

**The University of Liverpool is committed to Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Wellbeing.**

The following calendar outlines numerous equality, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and wellbeing related dates (September 2023 – August 2024) which may be celebrated, marked and or acknowledged by our University community.

**Accessible Version – UoL Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Wellbeing Calendar (Sep 2023 – Aug 2024)**

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| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| World Dementia Awareness Month | 01/09/2023 | 30/09/2023 | Every September to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia. |
| International Blood Cancer Awareness Month | 01/09/2023 | 30/09/2023 | A focused time to raise awareness in the efforts to fight blood cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and Hodgkin's disease. |
| World Alzheimer's Month | 01/09/2023 | 30/09/2023 | Takes place every September to raise awareness. |
| Childhood Cancer Awareness Month | 01/09/2023 | 30/09/2023 | Symbolised by a gold ribbon to raise support, funding and awareness of childhood cancers. |
| Sickle Cell Awareness Month | 01/09/2023 | 30/09/2023 | Millions of people do not know they have sickle cell trait, because the trait usually does not cause illness. This month is to increase awareness about sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. |
| Migraine Awareness Week | 04/09/2023 | 13/09/2023 | To raise awareness of sufferers of neurological conditions. |
| International Day of Charity | 05/09/2023 |  | The International Day of Charity was established with the objective of mobilizing people all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities. The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. |
| Krishna Janmashtami – Hindu | 06/09/2023 |  | Krishna Janmashtami is observed on the 8th day of the month of Bhadon on the Hindu calendar and the day celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna. |
| Colour Blind Awareness Day | 06/09/2023 |  | To raise awareness of colour blindness. |
| Nativity of the Theotokos – Orthodox Christian | 08/09/2023 |  | One of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church celebrated on 8th September. |
| Nativity of Virgin Mary – Christian | 08/09/2023 |  | Christian celebration of birth of the Virgin Mary. |
| International Literacy Day | 08/09/2023 |  | A day to remind everyone of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society. |
| World Suicide Prevention Day | 10/09/2023 |  | World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is an awareness day observed on 10th September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world. |
| Paryushana Parvarambha begins - Jain | 11/09/2023 |  | Paryushana is the most important annual holy events for Jains and is usually celebrated in August or September. It lasts 8 days for Swetambara and 10 days for Digambara sect of Jains. Jains increase their level of spiritual intensity often using fasting and prayer/meditation to help. The five main vows are emphasized during this time. |
| World Sepsis Day | 13/09/2023 |  | To raise awareness. |
| Triumph of the Cross – Christian | 14/09/2023 |  | This day honours and commemorates the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross for our salvation. |
| International Day of Democracy | 15/09/2023 |  | Celebrated annually on 15th September. It’s a chance to review the state of democracy around the world, encourage democratic movements and promote freedom, peace and human rights. |
| Rosh Hashanah – Judaism | 16/09/2023 | 17/09/2023 | A two-day celebration of the creation of the world. This is a serious holiday which is not celebrated as a joyful occasion. |
| Fast of Gedaliah - Judaism | 18/09/2023 |  | The Fast of Gedaliah is a Jewish fast day from dawn until dusk to lament the assassination of the righteous governor of Judah of that name, which ended Jewish rule following the destruction of the First Temple. |
| International Equal Pay Day | 18/09/2023 |  | To ensure that equal pay remains at the centre of the recognition of women's major contribution to the global economy. |
| Ganesh Chaturthi – Hindu | 19/09/2023 |  | A Hindu festival honouring the god of prosperity, prudence and success. Images of Ganesha are worshipped. |
| Samvatsari – Jain | 19/09/2023 |  | Samvatsari is the last day of Paryushana festival observed annually by the followers of Shwetambar sect of Jainism. It falls on Shukla Panchami each year in Jain calendar month of Bhadrapada. |
| World Alzheimer’s Day | 21/09/2023 |  | 21st September each year, a day on which Alzheimer's organizations around the world concentrate their efforts on raising awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, a group of disorders that impairs mental functioning. |
| International Day of Peace | 21/09/2023 |  | Observed annually on 21st September and is dedicated to world peace and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access. |
| Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist - Christian | 21/09/2023 |  | One of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ and the traditional author of the first Synoptic Gospel. |
| National Fitness Day | 21/09/2023 |  | Encourages people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to find or rediscover a fitness activity they love. |
| Autumn Equinox | 23/09/2023 |  | Autumn equinox. |
| Bi Visibility Day | 23/09/2023 |  | Bi Visibility Day, also known as International Celebrate Bisexuality Day, has been marked each year since 1999 to highlight biphobia and to help people find the bisexual community. |
| International Day of Sign Languages | 23/09/2023 |  | The UN proclaimed 23rd September as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf. |
| Mabon – Ostara - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 23/09/2023 |  | Mabon - Wicca observance of the autumnal equinox when day and night are of equal length. A harvest festival time. Ostara - Wicca welcoming of spring and the goddess-as-maiden. |
| World Deaf Day | 24/09/2023 |  | Every year World Deaf Day occurs on the last Sunday of September. The objective of the observation is to promote human rights of the deaf people across the globe. |
| Yom Kippur – Judaism | 25/09/2023 |  | Known as the most solemn day of the Jewish year. The time involves a 25 hour fast (no food or drink is to be consumed from sundown until sunset) |
| UK National Inclusion Week | 25/09/2023 | 01/10/2023 | Inclusion Week 2023 will take place from 25th September – 1st October. Inclusion Week is designed to celebrate everyday inclusion in all its forms. Brings organisations together from across the globe to celebrate, share and inspire inclusion practices. |
| Mawlid al-Nabi - Islam | 27/09/2023 |  | Islamic commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, in about 570 c.e. Not universally observed. The prophet's teachings are read and religious meetings are held. Shia and Sunni on separate days. |
| Anant Chaturdashi - Hindu, Jain | 28/09/2023 |  | Anant Chaturdashi is a festival observed and celebrated by Jains and Hindus. Chaturdashi is the 14th day of the lunar fortnight. |
| International Right to Know Day | 28/09/2023 |  | Annually observed on 28th September to raise public awareness of the right to access of governmental information. Freedom to information is one of the most important political and personal rights, that is included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. |
| World Heart Day | 29/09/2023 |  | World Heart Day was founded in 2000 to inform people around the globe that heart disease and stroke are the world’s leading causes of death, claiming 17.5 million lives each year. World Heart Day takes place on 29th September every year. |
| Michaelmas – Saint Michael and All Angels – Christian | 29/09/2023 |  | Michaelmas also known as the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael, the Feast of the Archangels, or the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels is a minor Christian festival observed on 29th September. |
| Sukkot begins – Judaism | 30/09/2023 |  | This is an eight-day festival which commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the promised land. First and last two days have Sabbath restrictions and limited ones on remaining days. |
| **October 2023** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| World Menopause Month | 01/10/2023 | 31/10/2023 | To raise awareness and understanding of the possible health issues associated when approaching, during and after menopause. |
| Down Syndrome Awareness Month | 01/10/2023 | 31/10/2023 | October is Down Syndrome (DS) awareness month, a month to raise awareness, develop our understanding of the condition that 1 in 700 babies are born with, and celebrate Down's Syndrome and the neurodiversity that it brings. |
| Black History Month | 01/10/2023 | 31/10/2023 | Recognised in the UK for more than 30 years, black history month highlights and celebrates the history, achievements and contributions of black people in the UK that have made a huge difference to British culture, whilst raising awareness of unfairness and discrimination of the past and present. It is also a time to look forward, innovate and champion equality, diversity & inclusion. |
| Lupus Awareness Month | 01/10/2023 | 31/10/2023 | To raise awareness of the devastating effects of lupus an inflammatory disease caused when the immune system attacks its own tissues and affects the overall well-being of the person in many ways. |
| Global Diversity Awareness Month | 01/10/2023 | 31/10/2023 | Pays tribute to the diverse minds and beliefs held by all cultures around the world. |
| Breast Cancer Awareness Month | 01/10/2023 | 31/10/2023 | Annual fundraising and awareness campaign symbolised by wearing pink. |
| International Day of Older Persons | 01/10/2023 |  | The United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) takes a stand against ageism by drawing attention to and challenging negative stereotypes and misconceptions about older persons and ageing. |
| Feast of the Guardian Angels – Christian | 02/10/2023 |  | The Feast of the Guardian Angels is a Catholic festival celebrated annually on 2nd October. Paul V was the first Pope, in 1608, to authorise a feast day in honour of guardian angels. |
| International Day of Non-Violence | 02/10/2023 |  | The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2nd October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. This day is referred to in India as Gandhi Jayanti. |
| National Work Life Week | 02/10/2023 | 06/10/2023 | Campaign to get both employers and employees talking about well-being at work and work-life fit. |
| Blessing of the Animals | 04/10/2023 |  | Observance of showing respect for the domestic animals that mean much to people, related to Saint Francis’ Day. |
| Saint Francis’ Day – Christian | 04/10/2023 |  | Christian recognition of service to people and appreciation of the natural world, as practiced by Saint Francis and the Franciscan Monastic Order which he founded. |
| World Cerebral Palsy Day | 06/10/2023 |  | World Cerebral Palsy Day is to help foster an environment of inclusion and acceptance around the world and to instil confidence and a feeling of belonging to individuals with Cerebral Palsy. |
| Shemini Atzeret – Judaism | 07/10/2023 |  | Jewish completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah. |
| Simchat Torah – Judaism | 08/10/2023 |  | Jewish day to celebrate the reading of the Law. Synagogue services involve readings, processions and blessing of the children. |
