RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS AND EVENTS
CALENDAR 2018

The University is made up of a wide range of people with diverse backgrounds and circumstances, which we regard as a great asset. We strive to create an environment where everyone can reach their full potential and have a real opportunity to participate in and contribute to our activities.

This Religious Festivals & Events Planner 2018 is produced as a guide to support timetabling work scheduling and event planning to help ensure that we provide an inclusive environment which enables participation from all our students, staff and visitors. The calendar can also be used for guidance when responding to requests for flexibility on the grounds of religion or belief.

The calendar focuses on nine key faiths:

- Bahai
- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Jainism
- Judaism
- Shinto
- Sikhism

This does not mean other religions, beliefs or non-belief are not equally valued. The calendar highlights key diversity days; the main faith days observed or celebrated, awareness raising dates, public holidays and academic dates.

Sources of information used to produce the calendar include external faith bodies, diversity organisations and national faith calendars. It was produced accurately at the time of publication, but some dates may vary regionally as they are determined by the lunar calendar. Many holy days begin at sunset the day before the date shown.

For more information, or to provide feedback, please contact equality@leeds.ac.uk
LGBT Staff Network
The University of Leeds LGBT Staff Network exists to ensure that the views and concerns of LGBT staff are represented and considered at organisational level, and that their interests continue to form a part of the University’s wider equality and diversity agenda. It provides a safe, welcoming space and group for LGBT identifying staff – and colleagues, whatever their orientation, with an interest in LGBT equality to meet, socialise, and/or benefit from mutual support. Enquiries about the Network and its activities can be addressed to lgbt@leeds.ac.uk.

Monthly informal drop-ins
The LGBT Staff Network holds monthly informal drop-ins on the final Wednesday of each month. The drop-ins provide Network members (or those potentially interested in joining/finding out more) an opportunity to meet up informally, outside of its more policy-focused meetings and/or larger social events. Colleagues are welcome to bring their own lunch for the Wednesday lunch-time drop-ins, and can stay for as long or as short a time as they wish. Details of meetings are posted on our website on the Staff Networks pages at www.equality.leeds.ac.uk.

Please also refer to our external links section for a list of other LGBT organisations:
www.equality.leeds.ac.uk/for-staff/useful-links
Women at Leeds network (WaLN)

The Women at Leeds Network is open to all colleagues at the University, academic and professional. It has two key strands of focus:

- A monthly network meeting, called the First Wednesday Club, which allows members the opportunity to meet female colleagues from across the University and invited speakers to offer experiences of career journeys, advice and support;
- An e-mail network for sharing details of events and opportunities.

If you would like to join this network, email equality@leeds.ac.uk.

The actual and virtual networks are open to everyone at the University.
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**Religious**
- **1-2** Holi
- **1-20** The 19 Day Feast
- **2** Hola Mohalla
- **21** Naw-Rúz (New Year)
- **25** Rama Navami
- **25** Palm Sunday
- **25** Mahavir Jayanti
- **29** Maunday Thursday
- **30** Good Friday
- **30M-7A** Pesach (Passover)
- **31** Magha Puja Day
- **31** Hanuman Jayanti

**Awareness**
- **8** International Womens Day

**University**
- **16** Term 2 ends
- **29-3** University closed

**MARCH 2018**
Equality Policy Unit’s key priorities:

**Awareness**
Raising awareness through publicity and marketing campaigns, events, articles, plasma screen messaged, website promotion, toolkit templates and training.

**Support**
To support and advise faculties and services in their pivotal role of moving the E&I strategy and framework forward.

