



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Calendar

September 2025

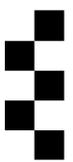
– August 2026

This calendar includes religious festivals across Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, as well as key awareness days, weeks, and months recognised in the UK. Each month also features an educational spotlight on a festival or awareness event supporting marginalised communities.



September 2025

A group of people coming together in a gesture of unity.



September 2025

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September (All month):

- East and South East Asian Heritage Month
- World Alzheimer’s Month

5 Sep: The Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday (Islam)

10 Sep: World Suicide Prevention Day

11 Sep: Ethiopian New Year (Rastafari)

15 Sep: World Afro Day

15–21 Sep: National Inclusion Week

18 Sep: International Equal Pay Day

21 Sep: World Alzheimer’s Day

22 Sep: Autumnal Equinox (Paganism)

22–23 Sep: Rosh Hashanah

(Judaism)

22 Sep–1 Oct: Navaratri (Hinduism)

23 Sep: Celebrate Bisexuality Day

27 Sep–2 Oct: Durga Puja / Sharad Navaratri (Hinduism)

Spotlight

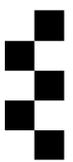
National Inclusion Week (15–21 September)

This UK-wide initiative promotes practical steps for inclusive cultures. The 2025 theme “Now Is The Time” urges urgent action to address inequities across race, gender, disability, sexuality and religion. Activities include workshops, campaigns and best-practice case studies.



October 2025

Black History Month march.



October 2025

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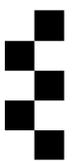
October (All month):

- ADHD Awareness Month
 - Black History Month (UK)
 - Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 - Down Syndrome Awareness Month
 - Global Diversity Awareness Month
 - World Menopause Month
- 1 Oct:** International Day of Older Persons
2 Oct: Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement (Judaism)
6-10 Oct: Dyspraxia/Dyslexia Awareness week
7-13 Oct: Sukkot (Judaism)
10 Oct: World Mental Health Day
11 Oct: National Coming Out Day
13-15 Oct: Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah (Judaism)
15 Oct: International Pronouns Day
17 Oct: Show Racism the Red Card Day
18 Oct: World Menopause Day
19-23 Oct: Diwali (Hindu, Sikh, Jain)
19-25 Oct: Invisible Disabilities Week
26 Oct: Intersex Awareness Day
31 Oct: Samhain (Pagan)

Spotlight

Black History Month (UK, All month)

Since 1987, Black History Month has honoured Black Britons’ contributions to culture, politics, and society. It highlights overlooked stories – from Windrush pioneers to today’s leaders – while promoting learning, reflection on racism and this year’s theme “Standing Firm in Power and Pride.”



November 2025

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- November (All month):**
- Islamophobia Awareness Month
 - Movember (Men's Health Awareness)
- 1 Nov:** Samhain (Paganism)
- 3–7 Nov:** International Stress Awareness Week
- 5 Nov:** Stress Awareness Day
- 9–16 Nov:** Interfaith Week (UK)
- 10–14 Nov:** Anti-Bullying Week
- 11 Nov:** Remembrance Day
- 13–19 Nov:** Transgender Awareness Week
- 14 Nov–20 Dec:** UK Disability History Month
- 16 Nov:** International Day of Tolerance
- 17–21 Nov:** Anti-Bullying Week
- 19 Nov:** International Men's Day
- 20 Nov:** Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 22 Nov–22 Dec:** UK Disability History Month
- 25 Nov:** Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 30 Nov:** Advent Sunday (Christianity)

Spotlight

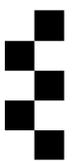
Transgender Day of Remembrance (20 November)

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is held to remember and show solidarity with trans individuals whose lives have been lost due to anti-transgender hatred and violence. TDoR was started in 1999 by trans activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honour Rita Hester who was killed the previous year.



December 2025

International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



December 2025

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- December (All month):**
- 1 Dec:** World AIDS Day
 - 3 Dec:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
 - 8 Dec:** Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
 - 10 Dec:** Human Rights Day
 - 14–22 Dec:** Hanukkah (Judaism)
 - 18 Dec:** International Migrants Day
 - 21 Dec:** Winter Solstice / Yule (Pagan)
 - 25 Dec:** Christmas Day (Christianity)
 - 26 Dec–1 Jan:** Kwanzaa (African diaspora)

Spotlight

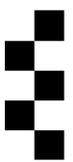
International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December)

Proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly, this day promotes the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and increases awareness of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.



