

# Diversity Calendar 2026

together  
we are

**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**





**January 2026**

Holocaust Memorial Day  
27 January

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# January 2026

## Special dates this month

### Cervical Health Awareness Month

**World Braille Day**

4 January

**World Religion Day**

18 January

**Martin Luther King Day**

19 January

**Blue Monday**

19 January

**Festival of Learning**

19 – 30 January

**International Day of Education**

24 January

**Holocaust Memorial Day**

27 January

**Parent Mental health Day**

30 January

January						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in January

<b>1</b>	New Year's Day (BANK HOLIDAY).
<b>1</b>	Gantan-sai (Shinto) - Shinto New Year.
<b>3</b>	Mahayana New Year – Buddhist.
<b>5</b>	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh).
<b>6</b>	Epiphany (Christian).
<b>7</b>	Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian).
<b>13</b>	Maghi – Harvest Festival and commemoration of the martyrdom of 40 Sikhs who died fighting the Mughal Empire army in 1705 (Sikh).
<b>13</b>	Lohri – Harvest Festival (Sikh).
<b>16*</b>	Lailat al Miraj – Islam.
<b>23</b>	Vasant Panchami (Hindu) - Festival that welcomes spring.
<b>27</b>	Holocaust Memorial Day.
<b>31</b>	Birthday of Guru Har Rai – Sikh.



# February 2026

GM Hate Crime Awareness Week  
2-6 February



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# February 2026

## LGBTQ+ History Month

World Hijab Day  
1 February

World Interfaith Harmony Week  
1–7 February

GM Hate Crime Awareness Week  
2-6 February

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence  
Awareness Week  
2-8 February

Race Equality Week  
5-11 February

Day of Zero Tolerance for  
Female Genital Mutilation  
6 February

National Apprenticeship Week  
9-15 February

World Day of Social Justice  
20 February

International Mother Language Day (UNESCO)  
21 February

Stand Up to Bullying Day  
27 February

February						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

### Ramadan

People may want to rearrange their working day to accommodate the timing of the fast.

## Faith/Cultural Days in February

2*	Tu B'Shevat (Jewish) - The Jewish New Year for trees.
3	Rissun (Setsubun) (Shinto) - Spring festival marking the end of Winter and beginning of Spring.
3*	Lailat al Bara'a (Islam) - The Night of Forgiveness.
15	Nirvana day (Buddhist) - Festival marking the anniversary of Buddha's death.
15	Shivaratri (Hindu) - Day and night fast in honour of Lord Shiva.
17	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist).
18*	Ramadan (start) (Muslim) - Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting (ends 18 March).
18	Ash Wednesday (Christian) - The first day of Lent.



**March 2026**

International Women's Day  
8th March

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# March 2026

**Women's History Month**

**Gender Equality Month**

**Bisexual Awareness Month**

**World Hearing Day**  
3 March

**International Women's Day**  
8 March

**Neurodiversity Celebration Week**  
16-22 March

**Down Syndrome Awareness Week**  
16-22 March

**Global Recycling Day**  
18 March

**World Down Syndrome Day**  
21 March

**Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day**  
21 March

**Remembrance Day for the Victims of  
Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade**  
25 March

**Transgender Day of Visibility**  
31 March

March						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in March

<b>1</b>	Nineteen Day Fast (start) (Bahai). No food or drink from sunrise to sunset.
<b>3</b>	Magha Puja (Buddhist).
<b>3*</b>	Purim (Jewish) – Festival of Lots - Commemorates when Jewish people were saved by Esther.
<b>3*</b>	Ta'anit Esther (Jewish): Fast of Esther. Fast day.
<b>4</b>	Holi (Hindu) - Spring Festival Hola Mohalla (Sikh).
<b>16*</b>	Laylat al Qadr (Muslim) - The holiest night in the Islamic calendar.
<b>19</b>	Bali/Ugadi - Hindu New Year.
<b>20*</b>	Eid-ul-Fitr (Muslim) - End of Ramadan. Muslims celebrate the end of fasting.
<b>21*</b>	Naw-Ruz (Bahai, Zoroastrian) - New Year.
<b>26</b>	Khordad Sal - Birthday of Zoroaster.
<b>26</b>	Rama Navami (Hindu) - Hindus celebrate the birth of Lord Rama.
<b>29</b>	Palm Sunday - Beginning of Holy Week.
<b>31</b>	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain) - The most important religious holiday for Jains.