**Implementation**
To support the four key workstreams identified in the strategy. Each workstream will have a key group or lead through which the priorities and actions plans will be managed.
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**Religious**
- 1: Easter Sunday
- 12: Yom HaShoah
- 14: Baisakhi / Vaisakhi
- 20A-2M: Ridván (inclusive)
- 21: 1st Day of Ridván
- 29: 9th Day of Ridván
- 30: Theravadin New Year

**Awareness**
- 28: Workers’ Memorial Day

**University**
- 1-3: University closed
- 16: Term 3 starts
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Equality & Inclusion
everyone included, everyone involved

Email equality@leeds.ac.uk
Web www.equality.leeds.ac.uk
Phone 0113 343 6973
Twitter @LeedsEquality
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Religious
22-25 Eid al-Adha
26 Raksha Bandhan

Awareness
5 Pride (Leeds)

University
14-24 Exams
27-28 University closed

Exams start
Exams end

AUGUST 2018
Staff Mental Health Network
The Mental Health network provides a welcoming space for all staff with a personal interest in experiences of distress and confusion, emotional wellbeing and a commitment to improving approaches to work and mental health.

We hope to generate an increased level of acceptance and understanding of experiences of distress and confusion (and creative ways to deal with this) across all areas of the University.

We are also interested in addressing social justice and human rights issues in relation to mental health problems and work.

And we hope to ensure that the views and concerns of staff who live with mental health challenges are represented and considered at organisational level, so that these will begin to form part of the University’s wider equality and diversity agenda.

The network will use the following principles of self-organisation:

- We recognise that there is no one best way of understanding this subject.
- We hold the belief that each person has wisdom and expertise about their own experiences and what is likely to be real and or helpful for them, and that this wisdom needs to be valued and respected.
- We encourage everyone who attends to contribute to decision making about both the content of the meeting and the way it is organised.
- Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

The meetings are open to anyone and everyone and encourage debate and dialogue.
For further information visit Staff Networks pages at: www.equality.leeds.ac.uk
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**Religious**

- **2** Krishna Janmashtami
- **7-14** Paryushana
- **10-11** Rosh Hashannah
- **11-12** Islamic New Year
- **12-23** Ganesh Chaturthi
- **19** Yom Kippur
- **20-21** Ashura
- **23-30** Sukkot
- **30Sep-2Oct** Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah

**Awareness**

- **24Sep-1Oct** National Inclusion Week

**University**

- **24** Semester 1 starts
- **26** 2018-19 Session starts

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

[University of Leeds logo]
Leeds 11 Network

Why Leeds 11? This figure represents the percentage of staff who have currently declared they are from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background.

We want to provide a positive, supportive and active network for staff that brings together people who identify with a minority ethnic group. The Leeds11 network exists to provide an environment for BME staff to socialise and receive mutual support.

We have regular meetings, details of which can be found on the Staff Networks pages at www.equality.leeds.ac.uk
Please contact leeds11@leeds.ac.uk for more information.

BME Related Reading: Black Female Professors Feb 2017
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OCTOBER 2018

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
NOVEMBER 2018

Dementia Carers Staff Network

If you’ve met one person with dementia, then you’ve met one person with dementia. If you’ve met one carer, then you’ve met one carer!

The Dementia Carers Staff Network was created to support other members of University of Leeds staff who also care for a family member or relative who has dementia.

The aim of the network is:
• to share experiences,
• to help signpost to specialist support services,
• to simply meet up for a cup of tea / coffee and a chat … everyone is welcome.

If you would like further information about the network please email dementia@leeds.ac.uk or visit the Staff Networks pages at www.equality.leeds.ac.uk
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**Religious**

- **1** All Saints Day
- **2** All Souls Day
- **7** Diwali
- **12** Birth of Baha’u’llah
- **21** Mawlid an Nabi
- **23** Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday

**Awareness**

- **22N-22D** UK Disability History Month
- **23** Carers’ Rights Day

**NOVEMBER 2018**
Equality Policy Unit’s key priorities:

**Awareness**
Raising awareness through publicity and marketing campaigns, events, articles, plasma screen messaged, website promotion, toolkit templates and training.

**Support**
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**Religious**

- **2-24** Advent
- **8** Bodhi Day
- **3-10** Hanukkah/Chanukah
- **25** Christmas Day

**University**

- **14** Term 1 ends
- **24-1** University closed
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