| International Lesbian Day | 08/10/2023 |  | To celebrate lesbians and lesbian culture around the world. |
| Birthday of Guru Ram Das – Sikh | 09/10/2023 |  | Guru Ram Das was the fourth of the Ten Gurus of Sikhism. He was Guru for seven years. Guru Ram Das was born in Chuna Mandi Lahore, Punjab. |
| World Mental Health Day | 10/10/2023 |  | A celebration of mental health awareness & education and fighting the stigma against mental health on the 10th of October. |
| World Homeless Day | 10/10/2023 |  | To draw attention to the needs of homeless people and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness. |
| International Day of the Girl Child | 11/10/2023 |  | International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of the Girl. The observation supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender. This inequality includes areas such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage. |
| National Coming Out Day | 11/10/2023 |  | National Coming Out Day is an important part of the LGBTQ+ calendar, and aims to bring awareness of how people often have to navigate the tricky process of coming out to the people around them, and also to battle the ongoing issues of homophobia that many of us still suffer from today. If you yourself are considering sharing that important bit of your identity, consider taking advantage of the extra love today and make the leap, if the time is right for you. Be an ally by accepting those that choose to share this part of their lives with you. |
| World Sight Day | 12/10/2023 |  | More than a billion people across the world cannot see well, and this day aims to raise public awareness of blindness & vision impairment, educate about blindness prevention and what we can do to tackle inequality in vision loss. World Sight Day - The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. |
| Sharad Navratri begins – Hindu | 15/10/2023 |  | Hindus may observe this festival by fasting daily, allowing one meal a day. Non-vegetarian foods will traditionally be avoided & men will not shave / cut their hair during this period. This period will culminate in Dussehra, the 'festival of lights' (Diwali), celebrating with feasting, exchanging gifts and happy Diwali greetings. |
| International Day of Rural Women | 15/10/2023 |  | The United Nations’ (UN) International Day of Rural Women celebrates and honours the role of rural women on 15th October each year. It recognizes rural women’s importance in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide. |
| Global Handwashing Day | 15/10/2023 |  | Global Handwashing Day, a global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. |
| Birth of the Báb - Baha'i | 16/10/2023 |  | Baha'i honouring of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha'u'llah and the Baha'i faith. |
| World Food Day | 16/10/2023 |  | World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The day is celebrated widely by many other organisations concerned with food security. |
| Birth of Baha’u’llah - Baha'i | 17/10/2023 |  | Baha'i celebration of the birth of their founder and teacher. Refrain from work. |
| International Day for the Eradication of Poverty | 17/10/2023 |  | The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year on 17th October throughout the world. The first commemoration of the event took place in Paris in 1987 when 100,000 people gathered on the Human Rights and Liberties Plaza to honour victims of poverty, hunger, violence and fear. |
| Saint Luke, Apostle & Evangelist – Christian | 18/10/2023 |  | Christian remembrance of Luke, disciple of Jesus. |
| World Menopause Day | 18/10/2023 |  | To raise awareness about the menopause and to pledge support for women who face health issues when approaching, during and beyond the menopause. |
| International Pronouns Day | 18/10/2023 |  | Seeks to make respecting, sharing and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. |
| Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth - Sikh | 20/10/2023 |  | Ninth Guru Gobind Singh announced that he would be the last in a line of living Sikh Gurus. The sacred collection known as the Adi Granth was officially installed as the tenth and everlasting Guru, Guru Granth Sahib. |
| Dussehra - Dasara – Hindu | 24/10/2023 |  | Hindu celebration of victory and valour. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil. |
| United Nations Day | 24/10/2023 |  | United Nations Day is devoted to making known to people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations Organization. United Nations Day is part of United Nations Week. |
| Intersex Awareness Day | 26/10/2023 |  | Intersex Awareness Day is an international day designed to highlight human rights issues and raise awareness of the challenges that intersex individuals face. |
| Feast of Saints Simon and Jude - Christian | 28/10/2023 |  | Celebrates the feast of Saints Simon and Jude whose names occur together in the Canon of the Mass and are also celebrated on the same day. |
| World Stroke Day | 29/10/2023 |  | World Stroke Day is annually held on 29th October to raise awareness about stroke and ways to combat it. |
| British Summer Time ends | 29/10/2023 |  |  |
| Bank Holiday – ROI | 30/10/2023 |  | Bank Holiday |
| International Stress Awareness Week | 30/10/2023 | 03/11/2023 | Created to raise awareness about stress prevention. |
| Samhain (Halloween) – Beltane - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 31/10/2023 |  | Samhain - Wicca celebration of endings and beginnings and of remembering the dead. Revering of elders is also observed.   Beltane - Wicca celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in the sacred marriage which is the basis of all creation. |
| Reformation Day – Protestant Christian | 31/10/2023 |  | Protestant Christian anniversary of their tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom. On 31st October, 1517 c.e. Martin Luther posted a belief statement on Wittenberg Church door. |
| All Hallow’s Eve | 31/10/2023 |  | All Hallow’s Eve is 31st October every year and is linked to All Hallows’ Day which is 1st November every year. It’s the Eve of All Hallows’ Day in the Christian calendar – Hallow is an old term for “Saint” and the Church traditionally held a vigil on All Hallows’ Eve when worshippers would prepare themselves with prayers and fasting prior to the feast day. It also initiates the season of All Hallowtide which lasts 3 days (All Hallows Eve 31st October, All Saints’ Day 1st November and All Souls’ Day 2nd November). |
| **November 2023** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| COPD Awareness Month | 01/11/2023 | 30/11/2023 | Increasing awareness of the disease and encouraging people to recognise its symptoms and seek diagnosis and treatment. |
| Mouth Cancer Action Month | 01/11/2023 | 30/11/2023 | Raise awareness of mouth cancer and being mouthaware. |
| Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month | 01/11/2023 | 30/11/2023 | Early diagnosis can save lives from this cancer so raising awareness so people can get diagnosed earlier and survive. |
| Lung Cancer Awareness Month | 01/11/2023 | 30/11/2023 | Raising awareness of a very common worldwide cancer. |
| Movember Men's Health Awareness Month | 01/11/2023 | 30/11/2023 | To raise funds and awareness for men's health. |
| All Saints’ Day – Christian | 01/11/2023 |  | Christian day for honouring Saints, known and unknown. In general, Saints are persons with reputation for unusual lives of holiness and devotion to God or who were martyred for their faith. A Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church where Saints have special formal status. |
| All Souls’ Day – Christian | 02/11/2023 |  | Christian day of prayers of remembrance and intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls for the beatific vision of God in heaven. |
| Anniversary of the Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I – Rastafari | 02/11/2023 |  | Haile Selassie I was Ethiopian regent from 1916 to 1930 and emperor from 1930 to 1974. He is a defining figure in Ethiopian history. |
| Intersex Day of Solidarity | 08/11/2023 |  | Intersex Day of Remembrance, also known as Intersex Solidarity Day, is an internationally observed civil awareness day designed to highlight issues faced by intersex people. |
| Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Catholic Christian | 09/11/2023 |  | Celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father. |
| Armistice Day – Interfaith | 11/11/2023 |  | At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The Two Minute Silence is observed on Armistice Day, the day which marks the end of the First World War. |
| Bandi Chhor Divas – Sikh | 12/11/2023 |  | Bandi Chhor (Shodh, Chhor) Divas (Day of Liberation) is a Sikh festival which celebrates the release from prison in Gwalior of the Sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Ji and 52 other kings with him. |
| Diwali – Deepavali – Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist | 12/11/2023 |  | Bandi Chhor (Shodh, Chhor) Divas (Day of Liberation) is a Sikh festival which celebrates the release from prison in Gwalior of the Sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Ji and 52 other kings with him. |
| Remembrance Sunday | 12/11/2023 |  | Remembrance Sunday is held to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. It is held on the second Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest to 11th November. |
| UK Interfaith Week | 12/11/2023 | 19/11/2023 | Each year, Inter Faith Week will begin on Remembrance Sunday, and run until the following Sunday. This week highlights the good work done by local faith, inter faith and faith-based groups and organisations, drawing new people into inter faith learning and cooperation. It enables greater interaction between people of different backgrounds and communities and celebrates diversity and commonality. |
| Jain New Year | 13/11/2023 |  | Jain New Year. |
| World Kindness Day | 13/11/2023 |  | World Kindness Day is an international observance on 13th November. It was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement a coalition of nations kindness NGOs. |
| Anti-Bullying Week | 13/11/2023 | 17/11/2023 | Annual event aimed at raising awareness of bullying and the negative effects that it can have on children that have fallen victim to it. |
| World Diabetes Day | 14/11/2023 |  | World Diabetes Day falls every year on 14th November and is a day when millions of people around the world come together to raise awareness of diabetes and what it’s really like to live with the condition. |
| Nativity Fast begins – Orthodox Christian | 15/11/2023 |  | The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. his is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. |
| International Day for Tolerance | 16/11/2023 |  | To generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance. |
| International Students’ Day | 17/11/2023 |  | International Students' Day is an international observance of the student community, held annually on 17th November. |
| International STAND UP to Bullying Day | 17/11/2023 |  | Semi-annual event to raise public awareness about bullying and its long-term effect. |
| Disability History month begins | 18/11/2023 | 17/12/2023 | An annual event that focuses on the history of disability, the struggles for equality and human rights, and the celebration of diversity. |
| International Men’s Day | 19/11/2023 |  | International Men's Day is celebrated around the world and seeks to make a positive difference to the wellbeing and lives of men and boys, raise awareness and/or funds for charities supporting men and boys’ wellbeing and promote a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity. |
