



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

Diversity Events Calendar 2016



Diversity Events Calendar

2016

The calendar is an important resource for MMU, particularly in terms of academic planning around religious festivals and holidays. It will also help raise awareness of equality and diversity and more general wellbeing issues.

Please note some of the dates for events/religious days may be subject to change or regional and local variations. Also, some religious festivals begin at sundown of the day before. Sources including the Manchester Chaplaincy Group, SHAP and The Religious Education Council have been used for the dates.

Academic dates have not yet been set for Sept – Dec 2016, therefore the online calendar will be updated when these become available.

Use the links on the following page to find out more about the religions listed in this calendar.

Key:

Festival Dates*

Other Religious Dates, Holidays or Well Being Events

Academic Dates

* according to The Religious Education Council, SHAP and the Manchester Chaplaincy Group



Baha'i:
www.bahai.org.uk



Buddhist:
www.buddhanet.net



Chinese:
www.religionfacts.com/chinese_religion/index.htm



Christian:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity



Hindu:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism



Jain:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/jainism



Jewish:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism



Muslim:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam



Pagan:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/paganism



Rastafarian:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/rastafari



Shinto:
www.japan-guide.com/e/e2056.html



Sikh:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism

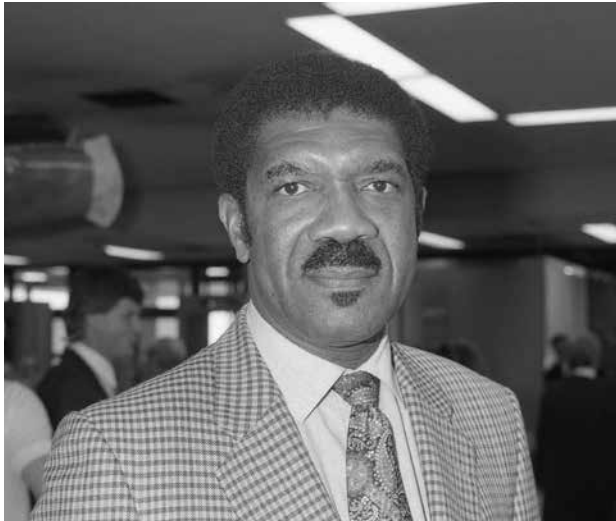


Zoroastrian:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/zoroastrian

January 2016

Diversity Role Model

Bill Morris (19 October 1938 – Present),
Former Trade Union Leader



Bill Morris, General Secretary Elect of the Transport and General Workers Union, visits the Labour party conference on October 1, 1991 in Brighton, Sussex. Image: David Fowler/Shutterstock.com

As the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union from 1992-2003, Bill Morris was the first black leader of a British trade union. After retiring in 2003, Morris chaired an inquiry into professional standards within the Metropolitan Police, and is also a patron of the Refugee Council.

Staff Equality Fora

(15-22 January)

Manchester Metropolitan University has four Staff Equality Fora: Disabled, Gender, LGBT and Race. These are all sub-committees of the Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee and meet once per term to support the University's Equality and Diversity agenda. All meetings are inclusive and open to all staff, regardless of self-identification.

Disabled Staff Forum:	Tuesday 19th January
Gender Staff Forum:	Friday 22nd January
LGBT Staff Forum:	Friday 15th January
Race Staff Forum:	Wednesday 20th January



Manchester
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Gantan-sai (Shinto)

Gantan-sai is often referred to as 'Japanese New Year'. Much like Christmas in the Western world, Gantan-sai has become a national holiday and reaches far beyond Shinto religious practices.

Traditional practices for Gantan-sai include visiting family members, praying for inner renewal, prosperity and health, and visiting religious shrines.

Tu BiShvat (Jewish)

Also known as Rosh HaShanah La'llnot (literally: 'New Year of the Trees'), Tu BiShvat celebrates the earliest blooming trees, which emerge from their winter cycles and begin producing fruit once more. The occasion is typically celebrated by eating fruit (especially figs, pomegranates, olives and dates) and planting trees.