January 2026

Holocaust Memorial Week, University of Essex, 2025.



January 2026

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- January (All month):**
- Dry January
 - Veganuary
- 4 Jan:** World Braille Day
- 5 Jan:** Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism)
- 6 Jan:** Epiphany (Christianity)
- 7 Jan:** Ganna - Orthodox Christmas Eve/Day (Christianity)
- 14 Jan:** Makar Sankranti (Hindu Dharma)
- 18 Jan:** World Religion Day (Baha'i)
- 18–25 Jan:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Christianity)
- 19 Jan:** Brew Monday
- 19 Jan:** World Religion Day
- 24 Jan:** Int'l Day of Education
- 27 Jan:** Holocaust Remembrance Day

Spotlight

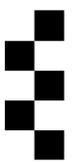
Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January)

This solemn day honours the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, alongside victims of genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Marked by schools and communities, it fosters remembrance, education, and action against antisemitism and hate crimes. The 2026 theme is "Bridging Generations."



February 2026

LGBT+ pride parade.



February 2026

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February (All month):

- LGBT+ History Month
- 1 Feb:** World Hijab Day
- 1 Feb:** Imbolc (Paganism)
- 2 Feb–6 Feb:** Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week
- 4 Feb:** World Cancer Day
- 5 Feb:** Time to Talk Day
- 9–15 Feb:** Children’s Mental Health Week
- 10–16 Feb:** UK Race Equality Week
- 11 Feb:** Int’l Day of Women & Girls in Science
- 14 Feb:** Lailat al-Bara’ah (Islam)
- 15 Feb:** Parinirvana (Buddhism)
- 17 Feb:** Lunar New Year / Chinese New Year
- 18 Feb:** Ash Wednesday (Christianity)
- 18 Feb–19 Mar:** Ramadan (Islam – estimated)
- 18 Feb–2 Apr:** Lent (Christianity)
- 26 Feb:** Maha Shivratri (Hinduism)
- 28 Feb:** Rare Disease Day

Spotlight

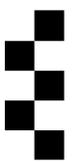
LGBT+ History Month (All month)

First marked in the UK in 2005, this month highlights LGBTQ+ history, culture and contributions. Annual themes invite schools, workplaces, and communities to explore LGBTQ+ achievements across literature, science, politics and the arts. It also raises awareness of discrimination and calls for stronger protections and representation.



March 2026

Eid al-Fitr/Feast of Fast Breaking.



March 2026

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- March (All month):**
- Women’s History Month
 - 2-3 Mar:** Purim (Judaism)
 - 3 Mar:** Magha Puja (Buddhism)
 - 4 Mar:** Holi (Hinduism)
 - 4–5 Mar:** Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday (Christianity)
 - 8 Mar:** International Women’s Day
 - 15 Mar:** Maha Shivaratri (Hindu Dharma)
 - 15 Mar:** Lailat ul-Qadr/The Night of Power (Islam, Shi’a)
 - 16–22 Mar:** Neurodiversity Celebration Week
 - 20 Mar:** Eid al-Fitr/Feast of Fast Breaking (Islam – estimate)
 - 20 Mar:** Spring / Vernal Equinox (Paganism)
 - 21 Mar:** World Down Syndrome Day
 - 26 Mar:** Rama Navami (Hinduism)
 - 30 Mar:** World Bipolar Day
 - 30 Mar – 5 Apr:** World Autism Acceptance Week
 - 30–31 Mar:** Eid al-Fitr (Islam – est.)
 - 31 Mar:** Transgender Day of Visibility
 - 31 Mar:** Mahavir Jayanti (Jainism)

Spotlight

Ramadan & Eid al-Fitr

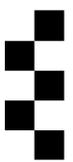
Ramadan, Islam’s holiest month, involves fasting, prayer, reflection and charity, fostering discipline and empathy. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Fasting (sawm) is the fourth of the five pillars of Islam, requiring self-discipline and giving everyone some experience of deprivation. The timing of this festival corresponds to the sighting of the moon.

The background of the image is a light gray surface covered with various letters of the alphabet in different colors: black, white, brown, and orange. The letters are scattered and some are slightly raised, giving a textured appearance. The word "AUTISM" is prominently displayed in the center of the image.

