

Diversity Calendar 2024-5

The University is made up of a diverse community of staff and students, and we strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

The Diversity Calendar 2023-4 showcases key diversity and awareness-raising days, as well as key days of observance and celebration in different faiths throughout the academic year. This calendar can be used to guide requests for flexibility on the grounds of religion or belief.

Calendar dates are accurate at the time of publishing, although some dates vary regionally in accordance with the lunar calendar. For more information, please contact EDI@hud.ac.uk.

You can [read more about our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Framework](#) on our EDI webpages.



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September 2024



National Inclusion Week

National Inclusion Week takes place 23rd – 29th September 2024!

Founded by Inclusive Employers, National Inclusion Week is a yearly initiative designed to celebrate inclusion and encourage action in the workplace.

This year's theme is **#ImpactMatters** – a call to action highlighting the ability we all have to make a profound and positive impact. It also serves as an important reminder to consider the impact of our actions.

The University will be marking National Inclusion week with events and new initiatives - watch out for updates on the Staff Hub, our EDI Events webpages, and via your school or service's Diversity Champion

September 2024

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Awareness Days

- 10 – World Suicide Prevention Day
- 21 – UN International Day of Peace
- 23 – Bi Visibility Day
- 23 - 29 – National Inclusion Week

Religious and Cultural Dates

- 7 – Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)
- 22 – Autumn Equinox (Wicca/Pagan)
- 15 - 16 – Milad un-Nabi* (Islam)



Bisexual Pride Flag



October 2024

B:M2024
DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Black History Month 2024



October marks Black History Month, a celebration of the culture, history and achievements of African and Caribbean communities. In the UK, it's an opportunity to platform and celebrate the contribution of Black people to British society.

2024's theme of 'Reclaiming Narratives' marks a significant shift toward recognising and correcting narratives of Black history and culture; a commitment to correcting historical inaccuracies, showcasing untold stories and highlighting the complexity of Black heritage. [Read more about the theme at Black History Month UK.](#)

University events and initiatives will be promoted via the StaffHub Notices and [the EDI Newsletter](#) via your school or service's [Diversity Champion](#)

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October 2024

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Awareness Days

1-31 – Black History Month
 1-31 – ADHD Awareness Month
 1 – International Day of Older Persons
 7 - 13 – Dyslexia Awareness Week
 8 – International Lesbian Day
 13 - 19 – Dyspraxia Awareness Week
 10 – World Mental Health Day
 18 – Anti-Slavery Day / World Menopause Day / International Pronoun Day

Religious and Cultural Dates

2 – 4 - Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
 6 - Fast of Gedaliah (Judaism)
 11 – 12 - 24-25 – Yom Kippur (Judaism)
 16 – Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
 16 – 23 - Sukkot (Judaism)
 23 - 25 – Shemini Atzeret (Judaism)
 24 – 25 - Simchat Torah (Judaism)
 31 – Samhain – end of harvest/beginning of winter (Pagan)
 31 – Diwali



November 2024

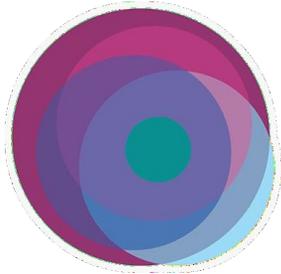
Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) (20 November)

On 20 November annually, TDoR is observed to honour the memory of transgender people who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence in the past year.

TDoR observances typically involve respectful, candlelit vigils for those who have lost their lives, as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on the community's response to anti-transgender violence.



Inter Faith Week



Inter-Faith Week (10 – 17 November 2024)

Every year, Inter-Faith week begins on Remembrance Sunday and runs until the following Sunday, with an aim to foster good relations between people of different faiths and beliefs, and those with no religion or belief.

The week also aims to increase understanding between different faith and non-faith communities and highlight work by local faith groups.