"If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity"

John F. Kennedy (1917-63),
35th President of the USA.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1					Bank Holiday 1 New Year's Day (Western Calendar) Gantan-sai (Shinto)	2	3
Week 2	<i>World Braille Day</i> 4	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh) 5	Epiphany (Christian) 6	Christmas Day – Ethiopian (Rastafari) 7 Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)	8	9	10
Week 3	Spring Term Starts 11 <i>Seijin-no-hi</i> (Shinto)	12	<i>Maghi</i> (Sikh) 13	14	LGBT Staff Forum, 2-4pm (SB 3.03) 15 <i>Makar Sankrant/Lohri</i> – End of Winter (Hindu)	16	<i>World Religion Day</i> 17
Week 4	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th January</i> 18	Disabled Staff Forum, 2-4pm (BS 4.07B) 19	Race Staff Forum, 2-4pm (SB 3.03) 20	21	Gender Staff Forum, 12-2pm (BS 4.07A) 22	23	Tu BiShvat (Jewish) 24 Mahayana New Year (Buddhist) 24th-27th January
Week 5	25	26	<i>National Holocaust Memorial Day</i> 27	28	29	30	Birthday of Guru Har Rai (Sikh) 31

February 2016

Diversity Role Model

Alan Turing (1912-54),
Mathematician, Computer Scientist and
Code-breaker.

Alan Turing was the father of modern computing, whose work on the Enigma code at Bletchley Park is thought to have significantly shortened the Second World War.

However, Turing was also a gay man, and was chemically castrated in 1952, after being convicted of 'gross indecency'.

Turing committed suicide two years later.



LGBT History Month

LGBT History Month takes place in the UK in February each year. The theme for the 2016 celebrations is 'Religion, Belief and Philosophy'.



The National Festival of LGBT History will take place in Manchester from 26 – 28 February, and will include an academic conference.

For more information about LGBT History Month, including a full schedule of events, visit www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk

Chinese New Year

Monday 8th February 2016

According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2016 is the Year of the Monkey.

There are many superstitions and traditions associated with New Year in Chinese culture, including the belief that you should never sweep or clean your house during the festive period, as you will sweep away all your good luck!

Student Volunteering Week

22-28 February 2016

Student Volunteering Week was established in 2001; in 2015, students from 86 different institutions took part.

For information on SVW and ideas for fundraising, visit www.studentvolunteeringweek.org.uk

“Every young person — no matter who they are or what they look like or what gender they identify as — deserves to be valued and loved for who they are.”

Barack Obama,
44th US President

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 6	Imbolc (Pagan) 1	2	Setsubun (Shinto) 3	4	5	International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 6	7
Week 7	Chinese New Year – Year of the Monkey Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week 8-14 Feb 8	Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee 9	Ash Wednesday (Christian) 10	11	Vasant Panchami (Hindu) 12	13	St Valentine's Day (Christian) 14
Week 8	Parinirvana (Buddhist/Jain) 15	16	17	18	19	20	UN International Mother Language Day 21
Week 9	Volunteering Week 22nd – 28th Feb 22	Purim Katan (Jewish) 23	National Eating Disorder Awareness Week 24 Feb – 2 March 24	25	National Festival of LGBT History 26-28 Feb 26	27	28
Week 10	29						

March 2016



Diversity Role Model

**Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928),
Political Activist and Leader of the British
Suffrage Movement**

Emmeline Pankhurst (née Goulden) was born into a family of political radicals in Manchester in 1858. In 1903 she helped to found the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), and was arrested many times for her political protests. Emmeline died in 1928, shortly after women were granted equal voting rights with men.

Holi (Hindu)

Holi is a spring festival, signifying the victory of good over evil. Sometimes known as the Festival of Colours or the Festival of Love, Holi is celebrated with a carnival of colours, where participants chase one another with brightly coloured powders and water.



*Tourist with students of Jawaharlal Nehru University celebrate festival Holi on March 20, 2011 in Delhi, India.
Image: Natalia Deriabina / Shutterstock.com*



International Women's Day 2016

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March every year. The event is an opportunity to celebrate women's progress toward equality. The city's theme for 2016 is 'Women's Voices – Changing Manchester', and there will be a series of events taking place in Central Library.

For more details of the events, or to get involved, visit
<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/iwd>

Manchester Irish Festival

4-18 March 2016



Europe's biggest Irish Festival is held annually in Manchester, with events taking place at various locations across the city.

Be sure to check out the St Patrick's Day parade, which will be making its way round the centre on Sunday 13th March.

For full listings, visit:
www.manchesteririshfestival.co.uk

“Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone's responsibility.”