| Transgender Day of Remembrance | 20/11/2023 |  | A day of remembrance that honours the memory of transgender people whose lives were tragically lost, as a result of anti-transgender violence. |
| Universal Children’s Day | 20/11/2023 |  | The United Nations' (UN) Universal Children's Day, which was established in 1954, is celebrated on 20th November each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide. UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, promotes and coordinates this special day, which also works towards improving children's welfare. |
| Presentation of the Theotokos – Orthodox Christian | 21/11/2023 |  | The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, also called The Presentation, is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on 21st November. |
| Thanksgiving – Interfaith USA | 23/11/2023 |  | Celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. |
| Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur – Sikh | 24/11/2023 |  | An important event in Sikh history that had a profound impact on the future direction of Sikhism. Guru Tegh Bahadar, the ninth Sikh Guru undertook the supreme sacrifice for the protection of the most fundamental of human rights - the right of a person to freely practice his or her religion without interference or hindrance. |
| International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women | 25/11/2023 |  | This day aims to raise public awareness around the issue of all types of violence against women and girls as well as increase both policymaking and resources dedicated to ending violence against women and girls worldwide. |
| 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence begins | 25/11/2023 | 10/12/2023 | Important opportunity to raise awareness and call for changes to make women and children safe from abuse. |
| Feast of Christ the King – Christian | 26/11/2023 |  | Christian celebration of Jesus over all earthly authorities. |
| Day of the Covenant - Baha'i | 26/11/2023 |  | Baha'i celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah. |
| Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev – Sikh | 27/11/2023 |  | Sikh honouring of the birthday of their founder. |
| Ascension of Abdu’l-Bahá - Baha'i | 28/11/2023 |  | Baha'i celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha to the heavenly dwelling. |
| Bank Holiday – Scotland | 30/11/2023 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| Saint Andrew’s Day – Christian | 30/11/2023 |  | Christian observance of the coming of Christianity to Scotland. The martyrdom of Saint Andrew is remembered as the season of Advent is about to begin. |
| **December 2023** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Spiritual Literacy Month | 01/12/2023 | 31/12/2023 | Goal is to read one or more books about spirituality, faith or religion. Was conceived to show respect to all beliefs by encouraging people to read spiritual texts from other faiths. |
| Decembeard - Bowel Cancer Awareness Month | 01/12/2023 | 31/12/2023 | Campaign encouraging men to grow a beard to raise funds and awareness for bowel cancer. |
| AIDS Awareness Month | 01/12/2023 | 31/12/2023 | Raise awareness and commemorate those who have passed on and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services. |
| Universal Month for Human Rights | 01/12/2023 | 31/12/2023 | A reminder that the UN codified the basic human rights of every person. A time to reflect on the way we treat others and what we can do in the fight for equality. |
| World AIDS Day | 01/12/2023 |  | Worlds Aids Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. |
| International Day for the Abolition of Slavery | 02/12/2023 |  | Since 1949, the United Nations has marked the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 2nd December, to remind people that slavery violates basic human rights and raise awareness of modern forms of slavery. |
| Advent Sunday – Christian | 03/12/2023 |  | Christian time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest 30th November and is the beginning of the Christian worship year. Advent is observed with the lighting of advent candles, display of wreaths, and special ceremonies. Advent also anticipates the coming again to earth of Jesus Christ. The season continues through to 24th December. |
| International Day of Persons with Disabilities | 03/12/2023 |  | This day exists to recognize and value the diversity of our global community, cherish the role we all play, regardless of our abilities; to understand and learn from the experiences of people with living with a disability, and where all people, organisations, agencies and charities not only show their support for International Day of People with Disabilities, but take on a commitment to create a world characterised by equal human rights. |
| International Volunteer Day | 05/12/2023 |  | A chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector. |
| Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) – Buddhist | 08/12/2023 |  | Buddhist celebration of the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment. |
| Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Christian | 08/12/2023 |  | Catholic Christian day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life. A day of obligation and required church attendance. |
| Chanukah begins – Judaism | 08/12/2023 |  | A Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE. It is also known as the Festival of Lights. It is observed for eight nights and days, and by lighting the candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, called a menorah. Hanukkah festivities include singing Hanukkah songs, playing the game of dreidel and eating oil-based foods, such as latkes and sufganiyot, and dairy foods |
| International Anti-Corruption Day | 09/12/2023 |  | International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annually, on 9th December, since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31st October 2003. |
| Human Rights Day | 10/12/2023 |  | Human Rights Day is observed every year on the 10th December, and commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This day raises awareness of fundamental rights and freedoms to which all of us are entitled, highlights the inequalities that still exist today and celebrates all the achievements in advancing human rights for all. |
| International Migrants Day | 18/12/2023 |  | Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual’s will to overcome adversity and to live a better life. International Migrants Day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties of international migration, whilst celebrating the contribution that migrants make to communities & cultures. |
| International Human Solidarity Day | 20/12/2023 |  | Solidarity is identified in the Millennium Declaration as one of the fundamental values of international relations in the 21st Century. This day seeks to celebrate our unity in diversity, raise public awareness and encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication. |
| Yule – Litha - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 22/12/2023 |  | In wider pagan traditions, Yule celebrates the coming of longer days and the return of the sun. Trees are decorated, Yule logs are burned in the fireplace to protect the home and bring good luck. |
| Winter Solstice | 22/12/2023 |  | Winter Solstice |
| Christmas Eve – Christian | 24/12/2023 |  | Christian celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals. |
| Feast of the Nativity – Orthodox Christian | 25/12/2023 |  | The Nativity is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on 25th December. |
| Christmas Day – Christian | 25/12/2023 |  | A celebratory day when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. |
| Bank Holiday – England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI | 25/12/2023 |  | Bank Holiday |
| Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra) – Zoroastrian | 26/12/2023 |  | Zoroastrian anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathushtra. |
| Boxing Day | 26/12/2023 |  |  |
| Saint Stephen’s Day – Christian | 26/12/2023 |  | Christian remembrance of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr. |
| Bank Holiday – England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI | 26/12/2023 |  | Bank Holiday |
| Kwanzaa begins | 26/12/2023 |  | An annual celebration of African-American culture that is held from December 26th to January 1st, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually held on the 6th day. |
| Holy Innocents – Christian | 28/12/2023 |  | Christian day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus. |
| Feast of the Holy Family – Catholic Christian | 31/12/2023 |  | The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. |
| Watch Night – Christian | 31/12/2023 |  | Christian occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year. |
| New Year’s Eve/Hogmanay | 31/12/2023 |  | New Year's Eve. |
| **January 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Cervical Health Awareness Month | 01/01/2024 | 31/01/2024 | To raise awareness of screening and prevention. |
| Alcohol Concern Dry January | 01/01/2024 | 31/01/2024 | Going alcohol-free for the month of January and the health and financial benefits. |
| Thyroid Awareness Month | 01/01/2024 | 31/01/2024 | Raise awareness of the huge role the thyroid gland plays in the human body influencing the function of many of the body’s most important organs. |
| Celebration of Life Month | 01/01/2024 | 31/01/2024 | Special month to celebrate the gift of life. |
| Gantan-sai (New Year) – Shinto | 01/01/2024 |  | Shinto New Year festival observed with prayers for inner renewal, prosperity and health. |
| Mary, Mother of God – Catholic Christian | 01/01/2024 |  | A celebration of the mother of Jesus. |
| Global Family Day | 01/01/2024 |  | Observed annually on 1st January. |
| New Year's Day/Hogmanay | 01/01/2024 |  | New Year's Day |
| Bank Holiday – England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI | 01/01/2024 |  | Bank Holiday |
| Bank Holiday – Scotland | 02/01/2024 |  | Bank Holiday |
| World Braille Day | 04/01/2024 |  | World Braille Day is annually celebrated on 4th January, the birthday of Braille inventor, Louis Braille. The day recognizes the contributions of Louis Braille in helping blind and visually impaired people to read and write. |
| Twelfth Night – Christian | 05/01/2024 |  | Christian observance of the close of Christmastide and prelude to Epiphany which begins the next day. |
| Feast of the Theophany – Orthodox Christian | 06/01/2024 |  | One of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord. |
| Epiphany – Christian | 06/01/2024 |  | A Christian festival commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi. |
| Feast of the Nativity – Orthodox Christian | 07/01/2024 |  | Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar which puts the day Christmas Day on 7th January. It is additionally called Old Christmas. Most Orthodox Christians follow the modern-day Gregorian Calendar which places Christmas on 25th December. |
| Baptism of the Lord Jesus – Christian | 07/01/2024 |  | Christian commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. |
| Seijin no hi (Coming of Age Day) – Shinto | 08/01/2024 |  | Coming of Age Day, is a Japanese holiday held annually on the second Monday of January. It is held in order to congratulate and encourage all those who have reached the age of 20 years old over the past year and to help them realize that they have become adults. |