**April 2026**

National Earth Day

22 April

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# April 2026

## Autism Acceptance Month

## Stress Awareness Month

**Autism Acceptance Day**  
2 April

**World Book Day**  
2 April

**World Health Day**  
7 April

**International Romani day**  
8 April

**International Day for  
Spirituality and Service**  
16 April

**Lesbian Visibility Week**  
20–26 April

**Stephen Lawrence Day**  
22 April

**National Earth Day**  
22 April

**Day for Health and Safety at Work**  
28 April

April						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

### Passover

Working is not permitted on the first 2 days nor the final 2 days of Passover

## Faith/Cultural Days in April

<b>1*</b>	Ta'anit Bechorot (Jewish): Fast of the Firstborn. Fast day.
<b>2*</b>	Passover (1st day) (Jewish). Ends 9 April. No work permitted 2/3 - 8/9 April.
<b>3</b>	Good Friday (BANK HOLIDAY)
<b>5</b>	Easter Sunday (Christian) - Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.
<b>6</b>	Easter Monday (BANK HOLIDAY).
<b>7</b>	Birthday Guru Tegh Bahadur – Sikh.
<b>9</b>	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Sikh).
<b>13</b>	Theravada (Buddhist) New Year.
<b>14</b>	Vaisakhi – Sikh New Year.
<b>14</b>	Bengali New Year (Pôhela Boishakh).
<b>18</b>	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Sikh).
<b>19</b>	Akshaya Tritiya (Hindus and Jains) - Spring time festival.
<b>21*</b>	Ridvan - first day (Bahai) (ends 2 May).
<b>29*</b>	Ridvan - ninth Day (Bahai).
<b>30</b>	Birthday of Guru Amar Das (Sikh).



**May 2026**

National Day for Staff Networks  
13th May



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# May 2026

#WeStandTogether Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

International Workers' Day  
1 May

Maternal Mental Health Week  
4–10 May

Deaf Awareness Week  
4-10 May

Mental Health Awareness Week  
11-17 May

National Day for Staff Networks (UK)  
14 May

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

Learning at Work Week (UK)  
18 – 24 May

Accessibility Awareness Day  
21 May

May						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in May

<b>1</b>	Vesak (Buddha day) (Buddhist) - The most important Buddhist festival.
<b>2</b>	Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh).
<b>2*</b>	Ridvan – Twelfth Day (Bahai).
<b>4</b>	Early May BANK HOLIDAY.
<b>5*</b>	Lag B'Omer (Jewish) – known for bonfires and celebrations.
<b>14</b>	Ascension Day (Christian) – marks the last earthly appearance of Christ.
<b>22*</b>	Shavuot (Jewish). Day that the first harvest was taken to the Temple. No work permitted 22 – 23 May.
<b>24*</b>	Declaration of the Bab (Bahai) - Bab was the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith.
<b>24</b>	Pentecost - Whitsun (Christian) – The birth of the Christian Church.
<b>25</b>	Spring BANK HOLIDAY.
<b>27*</b>	Eid-UI-Adha (Islam) - Festival of Sacrifice, the most important day in the Hajj ritual.
<b>29*</b>	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Bahai).



**BEE NETWORK**

**June 2026**

Pride Month

**GMCA** GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY



**GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**



Transport for Greater Manchester

# June 2026

**LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

**Gypsy, Roma & Travellers**

**History Month**

**Volunteers Week**

1-7 June

**Carers Week**

8-14 June

**Race Unity Day**

14 June

**Refugee Week**

15-21 June

**Learning Disabilities Week**

15-21 June

**International Day of  
Countering Hate Speech**

18 June

**World Refugee Day**

20 June

**Windrush Day**

22 June

June						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in June

<b>4*</b>	Eid al-Ghadir (Islam) - Shi'a festival celebrating the appointment of Ali ibn Abi Talib, as the Prophet's successor.
<b>16</b>	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh) - fifth Sikh Guru and first Sikh martyr.
<b>16*</b>	Al-Hjira - Muharram (Islam) - New Year. Marks the migration of the Prophet from Mecca to Medina.
<b>21</b>	Summer Solstice - Litha (Pagan) - Longest day of the year.
<b>26*</b>	Ashura (Islam) - Marks the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussein.
<b>29</b>	St Peter and St Paul's Day (Christian) - The martyrdoms of both are observed on this day.