Ban-Ki-Moon,
Secretary General of the United Nations

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 10		St David's Day (Christian) 1	Nineteen Day Fast 2-20 Mar (Baha'i) 2	Hina-matsuri (Shinto) 3	Manchester Irish Festival 4-18 Mar 4	Magha Puja (Buddhist) 5	International Women's Day 6 Mothering Sunday
	Maha Shivrati (Hindu) 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Week 11							
	Brain Awareness Week 14-20 March 14 Clean Monday – Beginning of Lent (Christian – Orthodox)	15	16	St Patrick's Day (Christian) 17	Spring Term Ends 18	19	Spring Equinox (Pagan) 20 Naw-Ruz (Baha'i) Shubun-sai (Shinto) Palm Sunday (Christian)
Week 12							
	World Down Syndrome Day 21 World Poetry Day Jamshedi Noruz (Zoroastrian) Holy Week 21 – 26 Mar (Christian)	22	Ta'anit Esther (Jewish) 23 Holi (Hindu) Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)	Purim (Jewish) 24 Hola Mahalla (Sikh) Maundy Thursday (Christian)	Bank Holiday 25 Good Friday (Christian) Shushan Purim (Jewish)	Annunciation (Christian) 26	Easter Sunday (Christian) 27
Week 13							
	Bank Holiday 28 Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)	29	30	31			
Week 14							

April 2016

World Health Day:

7 April

World Health Day is an annual global awareness day, sponsored by the World Health Organisation, which was first celebrated in 1950.

Each year the WHO sets a specific theme for World Health Day, and this year the focus will be on diabetes, which is on track to become the 7th leading cause of death by 2030. Diabetes is treatable and, in many cases, preventable, yet it was directly responsible for approximately 1.5 million deaths in 2012.

Visit www.diabetes.org.uk for all the facts about diabetes and what help and support is available to help people manage the condition.

DIABETES UK
CARE. CONNECT. CAMPAIGN.

Diversity Role Model

Harvey Milk (1930-78),
American Politician



In 1978, Milk became the first openly gay politician to be elected into public office in California. During his 11 months in office, he was responsible for passing a stringent gay rights ordinance. Milk was assassinated in November 1978.

Harvey Milk mural by Josef Morris in San Francisco is a virtual outdoor art gallery where city walls become the artist canvas and the unremarkable become works of art.

Image: meunierd / Shutterstock.com

Ridván (Bahá'í)

21 April – 2 May

Ridván is a 12-day festival and is the most holy time in the Bahá'í faith. It is named after the Garden of Ridván, near Baghdad, where Bahá'u'lláh stayed for 12 days before commencing his journey to Constantinople.

On the first (April 21st), ninth (April 29th) and twelfth (2nd May) days of Ridván, work is prohibited.

Parkinson's Awareness Week

20-26 April 2016

Parkinson's Disease is a progressive illness which affects the nervous system, and which roughly 1 in every 500 people will develop. Parkinson's Awareness Week helps to challenge misconceptions around the condition, and seeks to make life a little easier for those affected by the disease.

www.parkinsons.org.uk

“Don't ever hear in your own head, 'Who am I to say something?' You are human, You are a person. You can 100% change the world.”

**Emma Watson (1990-present),
Actress and UN Women Goodwill
Ambassador**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 14					1	World Autism Awareness Day 2	3
Week 15	Annunciation (Christian) 4 Qing Ming Jie (Chinese)	5	6	World Health Day 7	8	Ugadi (Hindu New Year) Ramayana 8-15 April (Hindu)	10
Week 16	Summer Term starts 11	12	Vaisahki (Sikh) Maha Songkran (Thailand) 13	Race Staff Forum, 2-4pm (Br. G.17) 14	Rama Navami (Hindu) 15	16	17
Week 17	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Sikh) 18 Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain) 19 Disabled Staff Forum, 2-4pm (SB 3.06)	Parkinson's Awareness Week 20-26 April 20 Gender Staff Forum, 10am-12pm (SB 3.16)	Ridván 21 April – 2 May (Bahá'í) 21 LGBT Staff Forum, 10am-12pm (Br. 2.15)	Swaminarayan Jayanti (Hindu) 22 Theravada New Year 22-23 April (Buddhist)	Passover (Pesach) 23-30 April (Jewish) 23 St George's Day (Christian)	24
Week 18	Revision Week 25-29 May 25	26	27	28	29	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain) 30	

May 2016



Diversity Role Model

Stephen Fry (1957 - present);
Actor, Comedian, Writer, Presenter and
Activist.