AUTISM

April 2026

Autism Awareness Month.



April 2026

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- April (All month):**
- Stress Awareness Month
 - Autism Acceptance Month
- 1–8 Apr:** Passover (Judaism)
- 2 Apr:** World Autism Awareness Day
- 3 Apr:** Good Friday (Christianity)
- 5 Apr:** Easter (Christianity)
- 8 Apr:** Buddha Jayanti (Buddhism)
- 8 Apr:** International Romani Day
- 12 Apr:** Palm Sunday/Pascha/Orthodox Easter Sunday (Christianity)
- 14 Apr:** Vaisakhi (Sikhism)
- 20 Apr–2 May:** Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 26 Apr:** Lesbian Visibility Day
- 29 Apr:** International Guide Dog Day

Spotlight

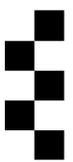
World Autism Awareness Day (2 April)

World Autism Awareness Day is dedicated to raising awareness, understanding, and acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum. It's a time to recognise the talents, strengths, and contributions of autistic individuals while promoting understanding and empathy. It takes place during Autism Acceptance Month, also in April.

**M E N T A L
H E A L T H
M A T T E R S**

May 2026

Mental Health Awareness Week.



May 2026

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May (All month):

National Walking Month

1 May: Beltane (Pagan)

10–16 May: Christian Aid Week

11–17 May: Black Inclusion Week

11–17 May: Mental Health Awareness Week

12 May: Vesak / Buddha Day (Buddhism)

13 May: National Day for Staff Networks

14 May: Ascension Day (Christianity)

17 May: International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)

21 May: Global Accessibility Awareness Day

21 May: The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

21 May: World Meditation Day

21–23 May: Shavuot (Judaism)

24 May: Pentecost / Whit Sunday (Christianity)

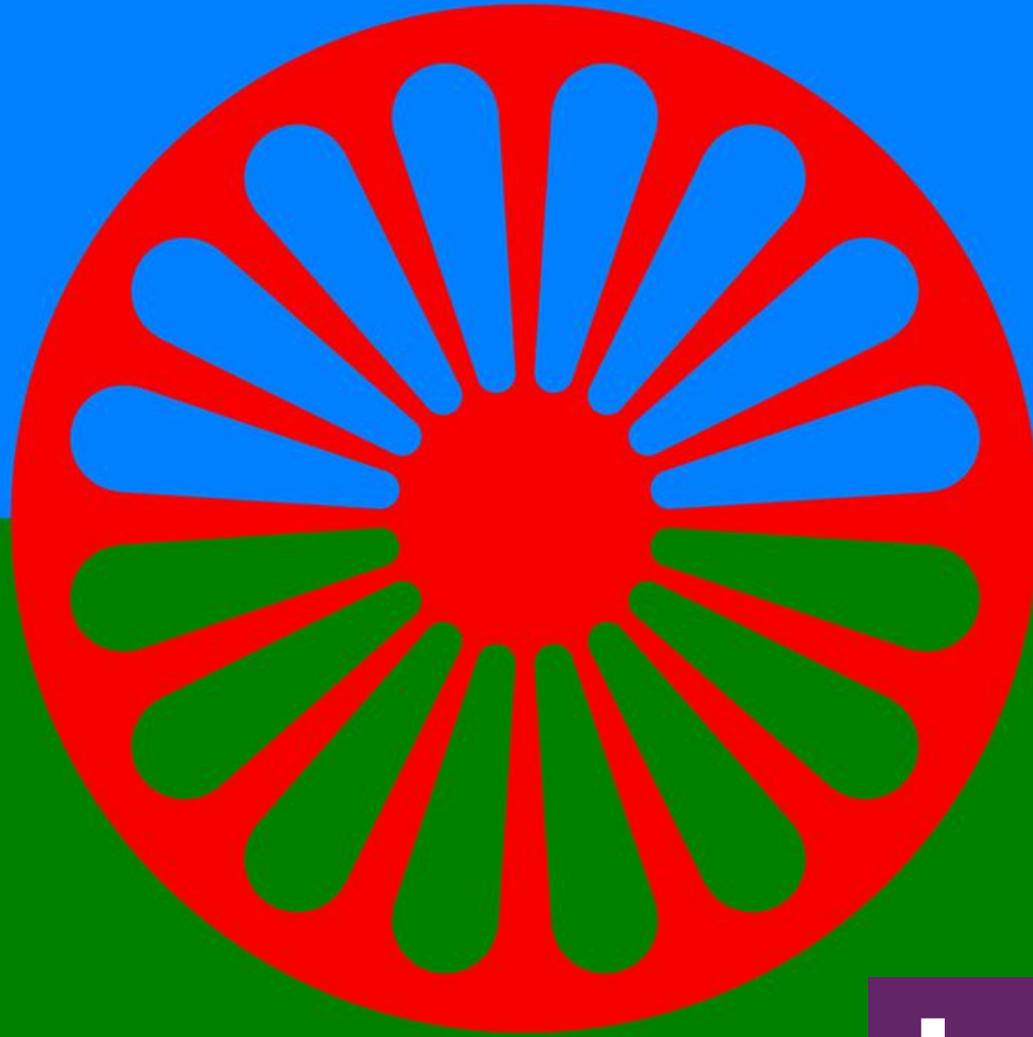
25–26 May: Hajj (Islam)