# South Asian **HERITAGE** Month

**July 2026**

South Asian  
Heritage Month

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# July 2026

## South Asian Heritage Month

**World Population Day**  
11 July

**Non-Binary People's Day**  
14 July

**Disability Awareness Day**  
14 July

**World Youth Skills Day**  
15 July

**Nelson Mandela Day**  
18 July

**International Friendship Day**  
30 July

**World Youth Day**  
30 July

**World Day against Human Trafficking**  
30 July

July						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in July

<b>2*</b>	Shivah Asar b'Tammuz (Jewish): Fast of 17 Tammuz: Fast Day.
<b>5</b>	Birthday Guru Hargobind Singh (Sikh).
<b>10</b>	Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahai) - Anniversary of the Bab's execution in 1850 in Tabriz, Iran.
<b>23*</b>	Tisha b'Av (Jewish) Fast of 9 Av - A solemn day that commemorates a series of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people over the years. Fast day.
<b>23</b>	Birthday of Guru Har Krishan Singh (Sikh).
<b>23</b>	Birthday of Haile Selassie I (Rastafari) - Emperor of Ethiopia.
<b>29</b>	Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) (Buddhist) -The anniversary of the start of Buddha's teaching - his first sermon, "The Wheel of Truth", after his enlightenment.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

# Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief



**August 2026**

Day commemorating the victims of acts  
of violence based on religion or belief

22 August



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# August 2026

**International Day of the World's  
Indigenous Peoples**

9 August

**International Youth Day**

12 August

**World Humanitarian Day**

19 August

**International day commemorating  
the victims of acts of violence based  
on religion or belief**

22 August

**International Day for the  
Remembrance of the Slave Trade  
and its Abolition**

23 August

**Women's Equality Day**

26 August

**Manchester Pride Event**

28-31 August

**International Day for People  
of African Descent**

31 August

August						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in August

<b>13</b>	Obon - Ullambana (Buddhist, Shinto) – “Ghost Festival,” during which people celebrate their dead loved ones.
<b>15</b>	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) - A Roman Catholic festival celebrating their belief that Mary, was taken body and soul into heaven.
<b>25*</b>	Milad un Nabi (Sunni Muslim) - Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>28</b>	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu) - celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters.
<b>31</b>	Summer BANK HOLIDAY.



# September 2026

Bi Visibility Day  
23 September

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# September 2026

## East and South Asian Heritage Month

**World Sexual Health Day**  
4 September

**Suicide Prevention Day**  
10 September

**National Inclusion Week**  
14-20 September

**International Equal Pay Day**  
18 September

**World Alzheimer's Day**  
21 September

**International Day of Peace**  
21 September

**Bi Visibility Day**  
23 September

**World Day of Sign Languages**  
23 September

September						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

### Rosh Hashanah

Work is not permitted on the two days of Rosh Hashanah

### Yom Kippur

Work is not permitted

### Sukkot

Work is not permitted on first and last two days

## Faith/Cultural Days in September

<b>1</b>	Installation of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh) the central holy religious script of Sikhism.
<b>4</b>	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu) – Celebration of the birth of Krishna.
<b>8</b>	Paryushan – (Jain) The most important festival of the year (ends 15 Sep).
<b>8</b>	Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) - Roman Catholic and Anglican churches celebrate the birth of Mary, mother of Jesus.
<b>12*</b>	Rosh Hashanah (1st day) (Jewish) - Jewish New Year (ends 13 September). No work permitted 12 – 13 Sep.
<b>14*</b>	Tzom Gedaliah (Jewish): Fast of Gedaliah. Fast day.
<b>14</b>	Ganesh Chaturthi - Hindus celebrates the birth of Ganesh.
<b>21*</b>	Yom Kippur (Jewish) - Day of Atonement - the most solemn day of the Jewish year. Fast day. No work permitted 21 – 22 Sep.
<b>26*</b>	Sukkot (Jewish) - commemorates the years Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land (ends 2 Oct). No work permitted 26 – 27 Sep.