November 2024

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Transgender Pride Flag



Awareness Days

1-30 – Transgender Awareness Month

1-30 – Islamophobia Awareness Month

10 - 17 Inter Faith Week

16 Nov-16 Dec – Disability History Month

19 – International Men’s Day

20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance

25 - White Ribbon Day, also known as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Religious and Cultural Dates

1 – Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhism)

1 – Diwali (Hindu)

15 – Guru Nanak Birthday

24 – Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib

26 - 27 – Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha (Baha’i)

December 2024

Disability History Month (16 Nov – 16 Dec)

[Disability History Month](#) is an annual observance to focus on the historical struggle for equality and human rights for people with disabilities. Each year, the organisation focuses on a new theme to galvanise action, thought, and understanding – 2024's theme will be 'Disability Livelihood and Employment'.

The month spans November and December to capture key dates such as World AIDS Day (1st Dec) and International Day of People with Disabilities (3rd Dec).



The Oastler Building lit purple to mark IDPWD

International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) (3 December)

IDPWD is an annual celebration of the rights and wellbeing of people with disabilities, as well as an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges they face.

December 2024

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Awareness Days

16 Nov-16 Dec – Disability History Month

1 – World AIDS Day

2 – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Religious and Cultural Dates

21 – Winter Solstice (Wiccan/Pagan)

24 – Christmas Eve (Christian)

25 – Christmas Day (Christian)

25 – 2 Jan – Hanukkah (Chanukah in Hebrew) begins (Judaism)

January 2025

Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January)

Holocaust Memorial Day, taking place 27th January each year, is observed in remembrance of the 6 million Jewish people murdered during the holocaust, alongside the millions of others who lost their lives under the Nazi regime. 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp ([Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](#), 2023).

2025's theme is '[For a Better Future](#)' – emphasising how we can learn from the Holocaust and other genocides for a better future, considering how all genocides begin with racism, hatred and dehumanisation.

The [Holocaust Centre North](#) is a permanent exhibition and learning centre on campus, as a partnership between the University of Huddersfield and the Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association, open Monday – Thursday, 10am – 4pm. You can visit their website find out more about the story and history of the centre, and [view their collections](#).



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

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January 2025

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Awareness Days

- 4 – World Braille Day
- 8 – Ethnicity Pay Gap Day
- 16 – Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 21 – World Religion Day
- 24 – International Day of Education
- 27 – Holocaust Memorial Day
- 29 – Chinese New Year



Religious and Cultural Dates

- 1 – New Year's Day/Hogmanay
- 6 – Epiphany (Christian)
- 6 – Birthday of Guru Gobindh Singh (Sikh)
- 14 - Maghi (Sikh)
- 14 - 17 – Pongal (Hindu)
- 14 – Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
- 15 – Makar Sankranti (Hindu)



February 2025

Race Equality Week (5 – 11 Feb)

Race Equality Week is an annual movement observed by employers in the UK to highlight and address barriers to race equality in the workplace, run by [Race Equality Matters](#).



LGBT+ History Month

LGBT+ History Month

LGBT+ History Month is a dedicated space to celebrate and remember the rich and diverse history of LGBT+ people. Each year revolves around a chosen strand of LGBT+ history, and highlights five LGBT+ historical figures.

February 2025

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#ITSNOTOK



Awareness Days

- 1 – World Hijab Day
- 3 - 9 – Sexual Assault Awareness Week
- 3 - 9 – Race Equality Week
- 6 – Time to Talk Day
- 6 – International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 11 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13 – International Epilepsy Day
- 20 – World Day of Social Justice

Religious and Cultural Dates

- 2 – Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
- 12 - Magha Puja (Buddhist)
- 12 – 13 - Tu B'Shevat (Judaism)
- 13 -14 – Lailatul Barat (Islam)
- 15 – Parinirvana (Buddhist)
- 22 – Birthday of Guru Harrai Jayanti (Sikh)
- 25-28 – Ayyam-i-Hai - Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

March 2025



International Women's Day (8 March)

[International Women's Day](#) is marked on 8th March each year; a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, as well as an opportunity to call for gender parity. Each year, we mark the day with an event or initiative to promote women's achievements at the University.



