LGBT History Month, 2021

February (whole month)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans History Month celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community. Anyone can get involved, regardless of sexuality or gender identity.

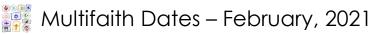
The Rainbow Flag is a worldwide symbol of LGBT equality.



Also this month:

- 1st Interfaith Harmony Week
- 4th National Time to Talk Day
- 9th Safer Internet Day
- 11th International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 12th Chinese New Year (Year of the Ox)
- 20th World Day of Social Justice
- 21st International Mother Language Day





1st Imbolc (Pagan)

Celebrated by Pagans midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

15th Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

The day when Buddhists from the Mahayana tradition remember the death and enlightenment of the Buddha.

16th Vasant Panchami - Saraswati Puja (Hindu) Festival that welcomes spring.

> Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Day before the start of Lent. It is also known as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day.

- 17th Ash Wednesday (Christian) The beginning of Lent for Western Christians.
- 25th **Purim (Jewish, -26th)** Celebrates events told in the Book of Esther.



"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles"

Christopher Reeves, Actor (1952 - 2004)

February

- Equality Planner, 2021 -

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International Women's Day

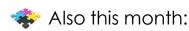
Monday 8th March, 2021

Annually, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements.

International Women's Day (IWD) has been observed since the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialised world that saw a booming population and the rise of radical ideologies.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Sunday 21st March, 2021

On this day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration (in South Africa) against the apartheid "pass laws".



- 1st Self-Injury Awareness Day St David's Day
- 17th St Patrick's Day
- 20th International Day of Happiness and Wellbeing
- 21st World Poetry Day World Down Syndrome Day

Multifaith Dates - March, 2021

- 10th Lailat al Miraj (Muslim, -11th) Commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem.
- 11th **Mahashivratri (Great Shiva Night, Hindu)** Hindus honour Lord Shiva. It falls on the 14th night of the new moon in the Hindu month of Phalgun.
- 14th Mothering Sunday (Christian) Falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent.
- 20th Spring Equinox (Pagan) The days and nights are of equal length.
- 27th **Passover (Pesach) (Jewish, -4th)** Jews remember the Israelites' liberation from slavery.
- 28th Palm Sunday (Christian) Marks the beginning the week before Easter.
- 29th Holi (Hindu) Celebrated on the day after the full moon.



Regional variations possible, not an exhaustive list. Muslim, Jewish and Pagan entries may commence on the evening prior to the date shown. "It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength"

Maya Angelou, Author, Poet, Civil Rights Activist (1928 - 2014)

March

- Equality Planner, 2021 -

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World Autism Awareness Day



Friday 2nd April, 2021

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others. Autistic people can have difficulties with everyday social communication, social interaction, repetitive behaviour and sensory issues.

Children can be diagnosed as autistic when they are quite young, in some cases from the age of two. But not everyone is diagnosed early in life, a later diagnosis is quite common.



World Health Day Wednesday 7th April, 2021

Marks the founding of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO Institution says, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

Stephen Lawrence Day

Thursday 22nd April, 2021

Day of commemoration for teenager Stephen Lawrence whose murder was racially motivated.

Also this month:

23rd St George's Day

Multifaith Dates – April, 2021 Multifaith

- 1st Maundy Thursday (Christian) Christians remember as the day of the Last Supper.
- 2nd Good Friday (Christian)

Christians remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

- 4th **Easter Day (Christian)** Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 12th Ramadan (Muslim, -11th May) The ninth month in the Islamic calendar and a time of fasting and spiritual renewal.
- 13th Vaisakhi (Sikh) Sikhs celebrate the founding of the Khalsa.
- 26th Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu, -27th) Hindus celebrate the birth of the god Hanuman.

28th Lailat al Bara'a (Muslim, -29th) The 'Night of Forgiveness' takes place two weeks before the beginning of Ramadan.