# BIM

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

October 2026

Black History Month



Transport for Greater Manchester

# October 2026

**Black History Month**

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

**ADHD Awareness Month**

**International Day of Older People**

**1 October**

**Day of Non-Violence**

**2 October**

**World Mental Health Day**

**10 October**

**National Coming Out Day**

**11 October**

**Show Racism the Red Card's wear red day**

**16 October**

**Anti-Slavery Day**

**18 October**

**World Menopause Day**

**18 October**

**ACE Week**

**25 - 31 October**

October						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in October

<b>3*</b>	Shmini Atzeret (Jewish) Eighth Day of Assembly - Rejoicing with the Torah. Work Not Permitted.
<b>4*</b>	Simchat Torah (Jewish) Rejoicing with the Torah: Work Not Permitted.
<b>9</b>	Birthday of Guru Ramdas (Sikh) - The fourth of the Sikh Gurus.
<b>11</b>	Navaratri (start) (Hindu) - Navaratri symbolises the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of autumn (ends 19 October).
<b>20</b>	Dasara (Hindu) - Celebrates Lord Rama's victory over the evil Ravana.
<b>22</b>	Birth of the Bab (Bahai) - Celebrates the birth of the precursor of the founder of the Baha'i faith.



# November 2026

Remembrance Day  
11 November



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# November 2026

Islamophobia Awareness Month

Disability History Month

Men's Health Awareness Month

Intersex Day of Solidarity

8 November

Inter-Faith Week

8-15 November

Anti-Bullying Week

9-15 November

Remembrance Day

Honouring Inclusive Histories

11 November

Transgender Awareness week

13-19 November

International Men's Day

19 November

Transgender Day of Remembrance

20 November

Elimination of Violence against Women Day (White Ribbon Day)

25 November

November						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in November

<b>2</b>	Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I (Rastafari) - Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia.
<b>8</b>	Diwali (Hindu, Sikh, Jainism) - the festival of lights.
<b>10*</b>	Birth of the Báb, predecessor of Baha'u'llah (Bahai).
<b>11*</b>	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bahai) - This day celebrates the birth in 1817 of the founder of the Baha'i faith.
<b>24</b>	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh) - Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru.
<b>24</b>	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Sahib (Sikh) - Founder of the Sikh religion.
<b>29</b>	Advent Sunday (Christian) - The beginning of the ecclesiastical year.

*“Sharing the Light”*



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

*Happy Hannukah  
Chag Sameach*



**December 2026**

Chanukah  
4 - 11 December

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Transport for  
Greater Manchester

# December 2026

## Special dates this month

**World AIDS Day**  
1 December

**International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**  
2 December

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities**  
3 December

**Pansexual Pride Day**  
8 December

**Human Rights Day**  
10 December

**International Migrants Day**  
18 December

**International Human Solidarity Day**  
20 December

December						
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

\* Begins at sunset on previous day

## Faith/Cultural Days in December

5*	Chanukah (Jewish) - Festival of Dedication. 1st Night: Friday 4 December. 8th Night: Fri 11 December.
8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) - Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.
8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic) - Celebrated by Roman Catholics who remember Mary's conception as being without sin.
20*	Fast of 10 Tevet (Jewish) Fast day.
25	Christmas Day (Christian). Birth of Jesus Christ. BANK HOLIDAY.
26	Zarathosht Diso - Zoroastrians remember the death of their prophet, Zoroaster.
28	BANK HOLIDAY (Boxing Day).



Equality and Diversity UK  
[www.equalityanddiversity.co.uk](http://www.equalityanddiversity.co.uk)

**Equality and Diversity UK are a specialist training company focusing on equality and diversity in the private, public and voluntary sectors.**

**We provide training courses, seminars, resources and the Equality and Diversity Network**

**Telephone: 0161 763 4783**

**Email: [info@equalityanddiversity.co.uk](mailto:info@equalityanddiversity.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.equalityanddiversity.co.uk](http://www.equalityanddiversity.co.uk)**