Eid al Fitr

Eid is a celebratory festival marking the end of Ramadhan, an occasion of celebration and thanksgiving for Muslim people. The exact start and end date varies each year due to the Islamic calendar following a lunar cycle. Faith-related support is available at the University through our team of [Faith Advisers and Chaplains](#).

Neurodiversity Celebration Week (17 – 23 March)

The aim of [Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#) is to foster worldwide awareness, acceptance, equity, and inclusion of neurodiversity in schools and workplaces. The key mission is to help the world understand and value the talents of neurodiverse minds, and the University will mark the week with activity to celebrate neurodiversity.



March 2025

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Awareness Days

- 1 – International Wheelchair Day
- 3 – World Hearing Day
- 6 - 12 – LGBT+ Adoption and Fostering Week
- 8 – International Women’s Day
- 13 – University Mental Health Day
- 15 – International Day to Combat Islamophobia
- 10 -14 – University Inclusion Week
- 17 - 23 – Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- 21 – World Down Syndrome Day / International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 31 – International Transgender Day of Visibility

Religious and Cultural Dates

- 28 Feb – 19 Mar – Nineteen Day Fast (Baha’i)
- 28 Feb – 30 Mar – Ramadan
- 9 – Sunday of Orthodoxy (Orthodox Christian)
- 13 - 14 – Purim (Judaism)
- 13 – Holika (Hindu)
- 14 – Holi (Hindu)
- 14 - 16 – Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
- 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- 19 – St. Joseph’s Day
- 19 - 20 – Naw -Ruz (Baha’i New Year)
- 25 – Feast of the Annunciation
- 26 – Khordad Sal (Birth of the Prophet Zaranthusutra)
- 26 – Lailat al-Qadr (Islam)
- 30 – Ugadi New Year (Hindu)
- 30 - 31 – Eid al-Fitr (Islam)



Transgender Pride Flag



April 2025

World Autism Awareness Day (2 April)

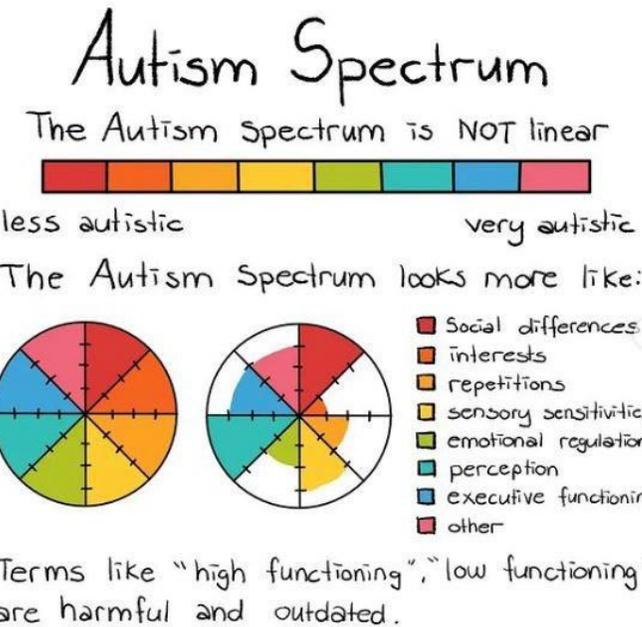
World Autism Awareness Day provides an opportunity to highlight awareness and education around autism.

Autism is considered a spectrum condition, however modern thought steers away from the idea of it as a linear condition. Many people identify more with the 'wheel' concept, which shows how experiences vary for each autistic person.



Stephen Lawrence Day (22 April)

Stephen Lawrence Day takes place every year, to commemorate Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in a racially motivated attack in 1993. It is a national moment of reflection and a call to action. Each year, the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust honours Stephen's life by inspiring individuals, schools, and communities to drive change. Stephen Lawrence Day is more than remembrance, it's a day to celebrate progress, challenge injustice, and empower young people to imagine their futures.