27 May: Eid al-Adha (Islam, estimate)

Spotlight

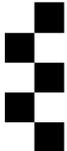
Mental Health Awareness Week (11-17 May)

Founded in 2001, Mental Health Awareness Week is a UK event supported by the Mental Health Foundation. The aim of this week is to educate the public about mental health issues and to promote better mental health. Those promoting Mental Health Awareness Week typically wear green as a way of showing support. The green symbolises new life, recovery, and growth for those experiencing mental health challenges.



June 2026

The Romani flag.



June 2026

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- June (All month):**
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month
 - Pride Month (UK)
- 7 Jun:** Tourettes Awareness Day
- 8–14 Jun:** Men’s Health Week
- 15–19 Jun:** UK Learning Disability Week
- 16 Jun:** Neurodiversity Pride Day
- 16 Jun:** Al-Hijra/Islamic New Year (Islam, estimate)
- 16 Jun:** Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikhism)
- 18 Jun:** Autistic Pride Day
- 20 Jun:** World Refugee Day
- 21 Jun:** Summer Solstice (Paganism)
- 22 Jun:** National Windrush Day

Spotlight

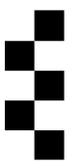
Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (All month)

Since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month. Through celebration, education, and awareness raising initiatives, Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths, and amplify the voices of members of this community in the wider society.



July 2026

Disability Pride Month.



July 2026

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- July (All month):**
- Disability Pride Month
 - South Asian Heritage Month
- 7 Jul:** Al-Hijra / Islamic New Year (Islam)
9 Jul: Martyrdom of the Báb (Bahá'í)
14 Jul: International Non-Binary People's Day
18 Jul: Nelson Mandela International Day
23 Jul: Birthday of Haile Selassie I (Rastafari)
23 Jul: Tisha B'Av (Judaism)
24 Jul: International Self-Care Day
29 Jul: Dharma Day (Buddhism)

Spotlight

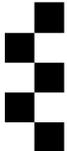
Disability Pride Month

Every July, Disability Pride Month serves as an opportunity for disabled people to come together as a community to celebrate the creativity, resilience, and achievements of disabled people. Disability Pride Month is for anyone who is disabled – or anyone who wishes to show their allyship.



August 2026

A solidarity march.



August 2026

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August (All month):

- 1 Aug:** Lammas / Lughnasadh (Paganism)
- 9 Aug:** International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12 Aug:** International Youth Day
- 23 Aug:** Int'l Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 28 Aug:** Raksha Bandhan (Hinduism)

Spotlight

Int'l Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (23 August)

This UN day commemorates the victims of the transatlantic slave trade and honours resistance movements such as the Haitian Revolution. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacies of slavery, racism, and colonialism, with events promoting anti-racism and the inclusion of marginalized histories.

Stay Connected with the University EDI Calendar

A live version of the University Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) calendar is available online, featuring all EDI events, key dates, and observances. You can access it here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/edi-resources/edi-key-dates> or by adding the EDICalendar shared Outlook calendar to your staff or student Outlook account.

If you would like an event added to the live Outlook calendar, or if you would like to request an additional festival or observance be included, please email: edicalendar@essex.ac.uk.