| Old New Year – Orthodox Christian | 14/01/2024 |  | The Orthodox New Year, based on the Julian calendar, is annually held on 14th January, according to the Gregorian Calendar. |
| Lohri/Maghi – Hindu, Sikh | 14/01/2024 |  | The annual festival celebrated in memory of 40 Sikh martyrs who gave their lives to protect the tenth Guru. |
| Makar Sankranti – Hindu | 15/01/2024 |  | A Hindu celebration marking turning of the sun toward the North. Observed by flying kites, feeding the poor and offering libations to the dead. |
| Pongal - Hindu | 15/01/2023 |  | Pongal marks the beginning of the sun's northern journey and it is observed around 14th January of each year. Pongal is celebrated with 4 days of rituals including worship of the sun god, wearing new clothes, decorating homes and worshipping cattle for the good harvest. This is a time to spend with family and friends. |
| Blue Monday | 15/01/2024 |  | Time of the year when we are supposedly feeling blue and at our lowest. |
| Martin Luther King Jnr. Day | 15/01/2024 |  | Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is close to his birthday which is 15th January. King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. |
| Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh – Sikh | 17/02/2024 |  | Sikh honouring of the birth of the founder of the Khalsa. |
| Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Christian | 18/01/2024 | 25/01/2024 | The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between 18th January and 25th January. It is actually an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days. |
| Timkat – Ethiopian Orthodox Christian | 20/01/2024 |  | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Epiphany celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. |
| World Religion Day | 21/01/2024 |  | Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions. |
| International Day of Education | 24/01/2024 |  | Celebrates the role of education for peace and development. Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind. |
| Mahayana New Year – Buddhist | 25/01/2024 |  | In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January. |
| Conversion of Saint Paul – Christian | 25/01/2024 |  | The conversion of Paul the Apostle on the road to Damascus, was, according to the New Testament, an event in the life of Paul the Apostle that led him to cease persecuting early Christians and to become a follower of Jesus. |
| Tu BiShvat – Judaism | 25/01/2024 |  | Jewish celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. It is also known as "New Year for Trees" - a method for determining the age of trees for tithing purposes. |
| Thaipusam - Hindu | 25/01/2024 |  | Thaipusam is festival in the Tamil culture which celebrates the defeat of the evil demon Soorapadman at the hands of the Hindu god of war, Kartikeya. |
| Robert Burns Night (Burns Night) | 25/01/2024 |  | 25th January marks the annual celebration of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns. |
| Holocaust Memorial Day | 27/01/2024 |  | Holocaust Memorial Day is a commemoration day dedicated to the remembrance of those who suffered in The Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It was first held in January 2001 and has been on the same date every year since. The chosen date is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. |
| Data Privacy Day | 28/01/2024 |  | Data Privacy Day (known in Europe as Data Protection Day) is an international event that occurs every year on 28th January. The purpose of Data Privacy Day is to raise awareness and promote privacy and data protection best practices. |
| Birthday of Guru Har Rai – Sikh | 31/01/2024 |  | Guru Har Rai was the seventh of the Sikh Gurus. He became Guru on 8th March 1644 following in the footsteps of his grandfather. Just before his death at age 31, Guru Har Rai Sahib passed the Guru Gaddi to his younger son, the five-year-old Guru Har Krishan. |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| National Heart Month | 01/02/2024 | 28/02/2024 | Raising awareness of a variety of heart conditions. |
| Raynaud's Awareness Month | 01/02/2024 | 28/02/2024 | Aims to increase diagnosis at an early stage. It affects blood circulation. |
| Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month | 01/02/2024 | 28/02/2024 | Aims to increase the visibility of LGBT people, their history, lives and their experiences and promote their welfare. |
| World Interfaith Harmony Week | 01/02/2024 | 07/02/2024 | World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February and was conceived to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence. |
| World Hijab Day | 01/02/2024 |  | World Hijab Day is an annual event founded by Nazma Khan in 2013. The event takes place on 1st February each year with the purpose to encourage women of all religions and backgrounds to wear and experience the hijab. |
| Imbolc – Lughnassadh – Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 01/02/2024 |  | Imbolc - Wicca reflection on the power of the gods from which physical and spiritual harvest will come. |
| Time to Talk Day | 01/02/2024 |  | Encourages everyone to be more open about mental health - to talk, to listen, to change lives. |
| Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple) – Christian | 02/02/2024 |  | Christian celebration of the presentation of young Jesus in the temple to the aged Simeon. New beginnings are recognized. Candles are lighted. |
| Setsubun-sai – Shinto | 03/02/2024 |  | Shinto celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring. Bean throwing protects against demons. |
| World Cancer Day | 04/02/2024 |  | World Cancer Day is an international day marked on 4th February to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. World Cancer Day was founded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008. The primary goal of the World Cancer Day is to significantly reduce illness and death caused by cancer. |
| Bank Holiday – ROI | 05/02/2024 |  | Bank Holiday |
| UK Race Equality Week | 05/02/2024 | 11/02/2024 | UK wide initiative uniting organisation and individuals to address race equality barriers in the workplace. |
| Safer Internet Day | 06/02/2024 |  | The day is recognised across the globe and promotes awareness of safe use of the internet. The day has a community-based approach and aims to tackle issues around cyberbullying, digital identity and social networking. |
| Lailat al Miraj – Islam | 08/02/2024 |  | Lailat al Miraj is a Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad’s night time journey from Mecca to the ‘Farthest Mosque’ in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily. |
| Chinese New Year - Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist | 10/02/2024 |  | Begins a fifteen Day Festival for Chinese people of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honours Heaven and Earth. |
| Losar – Tibetan New Year | 10/02/2024 |  | Tibetan New Year |
| World Day of the Sick | 11/02/2024 |  | 11th February is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. |
| International Day of Women and Girls in Science | 11/02/2024 |  | 11th February was declared by the UN as International Day of Women and Girls in Science. |
| Autism Sunday | 11/02/2024 |  | Also known as International Day of Prayer for Autism and Asperger Syndrome observed on the 2nd Sunday in February. |
| Red Hand Day for Child Soldiers | 12/02/2024 |  | Red Hand Day or International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, 12th February each year is an annual commemoration day on which pleas are made to political leaders and events are staged around the world to draw attention to the fates of child soldiers, children who are forced to serve as soldiers in wars and armed conflicts. |
| Shrove Tuesday – Christian | 13/02/2024 |  | Christian carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday which begins Lent, a time of fasting and devotions. Pancakes are often served. It is also known as Fat Tuesday in some places. |
| Ash Wednesday – Christian | 14/02/2024 |  | Christian observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent. Ashes are marked on worshippers as a sign of penitence. |
| Vasant Panchami – Hindu | 14/02/2024 |  | Hindu celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning. |
| Saint Valentine’s Day | 14/02/2024 |  |  |
| Parinirvana Day/Nirvana Day – Buddhist | 15/02/2024 |  | Parinirvana Day is a Buddhist holiday which commemorates the death of Buddha and is celebrated on 15th February. This day – also known as Nirvana Day – is celebrated because it is believed that Buddha’s death should be celebrated because at his death he had reached Enlightenment and had finally reached the stage of Nirvana. Many of the celebrations and festivals observed on this day mark the end of the cycle of death and rebirth. |
| International Childhood Cancer Day | 15/02/2024 |  | International Childhood Cancer Day is celebrated annually on 15th February to raise awareness and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, survivors and their families. |
| World Human Spirit Day | 17/02/2024 |  | On World Human Spirit Day people all over the world are encouraged to take 2 minutes of silence at 3pm Eastern Time to meditate to find the true spirit of freedom and peace that lives within each of us. |
| Zacchaeus Sunday – Orthodox Christian | 18/02/2024 |  | The Apostle Zacchaeus was a rich publican at Jericho. Since he was short of stature, he climbed a sycamore tree in order to see the Saviour passing by. After the Ascension of the Lord, Saint Zacchaeus accompanied Saint Peter on his travels. |
| World Day of Social Justice | 20/02/2024 |  | World Day of Social Justice is a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. Many organizations, including the UN and the International Labour Office, make statements on the importance of social justice for people. Many organizations also present plans for greater social justice by tackling poverty, social and economic exclusion and unemployment. |
| International STAND UP to Bullying Day | 23/02/2024 |  | To raise awareness against bullying. |
| Magha Puja (Sangha Day) – Buddhist | 24/02/2024 |  | Many Buddhists around the world celebrate Magha Puja Day with gift exchanges, lighting of oil lamps, chanting, meditation, attending temple for special observances and participating in Buddhist activities. |
| Lailat al Bara'ah – Islam | 25/02/2024 |  | Islamic Night of Forgiveness. A night of prayer to Allah for forgiveness of the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer. |
| Triodion begins – Orthodox Christian | 25/02/2024 |  | Orthodox Christian time period leading up to Lent. The liturgy involves hymns, odes and scriptures. |
| Intercalary Days - Baha’i | 26/02/2024 | 29/02/2024 | These are days of preparation for the Fast; days of hospitality, charity, ministering to the poor and sick, the giving of presents, and so on. |
| **March 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Prostate Cancer Awareness Month | 01/03/2024 | 31/03/2024 | Aims to get as many people talking about the illness as possible so that there can be greater awareness to help ensure more people are being diagnosed earlier rather than later, when the chance of successful treatment is best. |
| Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month | 01/03/2024 | 31/03/2024 | To raise awareness of ovarian cancer and improve early diagnosis. |
| Marie Curie Cancer Care Great Daffodil Appeal Month | 01/03/2024 | 31/03/2024 | Marie Curie is the UK's leading end of life charity providing frontline nursing and hospice care as well as information and support on all aspects of dying, death and bereavement. |