Regional variations possible, not an exhaustive list. Muslim, Jewish and Pagan entries may commence on the evening prior to the date shown. "Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow"

Anthony J. D'Angelo, Higher Education Researcher (1972 -)

April

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World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Friday 21st May, 2021

Launched in 2002, this day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

International Day Against Homophobia Monday 17th May, 2021

International Day Against HOMOPHOBIA

Exists to provoke action to end homophobia.

- Also this month:
- 1st Action on Stroke Month
- 3rd World Press Freedom Day
- 9th Europe Day
- 15th International Day of Families
- 31st World No Tobacco Day

Multifaith Dates – May, 2021

1st Beltane (Pagan)

A fire festival which celebrates the arrival of summer and the fertility of the coming year.

12th Eid-al-Fitr (Muslim, -13th)

Marks the end of the month-long fast during the Islamic month of Ramadan.

13th Ascension Day (Christian)

Celebrates the day when Jesus Christ is said to have ascended bodily into heaven, in the presence of the apostles.

16th Shavuot (Jewish, -18th) A harvest festival when Jews give thanks for the first fruits of the year.

19th Vesak / Buddha Day

The major festival of the year for Buddhists from the Theravada tradition.

23rd Pentecost (Christian)

The day when the Holy Spirit is said to have descended on Jesus's Apostles.

30th Trinity Sunday (Christian)

Christians celebrate the belief in three aspects of the one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"There never were in the world two opinions alike, no more than two hairs or two grains; the most universal quality is diversity"

Michel de Montaigne, French Philosopher and Writer (1533 - 1592)

- Equality Planner, 2021 -

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Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month (GRTHM)

June, 2021 (whole month)

Britain's 300,000 Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have lived, worked and travelled throughout Britain for over 500 years, yet they have been almost entirely written out of British history.

GRTHM celebrates culture and history by tackling the negative stereotyping and prejudices that have led to this situation. It is a partnership between communities and those in local and central government who want to help.

World Refugee Day – Sunday 20th June, 2021

A day to raise the profile of the millions of families that have fled their homes to escape war or human rights abuses. Takes place in Refugee Week.

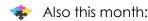


Multifaith Dates – June, 2021

- 16th Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh) The fifth of the ten Sikh Gurus, the first Sikh martyr.
- 20th Summer Solstice or Midsummer (Pagan)

Pagans celebrate Midsummer or Litha, which means 'standing still of the sun'.





- 1st Global Day of Parents
- 14th World Blood Donor Day
- 23rd National Women in Engineering Day

"It wasn't until I was a young adult that I fully recognised that I had dyslexia. By then, I also knew that challenges can be the driving force for success"

June

- Equality Planner, 2021 -

Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group (1950 -)

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Gay Pride Events

Summer, 2021

A Gay Pride Event is being held somewhere every weekend over the summer. These occasions celebrate sexuality and gender identity diversity and raise awareness of the fact that discrimination and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people is still happening today.

Stonewall is a national lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans charity. Their website has a wealth of information and resources.





World Population Day - Sunday 11th July, 2021

A day to celebrate our common humanity and diversity. World Population Day reaffirms the human right to plan for a family. It encourages activities, events and information to help make this right a reality throughout the world.

Multifaith Dates – July, 2021

- 17th Hajj/Pilgrimage to Makkah (Muslim, -22nd) Muslims are required to make this pilgrimage once in their lifetime.
- 19th Eid-al-Adha (Muslim, -23rd) One of the most important Islamic holidays of the year and commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son to God.
- 24th Dharma Day (Buddhist) Buddhists from the Theravada tradition celebrate the teachings of the Buddha.



- 🔹 Also this month:
- 15th World Youth Skills Day
- 17th World Day for International Justice
- 18th Nelson Mandela International Day

"Equality is the soul of liberty; there is, in fact no liberty without it"

Frances Wright, writer and freethinker (1795-1852)

Equality Planner, 2021 -

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July

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