Stephen Fry was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder at the age of 37, having experienced mental health problems for a number of years.

Fry, an openly gay man, campaigns to end homophobia and the stigma surrounding mental illness.

International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHoBiT)

IDAHoBiT is a worldwide celebration of sexual and gender diversities. It was first established in 2004 to draw the attention of leaders to the inequalities faced by LGBT people, and is now celebrated in over 130 countries worldwide, including 37 where same-sex acts are illegal.

IDAHoBiT is celebrated on 17th May each year, as this is the day, in 1990, when homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organisation's list of mental disorders.

Mental Health Awareness Week

11-17 May 2016

Celebrated each year between 11-17 May, Mental Health Awareness week helps to promote good mental health by initiating conversations about anxiety, sleep deprivation and mindfulness.

1 in 4 people will experience mental health problems in any given year. Resources to help manage mental health problems, can be downloaded from the Mental Health Foundation:
www.mentalhealth.org.uk



“What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, more unashamed conversation about illnesses that affect not only individuals, but their families as well.”

Glenn Close (1947 - present),
Actress

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 18/23	Bank Holiday 30	31					Beltane (Pagan) 1
Week 19	Bank Holiday 2 Examination Week 1 Twelfth day of Ridvan (Holy day) (Baha'i) Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh)	World Press Freedom Day 3	4	Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day (Jewish) 5	6	7	World Red Cross Red Crescent Day 8
Week 20	Examination Week 2 9	Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee 10	Mental Health Awareness Week 11th – 17th May 11	Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israel Independence Day (Jewish) 12	13	14	Pentecost (Christian) 15
Week 21	Examination Week 3 16	International Day Against Homophobia 17	18	19	20	21	22
Week 22	Additional Examination Week 4 23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)	24	25	Lag B'Omer (Jewish) 26 Wesak or Buddha Day (Buddhist)	27	28	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) 29

June 2016

Diversity Role Model

Stephen Hawking (1942 - present),
Theoretical Physicist, Cosmologist and
Author

Hawking is the Lucasian Professor Emeritus
of Mathematics at Cambridge University.

He was diagnosed with Motor Neurone
Disease in 1963 and was given a life
expectancy of two years.

He authored *A Brief History of Time* in 1988
and, since the 1990s, has worked to increase
the visibility and demonstrate the potential of
disabled people.



Ramadan (Muslim)

Ramadan - the ninth month of the Islamic
calendar - is the holy period of fasting to
commemorate the first revelation of the
Qu'ran to Muhammad, according to Islamic
belief.

During Ramadan, adult Muslims refrain
from eating or drinking during the period of
sunrise to sunset, and are also instructed
to refrain from sinful behaviours such as
insulting, swearing, fighting or lying.

The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, so
the month of Ramadan will begin when the
crescent of the new moon is sighted, and in
2016 is expected to begin around 6th June.

Carer's Week

6 - 12 June



Carer's Week is an
annual campaign to raise
awareness of the challenges
faced by the estimated 7
million UK carers.

For local events, helpful resources, and
suggestions as to how you can get involved,
visit www.carersweek.org

National Learning Disability Week

13 – 19 June

Learning Disability Week is a week of
national campaigning and awareness
raising to improve the living conditions and
prospects of the 1.5 million people living
with a learning disability in the UK.

For more information, visit
[www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/
learning-disability-week](http://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/learning-disability-week)

“If you want to make
beautiful music, you must
play the black and white
notes together.”

Richard M. Nixon (1913-94),
37th US President

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 23			1	2	3	4	Yom Yerushalayim – 5 Jerusalem Day (Jewish)
Week 24	Unit Assessment Boards Week 1 6 Ramadan begins (dates may vary due to Islamic Lunar Calendar) (Muslim) Carers Week 6th – 12th Jun	7	8	9	10	Shavuot 11-13 June (Jewish) 11	12
Week 25	Unit Assessment Boards Week 2 13 National Men's Health Week 13 – 19 June Learning Disability Week 13-19 June	14	15	16	17	18	Father's Day 19
Week 26	Summer Solstice – 20 (Pagan)	World Music Day 21	22	National Women in Engineering Day 23	Summer Term Ends 24	25	All Saints' Day 26 (Christian – Orthodox)
Week 27	Progression and Award Boards Results issued to students 27	28	29	30			

July 2016

Diversity Role Model

Shami Chakrabarti CBE (1969 – present),
Barrister and Director of Liberty.