| Women’s History Month | 01/03/2024 | 31/03/2024 | A celebration of women’s contributions to arts, history, culture, society and technology. |
| Zero Discrimination Day | 01/03/2024 |  | Zero Discrimination Day is commemorated each year across the globe on 1st March and highlights the right of everyone to be free from discrimination. No one should ever be discriminated against because of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, language, health (including HIV) status, geographical location, economic status or migrant status, or for any other reason. |
| Saint David’s Day – Christian | 01/03/2024 |  | Saint David is the patron saint of doves, poets, and Wales. |
| International Wheelchair Day | 01/03/2024 |  | International Wheelchair Day is always 1st March and is an annual day of events and activities which take place around the World when wheelchair users celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has on their lives. |
| Self-Injury Awareness Day (SIAD) | 01/03/2024 |  | Self-injury Awareness Day (SIAD) is an annual global awareness event/campaign on 1st March where on this day and in the weeks leading up to it, some people choose to be more open about their own self-harm, and awareness organizations make special efforts to raise awareness about self-harm and self-injury. The goal of the people who observe SIAD is to break down the common stereotypes surrounding self-harm and to educate everyone about the condition. |
| Nineteen Day Fast begins - Baha’i | 01/03/2024 |  | The Nineteen-Day Fast is a nineteen-day period of the year during which members of the Baháʼí Faith adhere to a sunrise-to-sunset fast. Along with obligatory prayer, it is one of the greatest obligations of a Baháʼí, and its chief purpose is spiritual: to reinvigorate the soul and bring the person closer to God. |
| Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Orthodox Christian | 03/03/2024 |  | The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of pre-Lent, the weeks of preparation preceding Great Lent. It is the Sunday after the start of Triodion and Sunday before Meatfare Sunday. This pre-Lent is the start of the Easter cycle of worship in the Orthodox Church. |
| World Hearing Day | 03/03/2024 |  | World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. |
| Maha Shivaratri – Hindu | 08/03/2024 |  | A Hindu festival in honour of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati. Ceremonies involving prayers and hymns take place mostly at night. |
| International Women’s Day | 08/03/2024 |  | 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. |
| Meatfare Sunday – Orthodox Christian | 10/03/2024 |  | Orthodox Christian observance, two weeks before the start of the Great Lent, preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. This is the last day for eating of meat before the Great Lent. |
| Mothering Sunday | 10/03/2024 |  | Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter. Once observed as a day on which people would visit their "mother" church, it has become an occasion for honouring the mothers of children and giving them presents. It is increasingly being called Mother's Day, although that has always been a secular event quite different from the original Mothering Sunday. |
| Ramadan begins - Islam | 11/03/2024 |  | 9th month on Islamic calendar, devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. The event begins when authorities in Saudi Arabia sight the new moon of the 9th month. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. There is strict fasting from sunrise to sunset. |
| Nutrition and Hydration Week | 11/03/2024 | 17/03/2024 | To bring people together to create energy, focus and fund in order to highlight and educate people on the value of food and drink in maintaining health and wellbeing in health and social care. |
| Ramakrishna Jayanti - Hindu | 12/03/2024 |  | Celebrated in honour of a well-known and revered saint called Ramakrishna. |
| Nanakshahi (New Year) – Sikh | 14/03/2024 |  | Nanakshahi Calendar is the name of the calendar adopted by Sikhs. This calendar is named after Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikh religion. |
| University Mental Health Day | 14/03/2024 |  | Bringing together the university community to make mental health a university-wide priority, to create ongoing change to the future of student mental health. |
| International Day to Combat Islamophobia | 15/03/2024 |  | Designated by the UN and taking place annually on 15th March, it is a reminder of the need to combat islamophobia. |
| World Sleep Day |  |  | Promotes important issues related to sleep, including medicine, education, social aspects and driving. |
| Cheesefare Sunday – Orthodox Christian | 17/03/2024 |  | Forgiveness Sunday, also called Cheesefare Sunday, is the final day of pre-Lent. It is the Sunday after Meatfare Sunday and the Sunday before the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the last Sunday before Great Lent, the last day that traditionally Orthodox Christians eat dairy products until Easter. |
| Saint Patrick’s Day – Christian | 17/03/2024 |  | Celebration of Saint Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland in early days of the faith. |
| Bank Holiday – Northern Ireland and ROI | 18/03/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| Great Lent begins – Clean Monday – Orthodox Christian | 18/03/2024 |  | Clean Monday also known as Pure Monday, Ash Monday, Monday of Lent or Green Monday, is the first day of Great Lent. It is a moveable feast that occurs at the beginning of the 7th week before Orthodox Easter Sunday. The common term for this day, "Clean Monday", refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods. |
| Global Recycling Day | 18/03/2024 |  | Aims to promote the vitality of recycling across the globe. |
| Saint Joseph’s Day – Christian | 19/03/2024 |  | Christian remembrance of Joseph, husband of Mary the mother of Jesus. |
| Spring Equinox | 20/03/2024 |  | Spring Equinox. |
| Ostara – Mabon - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 20/03/2024 |  | Mabon - Wicca observance of the autumnal equinox when day and night are of equal length. A harvest festival time. |
| Naw-Rúz (New Year) - Baha'i | 20/03/2024 |  | Baha'i observance of the vernal equinox symbolizing spiritual growth and renewal. |
| Norooz (New Year) - Persian/Zoroastrian | 20/03/2024 |  | New Year. |
| International Day of Happiness | 20/03/2024 |  | Celebrated all over the globe on 20th March, International Day of Happiness is a day that recognizes the importance of happiness to human beings and is also a day in which people are encouraged to do those things that make them happy. |
| World Down Syndrome Day | 21/03/2024 |  | World Down Syndrome Day is a marked each year on 21st March selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome. |
| International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | 21/03/2024 |  | Observed with a series of events and activities worldwide on 21st March each year. The day aims to remind people of racial discrimination’s negative consequences. It also encourages people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination. |
| World Water Day | 22/03/2024 |  | World Water Day is an annual event celebrated on 22nd March. The day focuses attention on the importance of fresh water and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. |
| Palm Sunday - Christian | 24/03/2024 |  | Sunday before Easter commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. |
| Holika Dahan - Hindu | 24/03/2024 |  | Holika Dahan is observed on the full moon day of Hindu month Falgun. On the next day, the festival of colours is celebrated – Holi. |
| Purim – Judaism | 24/03/2024 |  | Jewish celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide. Charity to the poor, sharing food with friends, and vigorous merrymaking mark the observance. |
| Sunday of Orthodoxy – Orthodox Christian | 24/03/2024 |  | The Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent. |
| International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims | 24/03/2024 |  | Established by the UN to commemorate the death of Arnulfo Romera, Archbishop fo El Salvador who was assisnated on 24th March after making his speeches about justice and peace for his citizens. |
| World TB Day | 24/03/2024 |  | World Tuberculosis Day, falling on 24th March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. |
| Holi – Hindu | 25/03/2024 |  | Hindu spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. It is observed in a colourful and boisterous manner. People shower each other with coloured water and smear red and green powder on each other. |
| International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade | 25/03/2024 |  | Observed annually on this date. |
| Annunciation to the Theotokos - Orthodox Christian | 25/03/2024 |  | The Annunciation to the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on 25th March. This is one of only two days during Lent, the other being Palm Sunday, when fish is permitted. |
| The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary – Christian | 25/03/2024 |  | Christian celebration of Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary the coming birth of Jesus as the Incarnation of Creator God. |
| Hola Mohalla – Sikh | 26/03/2024 |  | A Sikh day when mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed. |
| Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zarathushtra) – Zoroastrian | 26/03/2024 |  | Zoroastrian remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathushtra. |
| Purple Day | 26/03/2024 |  | Worldwide day dedicated to raising awareness of epilepsy. |
| Maundy Thursday - Christian | 28/04/2024 |  | Falls on the Thursday before Easter and is part of the Holy Week. Commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. |
| Good Friday - Christian | 29/03/2023 |  | Crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. |
| Bank Holiday - England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland | 29/03/2024 |  | Bank Holiday |
| World Bipolar Day | 30/03/2024 |  | Each year World Bipolar Day takes place on 30th March and is designed to raise awareness worldwide of bipolar conditions and to work to eliminate social stigma whilst providing information to educate and help people understand the condition. |
| Easter Sunday - Christian | 31/03/2024 |  | The most holy of Christian sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion. Observances include worship services beginning at sunrise, special music, feasting, and parades. |
| International Transgender Day of Visibility | 31/03/2024 |  | International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring on 31st March dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society. |
| British Summer Time begins | 31/03/2024 |  | British Summer Time begins |
| **April 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Autism Awareness Month | 01/04/2024 | 30/04/2024 | Aims to increase understanding and acceptance of autism. |
| Stress Awareness Month | 01/04/2024 | 30/04/2024 | Aims to increase public awareness about both the causes and cures for our modern stress epidemic. |
| Bowel Cancer Awareness Month | 01/04/2024 | 30/04/2024 | Raise awareness of bowel cancer. |
| Parkinson's Awareness Month | 01/04/2024 | 30/04/2024 | Promote a greater understanding and raise awareness of Parkinson's disease and how this condition affects a person. |
| Easter Monday - Christian | 01/04/2024 |  |  |
| Bank Holiday - England, Wales, Northern Ireland and ROI | 01/04/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| April Fools' Day | 01/04/2024 |  | April Fools' Day (sometimes called All Fools' Day) is celebrated every year on 1st April by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. |