Autism_sketches

April 2025

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Awareness Days

- 2 – World Autism Awareness Day
- 2 – Sexual Assault Awareness Day of Action
- 6 – International Asexuality Day
- 7 – World Health Day
- 8 – International Romani Day
- 18 – World Heritage Day
- 22 – Stephen Lawrence Day
- 26 – Lesbian Visibility Day

Religious and Cultural Dates

- 6 – Ramanavami
- 10 – Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
- 12 - 13 – Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
- 13 – Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 13 – Theravada New Year (Buddhist)
- 14 – Vaisakhi (Sikh)
- 17 – Maundy Thursday
- 18 – Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Sikh)
- 20 – First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 20 – Easter Sunday (Christian)
- 23 – 24 – Yom HaShoah (Judaism)
- 25 – Feast of St Mark the Evangelist
- 28-29 – Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 30 – Akshaya Tritiya (Hindu, Jain)
- 29 -30 – Yom Hazikaron (Judaism)
- 30 – 1 May – Yom Ha -Atzmaut (Judaism)

May 2025

National Day for Staff Networks (14th May)

National Day for Staff Networks celebrates the invaluable contributions of staff networks to organisations. Networks often provide consultation on key policies as well as contribute to events coordination for key awareness and engagement days. Our Staff Networks (B.A.M.E., Disability, LGBTQI+, Neurodiversity and Women's) also provide a space for connection with colleagues, social inclusion and peer support.



Global Accessibility Awareness Day (15 May)

Global Accessibility Awareness Day takes place annually falling on 15th May this year, and is designed to get people talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion.

'Digital accessibility' refers to the ability of people to independently access and interact with digital content such as apps and websites, but particularly pertains to people with disabilities. An example of digital accessibility is the use of alt text – descriptive text accompanying an image, which is beneficial for people with visual impairments.



Global Accessibility
Awareness Day

May 2025

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Progress Pride Flag



Awareness Days

- 5 – African World Heritage Day
- 14 – National Day for Staff Networks
- 12 - 18 – Mental Health Awareness Week
- 15 – Global Accessibility Awareness Day
- 17 – International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity
- 24 – Pansexual Awareness and Visibility Day
- 30 – MS Awareness Day

Religious and Cultural Dates

- 1 – Twelfth Day of Ridvan
- 3 – Feast of Saints Philip and James (Christian)
- 9 – Ascension of Jesus Ascension of the Lord (Orthodox Christian)
- 12 – Vesak (Buddhist)
- 14 – Feast of Saint Matthias (Christian)
- 15 - 16 – Lag B’Omer (Judaism)
- 15 – Trinity Sunday (Christian)
- 22 -23 – Declaration of the Bab (Baha’i)
- 25 - 26 – Yom Yerushalayim (Judaism)
- 27 - 28 – Ascension of the Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)
- 31 – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)

June 2025

LGBTQI+ Pride Month

June marks LGBTQI+ Pride Month!

Pride is celebrated throughout June each year, marking the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots (28 June), a series of equal rights demonstrations that are considered widely to be a defining moment of the beginning of the LGBTQI+ civil rights movement. The riots were a spontaneous demonstration against police raids on the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQI+ establishment in New York.