Shami Chakrabarti trained as a lawyer at the London School of Economics before working as a barrister for the Home Office. In 2003, Chakrabarti took over as the director of Liberty, the civil liberties advocacy organisation, which campaigns to protect human rights through parliamentary lobbying, public campaigning, and the provision of free legal advice and information.



Image of Shami Chakrabarti – courtesy of the Southbank Centre

Engage Week

11-15 July

Previously 'Mind, Body and Spirit Week', Engage Week provides a week-long programme of diverse events and workshops at Manchester Met. All staff are invited to engage and try something new, build new skills, and become more mindful.

Sparkle,
8-10 July



Sparkle is the world's largest transgender event and takes place in Manchester each July.

The event attracts trans people and trans allies from around the world and is free to attend.

For the full schedule of events, visit:
www.sparkle.org.uk

National Transplant Week
7-14 July

Each year, around 1,300 people die while waiting for an organ transplant in the UK. National Transplant Week is an annual campaign held in September, which aims to encourage people to register as donors by educating them about the impact of donating organs and tissue.



“Once we accept our limits,
we go beyond them”.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955),
Physicist and Mathematician

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 27					Lailat al Qadr (Muslim) 1	2	3
Week 28	4	Eid-Ul-Fitr (end of Ramadan – dates can vary due to Islamic Lunar Calendar) (Muslim) 5	Ratha Yatra (Hindu) 6	National Transplant Week 7-14 July 7	Sparkle 8 – 10 July 8	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i) 9	10
Week 29	Engage Week 11-15 July 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Week 30	Award Ceremonies 18 – 22 July 18	Asalha Puja – Dharma Day (Buddhist) 19	20	21	22	Birthday of Emporer Haile Selassie (Rastafari) 23	24
Week 31	25	26	27	28	Manchester Jazz Festival, Various Venues 29 July – 7 Aug 29	30	31

August 2016

Manchester Pride (26-29 Aug)



Coronation Street float with actors: Catherine Tildsley, Samia Smith, Will Thorp at Manchester Pride annual event on the 27th of August, 2011 in Central Manchester, UK
Image Debu55y / Shutterstock.com

Manchester Pride is an annual LGBT festival, which includes live music and a candlelit vigil to commemorate those who have died of HIV and AIDs worldwide.

The annual parade is a particular highlight of the weekend, with thousands of people lining the city's streets to see the floats go by.

bigweekend.manchesterpride.com

Diversity Role Model Helen Keller (1880-1968), Author, Lecturer and Political Activist

In 1904, at the age of 24, Helen Keller became the first deafblind person in the US to graduate with a Bachelor of the Arts degree. Keller went on to become a political activist, campaigning not only for the rights of disabled people, but also for women's suffrage and the right of women to access birth control.



Ghost Festival (Yu Lan, Chinese): 17 August

Not unlike Halloween in the Western world, Chinese people believe that this date is when restless spirits roam the earth and visit their descendants.

Since many Chinese people believe that Hell is under water, it is traditional to send floating water lanterns along rivers to light up the way for the souls to return. Food is also customarily left out to feed the souls of ancestors.

Caribbean Carnival of Manchester 13-14 Aug

Manchester's first Caribbean Carnival when held in 1972, when a group of mostly Eastern Caribbean immigrants organised an impromptu carnival procession through the streets of their neighbourhood.

The carnival has since become an annual event, with music, dance, costumes and traditional Caribbean food filling the streets of Moss Side and Alexandra Park.

'Feminism has had exactly the same problem that "political correctness" has had: people keep using the phrase without really knowing what it means.'

Caitlin Moran (1975-present),
Journalist and Author

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 32	Start of Academic Year 2016/17 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 33	8	9	10	11	United Nations International Youth Day 12	13	Fast of Tish'a B'Av (Jewish) 14
Week 34	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) 15	16	Ghost Festival (Chinese) 17	18	19	20	21
Week 35	22	23	24	25	Janmashtami (Hindu) 26	Manchester Pride Festival 26 – 29 Aug 27	Manchester Pride Parade 28
Week 36	Bank Holiday Paryushan 29 Aug – 5 Sep (Jain) 29	30	31				

September 2016

Diversity Role Model

Barbara Castle (1910-2002),
British Labour politician and former Secretary of State



*Dame Barbara Castle, veteran Labour party politician and former Cabinet minister, visits a stand at the party conference on October 1, 1991 in Brighton. She died in 2002.
Image: David Fowler/Shutterstock.com*

Baroness Castle played a hugely significant role in the fight for gender equality in the UK, pushing forward the Equal Pay Act 1970 in response to striking women workers demanding to be paid the same rate as their male counterparts.