| World Autism Awareness Day | 02/04/2023 |  | Internationally recognised day on 2nd April annually to encourage everyone to find out more about autism and explore ways to support those on the autism spectrum. |
| Lailat al-Qadr – Islam | 06/04/2024 |  | Islamic Night of Destiny. First revelation of Qur'an to Prophet Mohammed. Observed during the last ten days of Ramadan. Prayers to Allah for a good destiny. |
| International Asexuality Day | 06/04/2024 |  | Celebrates the full asexual spectrum. |
| World Health Day | 07/04/2024 |  | The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7th April. World Health Day is held to mark the World Health Organization’s (WHO) founding and is seen as an opportunity by the organization to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. The WHO organizes international, regional and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. |
| International Romani Day | 08/04/2024 |  | Celebrates Romani culture and raises awareness of the issues facing Romani people. |
| Chaitra Navratri begins – Hindu | 09/04/2024 |  | A nine-day Hindu festival beginning on the first day of the Hindu lunar calendar. The festival marks the worshipping of nine incarnations of Goddess Shakti or Goddess Durga. |
| Ugadi New Year - Hindu | 09/04/2024 |  | Ugadi New Year. |
| Ramayana begins - Hindu | 09/04/2024 |  | The Ramayana Week begins nine days before Ramanavami, the birthday of Lord Rama. Every year, the Ramayana Week coincides with the beginning of Vasanta Navratri and culminates on the day of Rama Navami. |
| Eid al Fitr - Islam | 10/04/2024 |  | Islamic event marking the close of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to Allah for enjoying the month of Ramadan. It involves wearing finest clothing, saying prayers and fostering understanding with other religions. |
| Songkran (Thai New Year) - Buddhist | 13/04/2024 |  | The Songkran Festival is marking the beginning of the Thai New Year. |
| Birth of the Khalsa (Vaisakhi) - Sikh | 13/04/2024 |  | Khalsa (Punjabi: "the pure") refers to both a special group of initiated Sikh warriors, as well as a community that considers Sikhism as its faith. The Khalsa tradition was initiated by the last living Guru of Sikhism, Guru Gobind Singh. Its formation was a key event in the history of Sikhism. The founding of Khalsa is celebrated by Sikhs during the festival of Vaisakhi. |
| Tamil New Year | 14/04/2024 |  |  |
| Rama Navami - Hindu | 17/04/2024 |  | An important Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Rama and part of the spring Navratri festival. |
| Birthday of Guru Angad Dev – Sikh | 18/04/2024 |  | Guru Angad was the second of the ten Sikh Gurus. He was born in the village of Sarae Naga in Muktsar District in Punjab. He was the son of a small but successful trader named Pheru Mal. His mother's name was Mata Ramo, also known as Mata Sabhirai, Mansa Devi and Daya Kaur. |
| Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur – Sikh | 18/04/2024 |  | Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion. |
| First Day of Ridvan - Baha'i | 20/04/2023 |  | The Festival of Ridván is observed according to the Bahá'í calendar and begins on the thirty-second day of the Bahá'í year. The festival properly starts at two hours before sunset on that day, which symbolises the time that Bahá'u'lláh entered the garden. |
| Mahavir Jayanti - Jain | 21/04/2024 |  | Observed by Jains as birth anniversary of sage Mahavir. |
| Earth Day | 22/04/2024 |  | Promotes support for environmental protection. |
| Theravada New Year - Buddhist | 23/04/2024 |  | In countries where Theravada Buddhism is the most dominant religion, April is the month of celebration. New Year takes place on the first full moon of April each year, but should be noted that the exact date of celebration may vary from one country to another. |
| Hanuman Jayanti - Hindu | 23/04/2024 |  | Special religious festival dedicated to honouring the birth of Lord Sri Hanuman. |
| Passover - Judaism | 23/04/2024 |  | Jewish 8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The story of the Exodus is recounted and the ongoing struggle of all peoples for freedom from internal and external tyranny is celebrated. A special meal is a central feature. |
| Saint George's Day | 23/04/2024 |  | Patron saint of England as well as many other countries. |
| Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist | 25/04/2024 |  | Author of the Gospel of Mark and is said to have founded the Church of Alexandria. |
| World Malaria Day | 25/04/2024 |  | Highlights the global efforts to control malaria. |
| On Your Feet Britain | 25/04/2024 |  | Get Britain Standing to unite against prolonged workplace sitting. |
| Lesbian Visibility Day | 26/04/2024 |  | Started in 2008 and aims to show our solidarity with every woman within the LGBTQ+ community. |
| Lazarus Saturday - Orthodox Christian | 27/04/2024 |  | A paschal celebration glorifying Christ as the Resurrection and the Life by raising Lazarus and so confirming the universal resurrection of mankind before his own suffering and death. |
| Palm Sunday - Orthodox Christian | 28/04/2024 |  | One of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church celebrated on the Sunday before Pascha. |
| World Day for Health and Safety at Work | 28/04/2024 |  | Promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. |
| Ninth Day of Ridvan - Baha'i | 28/04/2024 |  |  |
| **May 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Action on Stroke Month | 01/05/2024 | 31/05/2024 | Reminding people to "think FAST" if they see someone having a stroke. Raises awareness of stroke including signs and symptoms. |
| National Walking Month | 01/05/2024 | 31/05/2024 | Celebration of walking and the host of benefits from this. |
| Celiac Awareness Month | 01/05/2024 | 31/05/2024 | Raise awareness of genetic autoimmune disease in which people cannot eat gluten because it will damage their small intestine. |
| Mental Health Awareness Month | 01/05/2024 | 31/05/2024 | Raise awareness about mental health and wellbeing through a broad campaign and community events. |
| Beltane – Samhain – Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 01/05/2024 |  | Beltane - Wicca celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in the sacred marriage which is the basis of all creation. |
| Twelfth Day of Ridvan - Baha'i | 01/05/2024 |  |  |
| Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh | 02/05/2024 |  | Guru Arjan was the first martyr of the Sikh faith and the fifth of the ten Sikh Gurus, who compiled writings to create the eleventh, the living Guru, Guru Granth Sahib. He was born in Goindval, Punjab the youngest son of Guru Ram Das and Mata Bhani, the daughter of Guru Amar Das. |
| Holy Friday - Orthodox Christian | 03/05/2024 |  | Commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross. |
| World Press Freedom Day | 03/05/2024 |  | Day to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. |
| Feast of Saints Philip and James - Catholic Christian | 03/05/2024 |  | Feast celebrating Saints Philip and James. |
| International Firefighters Day | 04/05/2024 |  | Annually observed on the 4th May to recognize the risks and the work that firefighters do day to day. |
| Pascha (Easter) - Orthodox Christian | 05/05/2024 |  | Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. |
| Bank Holiday - England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and ROI | 06/05/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| Yom HaShoah - Judaism | 06/05/2024 |  | Jewish Holocaust Day. The day has been established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45. It is observed by many non-Jews as well. |
| UK National Day for Staff Networks | 08/05/2024 |  | Nationwide day dedicated to recognising networks/resource groups and the incredible value they add to the workplace. |
| World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day | 08/05/2024 |  | World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is an annual celebration of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. World Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated on 8th May each year. This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (born 8th May 1828), the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize. |
| Ascension of Jesus - Christian | 09/05/2024 |  | Ascension Day is the 40th day of Easter. It occurs 39 days after Easter Sunday. It is a Christian holiday that commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. |
| Akshaya Tritiya – Hindu, Jain | 10/05/2024 |  | Akshaya Tritiya, also known as Akti and Akha Teej, is a holy day for Hindus and Jains. It falls on the third lunar day of Bright Half (Shukla Paksha) of the pan-Indian month of Vaishakha and one of the four most important days for Hindus. It is an auspicious day of the birthday of Lord Parasurama who is the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. |
| International Nurses Day | 12/05/2024 |  | International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every 12th May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. |
| Yom HaZikaron - Judaism | 13/05/2024 |  | Yom Hazikaron, "Day of the Memory", is Israel's official Remembrance Day. |
| \*Mental Health Awareness Week (Tentative) | 13/05/2024 | 19/05/2024 | Aims to educate and increase awareness about mental illness. |
| +Learning at Work Week (Tentative) | 13/05/2024 | 19/05/2024 | Celebrates lifelong learning at work, exploring learning and building learning cultures everywhere. |
| Feast of Saint Matthias - Catholic Christian | 14/05/2024 |  | Matthias, whose name means “gift of God”, was the disciple chosen to replace Judas as one of the twelve Apostles. |
| Yom Ha’Atzmaut – Judaism | 14/05/2024 |  | "Day of Independence", is the national day of Israel commemorating the Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948. |
| International Day of Families | 15/05/2024 |  | The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th May every year and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. |
| Global Accessibility Awareness Day | 16/05/2024 |  | GAAD is an awareness day focusing on digital access and inclusion for more than one billion people with disabilities and impairments. It is marked annually on the 3rd Thursday of May. |
| International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia | 17/05/2024 |  | The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is observed on 17th May and aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide. |
| Pentecost – Christian | 19/05/2024 |  | Christian observation of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians. |
| World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | 21/05/2024 |  | World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is annually held on 21st May to help people learn about the importance of cultural diversity and harmony. |
| International Day for Biological Diversity | 22/05/2024 |  | The International Day for Biological Diversity (or World Biodiversity Day) is a United Nations–sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is currently held on 22nd May. |
| Vesak – Buddhist | 23/05/2024 |  | Buddhists celebrate the birthday of Buddha. |
| Birthday of Guru Amar Das – Sikh | 23/05/2024 |  | Guru Amar Das was the third of the Ten Gurus of Sikhism. |
| Declaration of the Báb - Baha'i | 23/05/2024 |  | Baha'i recognition of the declaration in 1844 by Ali Muhammed that he is the anticipated "Coming One" of all religions. Work is suspended. |
| Trinity Sunday – Christian | 26/05/2024 |  | Christians honour the belief in one God with a threefold nature. |