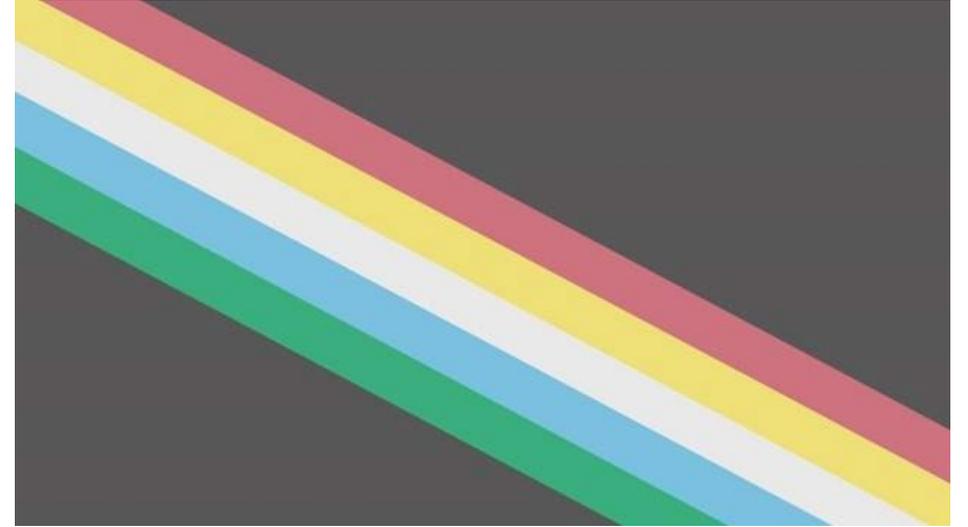
As well as celebrating what was achieved and how far the movement has come since 1969, Pride also invites us to consider what can still be done to help achieve fair treatment for all LGBTQI+ people across the world.



July 2025

Disability Pride Month

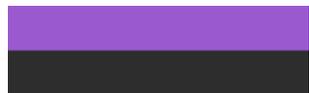
Disability Pride Month is celebrated each July to recognise the achievements and identities of people with disabilities, promoting mainstream awareness of this positive pride movement. It also serves as an opportunity for people in the disabled community to promote their own self-acceptance and empowerment, as well as their individual successes.



The Disability Pride Flag

July 2025

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Non-Binary Pride Flag



Awareness Days

- 4 – Anniversary of the first Pride Parade Outside London
- 13 – Disability Awareness Day
- 14 – International Non-Binary People’s Day
- 18 Jul – 17 Aug – South Asian Heritage Month
- 18 – Nelson Mandela International Day
- 30 – World Day against Trafficking Persons

Religious and Cultural Dates

- 5 – Birthday of Guru Hargobind (Sikh)
- 5 - 6 – Ashura (Islam)
- 8 - 9 – Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
- 10 – Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) (Buddhist)
- 22 – Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene (Christian)
- 23 – Birthday of Guru Har Krishan (Sikh)
- 25 – Saint James the Great Day (Christian)
- 25 – Saint Vladimir the Great Day (Orthodox Christian)

August 2025



South Asian Heritage Month – 18 July to 17 August

[South Asian Heritage Month](#) runs 18th July - 17th August each year, celebrating British South Asian heritage in the UK. South Asia is made up of 8 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

South Asian influences are found everywhere in Britain - such as in food, clothes and textiles, music, and yoga classes! This month aims to amplify and celebrate South Asian cultural heritage in the UK, as well as look at what it is like to be British South Asian in the present day. People of South Asian heritage are a significant part of the British population, at around 4.5 million as of 2024.

August 2025

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WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK



WORLD
HUMANITARIAN
DAY

Awareness Days

18 Jul – 17 Aug – South Asian Heritage Month

1-7- World Breastfeeding Week

9 – International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

19 – World Humanitarian Day

23 – International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

31 – International Day of People of African Descent

Religious and Cultural Dates

1 – Lammass (Christian)

6 – Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord (Christian)

Transfiguration of the Lord (Orthodox Christian)

9 – Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)

10 – Feast of Saint Lawrence (Christian)

15 – Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)

22 – Queenship of Mary (Catholic Christian)

24 – Saint Bartholomew the Apostle (Christian)

Diversity Calendar 2024-5

The University will recognise many of the awareness days and events listed with events and communications across the academic year. You can see upcoming events organised by the EDI team on our [EDI Newsletter](#), [News and Events staff webpage](#), and other regular communications on the Staff Hub. You will also receive updates on EDI activities via your school or service's [Diversity Champion](#).

If you would like to request more information, provide feedback, or suggest an event or day to be recognised, please [contact the EDI team directly](#).