World Suicide Prevention Day: 10 September

**WORLD
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
DAY** ● ● ●

One person commits suicide approximately every 40 seconds worldwide, and for each death there are at least 20 unsuccessful attempts.

World Suicide Prevention Day aims to raise awareness of mental health problems and to provide worldwide commitment and action to preventing suicides.

Eid-al-Adha (Muslim)

Also known as the Festival of the Sacrifice, Eid-al-Adha is the greater of the two Eids celebrated annually by millions of Muslims worldwide. The festival marks the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his son, Ishmael (Ismail), in submission to God.

Muslims celebrate Eid-al-Adha by gathering together to pray, sacrificing halal domestic animals, and extending their charitable practices to ensure that no impoverished person is left without the opportunity to partake in a sacrificial meal.

Autumn Moon Festival (Chinese) (15-17 Sep)

The ancient Chinese recognised the link between the moon and the changing seasons and, therefore, the growth of crops. During the Autumn Moon Festival, sacrifices are made and offered to the moon in gratitude and as a celebration of the harvest.

The festival is still celebrated across China and is a national holiday.

“It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”

International Day of Peace: 21 September

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962),
Political Activist, Diplomat and Former First Lady

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 36				Guru Grath Sahib (Sikh) 1	2	3	4
Week 37	Garesh Charurthi (Hindu) 5	6	7	8	9	World Suicide Prevention Day Eid-al-Adha (Muslim) 10	Ethiopian New Year (Rastafari) 11
Week 38	12	13	14	Autumn Moon Festival (Chinese) 15-17 Sept 15	16	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu) 17	18
Week 39	Autumn Term starts Freshers Week 19 – 25 September 19	20	International Day of Peace 21	Autumn Equinox (Pagan) 22	Bi-Visibility Day 23	24	25
Week 40	Teaching starts European Day of Languages 26	27	28	29	30		

October 2016

Diversity Role Model

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



*A wax figure of Maya Angelou is seen on display at Madame Tussauds on December 6, 2013 in New York City.
Image: Maya Angelou JStone/Shutterstock.com*

Angelou, an acclaimed writer and poet, worked for both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., campaigning for equal rights for all American citizens, regardless of ethnic background.

She famously said that equal rights are 'like air [...] we all have it or none of us has it'.

Black History Month



Black History Month, first celebrated in 1987, is an annual celebration commemorating the value and achievements of the Black and Minority Ethnic population in the UK.

It is celebrated nationally with a series of events to mark important milestones in Black History, and to celebrate the diversity of British society.

Yom Kippur (Jewish)

Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement – is the holiest day of the year for Jewish people. It is typically marked by a period of fasting and intensive prayer, during which time Jewish people seek forgiveness for their sins.

Samhain (Halloween)

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

Samhain is believed to be the time of year when the spirits of the dead could mingle with the living.

“We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now”.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-68),
Leader of the American Civil Rights Movement

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 40/45	Halloween – All Hallow's Eve (Christian) Samhain (Hallowe'en) (Pagan) 31	Black History Month				Navaratri 1-9 Oct (Hindu) 1	Al-Hijrah – Muharram (Muslim) 2
Week 41	Rosh Hashana – Jewish New Year 3					4	Tzom Gedaliah (Jewish) 5
Week 42	World Mental Health Day 10	Ashura (Muslim) 11 Durga Puja (Hindu)	Yom Kippur (Jewish) 12	13	14	15	16
Week 43	Sukkot (Jewish) 17	18	19	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i) 20	21	22	23
Week 44	Shmini Atzeret (Jewish) 24	Simchat Torah (Jewish) 25	26	27	28	29	Diwali 30 Oct – 5 Nov (Hindu/Jain/Sikh) 30

November 2016

Diwali

30 Oct – 5 Nov



For Hindus, Jains and Sikhs, Diwali (or Deepavali) 'The Festival of Lights' signifies the end of darkness, which stands for ignorance and the beginning of knowledge symbolised by lights. Lamps are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for humankind.

Diversity Role Model

Ban Ki Moon (1944-present),
Secretary General of the United Nations



Since taking up his post as the eighth Secretary General of the UN in 2007, Ban Ki-moon has passed several major reforms on peacekeeping, and has campaigned for gender equality and the eradication of homophobia.