| Lag B’Omer – Judaism | 26/05/2024 |  | Jewish observation of the counting of the day - the link - between Pesach and Shavout. |
| Bank Holiday - England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland | 27/05/2024 |  | Bank Holiday |
| Ascension of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i | 28/05/2024 |  | Baha'i recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder. Observed by prayers and readings. Work is suspended. |
| International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers | 29/05/2024 |  | The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is a day to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. |
| Corpus Christi – Catholic Christian | 30/05/2024 |  | Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist - the Blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. The real presence of the body and blood of Jesus is honoured. |
| Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian | 31/05/2024 |  | The feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates the visit of Mary, the Mother of God, with the child Jesus in her womb, to her cousin Elizabeth. The visit took place when Elizabeth was herself six months' pregnant with the forerunner of Christ, Saint John the Baptist. |
| World No Tobacco Day | 31/05/2024 |  | World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on 31st May. It is intended to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption around the globe. |
| **June 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Month | 01/06/2024 | 30/06/2024 | Aims to raise awareness of MND which is a group of diseases that affect the nerve cells, especially motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord. |
| Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Awareness Month | 01/06/2024 | 30/06/2024 | Raise awareness of the facts and impacts relating to neonatal deaths and stillbirths. |
| Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month | 01/06/2024 | 30/06/2024 | Through celebration, education and raising awareness, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of those in wider society. |
| LGBT Pride Month | 01/06/2024 | 30/06/2024 | Promotes the self-affirmation, dignity, equality and increased visibility of LGBT people as a social group, Pride. |
| Global Day of Parents | 01/06/2024 |  | Observed on 1st June annually. |
| Bank Holiday - ROI | 03/06/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression | 04/06/2024 |  | Observed on 4th June each year. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. |
| Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) – Judaism | 05/06/2024 |  | Jerusalem Day is an Israeli national holiday commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israeli control over the Old City in the aftermath of the June 1967 Six-Day War. The day is officially marked by state ceremonies and memorial services. |
| World Environment Day | 05/06/2024 |  | Observed every year on 5th June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus - Catholic Christian | 07/06/2024 |  | The heart is seen to symbolise Jesus Christ’s divine love for humanity. |
| Global Wellness Day | 08/06/2024 |  | Established as a day dedicated to living well and raising awareness about wellness and increase motivation for the remaining days of the year. |
| Race Unity Day | 09/06/2024 |  | Celebrates the diversity of people and cultures and promotes understanding and acceptance of all races. |
| \*BNF Healthy Eating Week (Tentative) | 10/06/2024 | 16/06/2024 | A chance for everyone to reflect on their lifestyles and look to make improvements to enhance their health and wellbeing. |
| Men's Health Week | 10/06/2024 | 16/06/2024 | Aims to give all boys and men access to the information, services and treatment they need to live healthier, longer and more fulfilling lives. |
| Shavuot – Judaism | 12/06/2024 | 13/06/2024 | Jewish celebration of Moses' descent from Mount Sinai with the ten commandments. Plants and flowers are used in decorations. |
| World Day against Child Labour | 12/06/2024 |  | The World Day Against Child Labour is an International Labour Organization-sanctioned holiday first launched in 2002 aiming to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour. |
| Ascension of the Lord – Orthodox Christian | 13/06/2024 |  | The Ascension of Jesus Christ is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated forty days after Pascha (and thus always falling on a Thursday). |
| Hajj - Islam | 14/06/2024 |  | Ritual gathering of Muslims of every ethnic group, colour, social status and culture in Mecca to promote the bonds of Islamic brotherhood and sisterhood by showing that everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah. |
| World Blood Donor Day | 14/06/2024 |  | Every year on 14th June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD). The event, established in 2004, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood. |
| Waqf al Arafa - Islam | 15/06/2024 |  | Islamic observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy. |
| World Elder Abuse Awareness Day | 15/06/2024 |  | With a growing global population of elderly people and as longevity increases, abuse of the elderly is an increasing and serious problem that affects health and human rights. The day aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional and financial abuse of elders. |
| Eid al Adha – Islam | 16/06/2024 |  | Islamic Festival of Sacrifice. A three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah. |
| Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh | 16/06/2024 |  | The first of the two Gurus martyred in the Sikh faith and the fifth of the ten total Sikh Gurus. |
| Father's Day | 16/06/2024 |  | Honouring all fathers, grandfathers and father figures for their contributions. |
| World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | 17/06/2024 |  | The United Nations' World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is annually observed on 17th June to highlight the urgent need to curb the desertification process. It also aims to strengthen the visibility of the drylands issue on the international environmental agenda. |
| Autistic Pride Day | 18/06/2024 |  | Autistic Pride Day is a celebration of the neurodiversity of people on the autism spectrum held on 18th June annually and “Autistic pride” stands for pride in autism and about shifting views of autism from "disease" to "difference". |
| International Day for Countering Hate Speech | 18/06/2024 |  | Opportunity to raise awareness of the risks posed by hate speech to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. |
| World Refugee Day | 20/06/2024 |  | World Refugee Day, international observance observed 20th June each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. |
| Summer Solstice | 20/06/2024 |  | Summer Solstice. |
| Litha - Yule - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 20/06/2024 |  | Litha - Wicca celebration of the sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life. |
| World Humanist Day | 21/06/2024 |  | World Humanist Day is an opportunity for Humanist individuals and organizations to publicize the positive values of Humanism and to share the global concerns of the Humanist movement. |
| UK Windrush Day | 22/06/2024 |  | Windrush Day is 22nd June and honours the British Caribbean community and the half a million people who travelled to the UK after the Second World War. |
| Pentecost – Orthodox Christian | 23/06/2024 |  | Pentecost (also called Trinity Day or Descent of the Holy Spirit) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated fifty days after Pascha thus always falling on a Sunday. |
| Nativity of Saint John the Baptist – Christian | 24/06/2024 |  | The Nativity of John the Baptist is a Christian feast day celebrating the birth of John the Baptist, a prophet who foretold the coming of the Messiah in the person of Jesus, whom he later baptised. |
| World Wellbeing Week | 24/06/2024 | 28/06/2024 | Dedicated week to focusing on key health messages and promoting healthy habits. |
| International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking | 26/06/2024 |  | International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26th June, |
| Feast of Saints Peter and Paul – Christian | 29/06/2024 |  | The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul is a liturgical feast in honour of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul, which is observed on 29th June. |
| All Saints - Orthodox Christian | 30/06/2024 |  | First Sunday after Pentecost. |
| **July 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| UV Safety Month | 01/07/2024 | 31/07/2024 | Raises awareness about the risks associated with unprotected sun exposure and things you can do to minimize the risks. |
| Make a Difference to Children Month | 01/07/2024 | 31/07/2024 | Raises awareness about the vulnerability any child in the world can face if they do not have the right person in their lives to guide them. |
| International Women with Alopecia Month | 01/07/2024 | 31/07/2024 | Raise awareness of the hair loss condition that affects a large percentage of women in their lifetime. |
| Disability Pride Month | 01/07/2024 | 31/07/2024 | An international initiative that celebrates the disability community to highlight the creativity, resilience and achievements of people who identify as disabled. |
| The Fast of the Holy Apostles - Orthodox Christian | 01/07/2024 |  | Not as strict as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast but entails fasting from red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil and wine. |
| Saint Thomas the Apostle - Christian | 03/07/2024 |  | One of the 12 Apostles of Jesus commonly known as “Doubting Thomas” because he doubted the resurrection of Jesus when first told. |
| US Independence Day | 04/07/2024 |  | Marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on 4th July 1776 when the US declared independence from Great Britain. |
| Birthday of Guru Hargobind – Sikh | 05/07/2024 |  | Guru Hargobind also Saccha Badshah ("True Emperor"), was the sixth of the Sikh gurus. He was eleven years old when he became Guru on 30th May 1606 after the execution of his father, Guru Arjan, by the Mughal emperor Jahangir. |
| Al-Hijra/Muharram – New Year – Islam | 07/07/2024 |  | Al-Hijra, the Islamic New Year, is the first day of the month of Muharram. It marks the Hijra (or Hegira) in 622 CE when the Prophet Muhammad moved from Mecca to Medina. |
| Martyrdom of the Báb - Baha'i | 09/07/2024 |  | Baha'i - Ali Mohammed was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers. Observed by abstaining from commerce and work. |
| World Population Day | 11/07/2024 |  | The United Nations' (UN) World Population Day is annually observed on 11th July to reaffirm the human right to plan for a family. |
| Bank Holiday - Northern Ireland | 12/07/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| Orangemen’s Day | 12/07/2024 |  | The Twelfth, also called Orangemen's Day, is a celebration held annually on 12th July. It originated during the late 18th century and celebrates the victory of Protestant King William of Orange over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne (1690), which began the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland. |
| International Non-Binary People's Day | 14/07/2024 |  | Observed annually on 14th July to raise awareness of the issues faced by non-binary people around the World. This date is chosen as it falls between International Women’s Day and International Men’s Day. |
| Saint Vladimir the Great Day – Orthodox Christian | 15/07/2024 |  | Vladimir Sviatoslavich the Great was a prince of Novgorod, grand prince of Kiev and ruler of Kievan Rus' from 980 to 1015. Originally a follower of Slavic paganism, Vladimir converted to Christianity in 988 and Christianized the Kievan Rus’. |
| World Youth Skills Day | 15/07/2024 |  | The aim of World Youth Skills Day is to encourage youth to celebrate the value of acquiring skills like building, making, and creating as a way to achieve personal success and fulfilment. |
| Ashura – Islam | 16/07/2024 |  | An Islamic optional one day fast. The Shia observance is based on the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's Grandson, Hussein, martyred on this date in 683/684 AD at the battle of Kerbala. Sunni observance is a recognition of Moses fasting in gratitude to Allah/God for liberation from oppression. |
| World Day for International Justice | 17/07/2024 |  | World Day for International Justice, also referred to as Day of International Criminal Justice or International Justice Day is celebrated throughout the world on 17th July as part of an effort to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice. |
| Nelson Mandela International Day | 18/07/2024 |  | Nelson Mandela International Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18th July, Mandela's birthday. |
| South Asian Heritage Month begins | 18/07/2024 | 17/08/2024 | To honour, recognise and appreciate South Asian history and culture. |
| Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) – Buddhist | 21/07/2024 |  | Asalha Puja is a Theravada Buddhist festival which typically takes place in July, on the full moon of the eighth lunar month. Asalha Puja, also known as Dharma Day, is one of Theravada Buddhism’s most important festivals, celebrating as it does the Buddha’s first sermon in which he set out to his five former associates the doctrine that had come to him following his enlightenment. |
| Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene – Christian | 22/07/2024 |  | Saint Mary Magdalene's feast day is 22nd July. She is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptation, pharmacists, tanners and women and many other places and causes. |
| Birthday of Guru Har Krishan - Sikh | 23/07/2024 |  | Guru Har Krishan was the eighth of the ten Sikh Gurus. At the age of 5, he became the youngest Guru in Sikhism on 7th October 1661, succeeding his father, Guru Har Rai. He is also known as Bal Guru (Child Guru). |
| Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie – Rastafari | 23/07/2024 |  | Rastafari celebration honouring the founder. |
| Pioneer Day – Mormon Christian | 24/07/2024 |  | Mormon observation of arrival of first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA, on 24th July, 1847. |
| Saint James the Great Day – Christian | 25/07/2024 |  | Christian recognition of the martyrdom of the Apostle James the Great. |
| World Hepatitis Day | 28/07/2024 |  | World Hepatitis Day, observed on 28th July every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis — a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E — and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Hepatitis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, causing acute and chronic disease and killing close to 1.4 million people every year. |
| World Day against Trafficking Persons | 30/07/2024 |  | In 2013, the UN member states adopted a resolution which designated 30th July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. They declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.” |
| International Day of Friendship | 30/07/2024 |  | The International Day of Friendship is a United Nations (UN) day that promotes the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in many cultures. It is observed on 30th July each year. |
| **August 2024** |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Wellbeing Related Dates/Occasions** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Description** |
| Health & Safety Month | 01/08/2024 | 31/08/2024 | Raises awareness of the importance in the wellbeing of employees within the workplace and how important it is that all employers create a safe workplace for all. |
| Psoriasis Awareness Month | 01/08/2024 | 31/08/2024 | Raises awareness of those suffering from the skin condition that can affect so many. |
| World Breastfeeding Week | 01/08/2024 | 07/08/2024 | Global campaign to raise awareness and galvanise action on themes relating to breastfeeding. |
| Lammas – Christian | 01/08/2024 |  | 1st August is Lammas Day, the festival of the wheat harvest and is the first harvest festival of the year. On this day it was customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop, which began to be harvested at Lammastide. |
| Fast in honour of Holy Mother of Lord Jesus – Orthodox Christian | 01/08/2024 |  | Orthodox Christian 14 day fasting period in preparation for the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. |
| Lughnasadh – Imbolc – Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres | 01/08/2024 |  | Lughnassadh - Wicca/neo pagan observance of first harvest of the year involving agricultural festivals and prosperity magic. |
| Summer Bank Holiday – Scotland and ROI | 05/08/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord – Christian | 06/08/2024 |  | The Transfiguration of Jesus is an event reported in the New Testament in which Jesus transfigured and becomes radiant upon a mountain. |
| Transfiguration of the Lord – Orthodox Christian | 06/08/2024 |  | The Transfiguration of Christ is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on 6th August. Jesus had gone with his disciples Peter, James, and John to Mount Tabor. Christ's appearance was changed while they watched into a glorious radiant figure. |
| International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples | 09/08/2024 |  | The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9th August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. |
| Feast of Saint Lawrence - Christian | 10/08/2024 |  | Lawrence was chief among the 7 deacons who served the Roman Church during the mid-third century. He was very a young, heroic martyr highly venerated by the ancient Roman Church. |
| International Youth Day | 12/08/2024 |  | The United Nations’ (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated on 12th August each year to recognize efforts of the world’s youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities. |
| Tish'a B'av – Judaism | 13/08/2024 |  | A Jewish day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple. |
| Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary – Catholic Christian | 15/08/2024 |  | Roman Catholic Christian observance commemorating the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life. |
| Dormition of the Theotokos – Orthodox Christian | 15/08/2024 |  | Orthodox Christian commemoration of the death and burial of the Virgin Mary. |
| Raksha Bandhan – Hindu | 19/08/2024 |  | Hindu festival honouring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in a family. |
| World Humanitarian Day | 19/08/2024 |  | World Humanitarian Day is a day dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly and set as 19th August. It marks the day on which the then Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his colleagues were killed in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad. |
| Queenship of Mary – Catholic Christian | 22/08/2024 |  | 22nd August is the Feast of The Immaculate Heart of Mary, Traditional Calendar and the Queenship of Mary, the New Calendar. |
| International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief | 22/08/2024 |  | UN designated day to raise awareness of efforts to combat intolerance, discrimination and violence against anyone based on religion or belief. |
| International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition | 23/08/2024 |  | Intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade and in the memory of all peoples. |
| Saint Bartholomew the Apostle - Christian | 24/08/2024 |  | Feast of Saint Bartholomew, the Holy Apostle. |
| Krishna Janmashtami – Hindu | 26/08/2024 |  | Krishna Janmashtami is observed on the 8th day of the month of Bhadon on the Hindu calendar and the day celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna. |
| Summer Bank Holiday – England, Wales and Northern Ireland | 26/08/2024 |  | Bank Holiday. |
| Beheading of Saint John the Baptist – Christian | 29/08/2024 |  | Christian remembrance of the death of John who is known for preparing the people so they would recognize Jesus as the Messiah. |
| International Day for People of African Descent | 31/08/2024 |  | Celebration of the extraordinary cultural richness and diversity of people of African descent and pay tribute to the enormous contribution they have made to the development of our societies through history. |

**EDI Staff/Postgrad Networks & Groups**

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| **Network/Group** | **Who can join?** |
| BAME Network | Is open to all University staff who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME). The term BAME refers to non-white communities living in the UK. |
| Disability Network | Is open to all University staff with an interest in disability (including physical, hidden, long-term and mental health conditions) |
| LGBT+ Network | Is open to all staff and postgraduates within the University who identify as LGBT, queer, questioning, ace, non-binary and all others who identify as being a member of a minority with respect to sexuality and/or gender. |
| Trans & Non-Binary Peer Support Network | Informal peer support network for all trans, non-binary, gender non-confirming, or questioning staff and PGR students. |
| Female Early Career Researcher Network | The FECRN is intended to create an opportunity for its members to explore the unique challenges and opportunities of their career stage, as well as network with each other, to create a knowledge sharing environment. |
| Parents Network | The Parents Network was established in late 2014. It is a network of staff and students who are parents, due to be or are planning for a family. |
| Carers Network | The aim of this network is to provide staff who care for ill or disabled loved ones an opportunity to share support and advice, as well as to provide feedback to the University on support that would be helpful. |
| Menopause Network | Staff & students (women) experiencing menopause |
| Cancer Support Group | Staff & students whom have been affected by a diagnosis of cancer (either themselves or those they are close to) |
| Endometriosis Support Group | Staff & Postgrads whom have been affected by a diagnosis of Endometriosis (either themselves or those they are close to) |
| Endometriosis Support Group | LivWiSE is an open society for everyone studying, working in, or who has an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine (STEMM). |

**What do the networks and groups all have in common?**

* They all provide a safe space for members to share experiences & ideas for positive culture change, as well as an opportunity to gain further peer support.
* They help to influence policies & support the strategic aims of the University, continuously working towards a more inclusive environment for all.

**Student Networks & Groups**

The Liverpool Guild of Students is home to over 150 Student-led societies. Many of which have been created with equality, diversity & wellbeing in mind & aim to make the University as inclusive as possible.

Want to join or create your own society?

**WANT TO JOIN OR CREATE YOUR OWN SOCIETY?**

Website: www.liverpoolguild.org/groups

Email: guildweb@liv.ac.uk