Movember



Since 2003, over £402 million has been raised by the Movember Foundation to fund projects related to men's health, focusing on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, men's mental health, and physical inactivity. Men can get involved in the campaign by raising funds and awareness for the Movember Foundation by growing their moustaches throughout the month of November. <https://uk.movember.com>

Transgender Day of Remembrance, 20th Nov

Transgender Day of Remembrance occurs on 20th November each year and is a day to memorialise those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. Worldwide, a trans person is murdered approximately every 29 hours. TDoR is observed in over 190 cities across the world, including Manchester, where victims of hate crimes are remembered during a candlelit vigil in Sackville Gardens.

It is time to overturn the barriers and stereotypes. Because every step to do so is a step towards gender equality and women's empowerment'.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka (3 Nov 1955 – Present),
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director of UN Women

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 43/48		All Saints' Day (Christian) 1	All Soul's Day (Christian) 2 <i>National Stress Awareness Day</i> Crowning of Haile Selassie (Rastafari)	3	4	5	Remembrance Sunday 6
Week 44	7	8	9	10	11	12	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i) 13
Week 45	Birth of the Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) 14 Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh)	15	16	17	18	19	<i>Transgender Day of Remembrance</i> 20
Week 46	21	22	23	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh) 24	<i>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</i> 25	Day of the Covenant (Bahá'í) 26	Advent begins (Christian) 27
Week 47	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Bahá'í) 28	29	30				

December 2016

International Day of Disabled People

3rd December

Over 15% of the world's population (more than one billion people) are disabled. The United Nations declared 1981 the International Year of Disabled Persons, which gave disabled people the opportunity to set up groups and campaign for legal changes. Since 1992, 3rd December has been celebrated as the International Day of Disabled People.

The IDDP promotes the inclusion of disabled people in all aspects of everyday life, with campaigns raising awareness of the existing inequalities with particular regard to access to healthcare, education, employment and transport.



Diversity Role Model

Cerrie Burnell (30 Aug 1979 – Present),
TV Presenter, Actress and Author

CBeebies Presenter and Manchester Metropolitan University graduate, Cerrie Burnell, was born with a right arm which ends just below the elbow. Burnell refused to disguise her disability while presenting, which resulted in complaints from several parents and sparked debate regarding diversity within children's entertainment. Burnell has written several children's books containing diverse characters.



Hanukkah (Jewish)

24 Dec 2016 – 1 Jan 2017

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights, which celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history.

The holiday lasts eight days, during which time one candle will be lit on the Hanukkah, or Menorah (a branched candelabrum), each night. This represents a time in 165 BC when one day's supply of oil miraculously lasted eight nights and helped a group of Jewish people defeat the Greek army.

'I am not a snowflake. I am not a sweet, infantilising symbol of fragility and life. I am a strong, fierce, flawed adult woman. I plan to remain that way, in life and in death'.

Stella Young (24 February 1982 – 6 December 2014),
Comedian, Journalist and Disability Advocate

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 48				World Aids Day 1	2	International Day of Disabled People 3	4
Week 49	5	6	7	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian)	9	Human Rights Day 10	11
Week 50	Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad) (Muslim) 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Week 51	19	20	21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24 Hannukah (Jewish) 24 Dec – 1 Jan	Christmas Day (Christian/National) 25
Week 52	Bank Holiday 26 Boxing Day	Bank Holiday 27	28	Milad un Nabi (Shia Muslim) 29	30	31	

Equality and Diversity Team

Stuart McKenna

Equality and Diversity Manager
s.mckenna@mmu.ac.uk 0161 247 3313

Mona Patel

Equality and Diversity Advisor
mona.patel@mmu.ac.uk 0161 247 3301

Sarah May

Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator
s.may@mmu.ac.uk 0161 247 3440

Lydia Lancaster

Equality and Diversity Assistant
lydia.lancaster@mmu.ac.uk 0161 247 6419

Equality and Diversity contact details:

equalities@mmu.ac.uk 0161 247 6494

For information on sacred places around Manchester go to
www.mmu.ac.uk/humanresources/equalities/pdf/sacred-spaces.pdf

This calendar is available online at
www.mmu.ac.uk/humanresources/equalities/index.php and can be
made available in other formats.

To request another format please contact us on +44 (0)161 247 6494.



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