

# Diversity & Inclusion Calendar

Please note that while we strive to accommodate various important dates in this calendar, it may not be possible to include all of them.

If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to [diversity@wur.nl](mailto:diversity@wur.nl).

[wur.eu/inclusion](http://wur.eu/inclusion)






**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Annual Calendar  
**2026**

# Diversity & Inclusion Calendar 2026

1	New Year's Day 🇺🇸	1	Zero Discrimination Day	1	Pesach/Passover (until 9 April)	1	Visakha Puja	1
2		2	Purim (until 3 March)	2	World Autism Awareness Day	2		2
3		3		3	Good Friday 🇺🇸	3		3
4	World Braille Day	4	Holi Phagwa	4		4	Remembrance Day	4
5		5		5	Easter 🇺🇸	5	Liberation Day 🇺🇸	5
6	Epiphany	6		6	Easter Monday 🇺🇸   International Asexuality Day	6		6
7	Orthodox Christmas	7		7		7		7
8		8	International Women's Day	8		8		8
9		9		9		9		9
10		10		10		10	Mother's Day	10
11		11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	11		11		11
12		12		12		12		12
13		13		13		13		13
14		14	Carnaval (until 17 February)	14		14	Ascension Day 🇺🇸	14
15		15	Maha Shivaratri (until 16 February)	15		15		15
16		16	Lunar New Year	16		16	The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia	16
17		17	Ramadan (until 19 March)	17		17		17
18		18	Ash Wednesday	18		18		18
19	World Religion Day	19	Navrati (until 27 March)   Eid-al-Fitr (until 20 March)	19	National Anti-Bullying Day	19		19
20		20	Nowruz	20		20		20
21		21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	21		21	Global Accessibility Awareness Day   World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development   Shavuot (until 23 May)	21
22		22		22		22		22
23		23		23		23		23
24		24		27		24	Pentecost Monday 🇺🇸	24
25		25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	25		25	Whit Monday 🇺🇸   Eid-al-Adha (until 28 May)	25
26		26		26	Lesbian Visibility Day	26		26
27	Holocaust Remembrance Day	27		27	Kings Day 🇺🇸	27		27
28		28		28		28		28
29		29		29		29		29
30		30		30		30		30
31		31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	31		31		31

# Diversity & Inclusion Calendar 2026

1	Keti Koti 				1	All Saint's Day	1	World AIDS Day	
2					2	All Soul's Day	2	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	
3				3	Simchat Torah (until 4 October)	3		Chanukah (until 12 December)	
4				4		4		Saint Nicholas (Sinterklaas)	
5				5		5			
6				6	Diversity Day	6			
7				7		7			
8		8	The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	8		8	Diwali	8	Bodhi Day
9		9		9		9			
10		10	Chung Yuan	10		10	World Mental Health Day	10	
11		11		11	Rosh Hashanah (until 13 September)	11		11	Purple Friday
12		12		12		12		12	
13		13		13		13		13	
14	International Non-Binary People's Day	14		14		14		14	
15		15	National Remembrance Day	15		15		15	
16		16		16		16		16	
17		17		17		17	International Students Day	17	
18		18		18		18		18	International Migrants Day
19		19		19		19	International Men's Day	19	
20		20		20	Yom Kippur (until 21 October)	20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	20	
21		21		21		21		21	
22		22	The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	22		22		22	
23		23		23	International day of sign languages   Bi Visibility Day	23		23	
24		24		24		24	Equal Pay Day	24	
25		25	Mawlid an-Nabi (until 26 August)	25	Sukkot (until 2 October)	25	Orange the World	25	Christmas Day 
26		26		26		26		26	Second day of Christmas 
27		27		27		27		27	
28		28	Raksha Bandhan	28		28		28	
29		29		29		29		29	
30		30		30		30		30	
31		31		31		31		31	New Year's Eve



# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	5			8	9	10
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# January

1

## New Year's Day

In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Day is the first day of the calendar year, 1 January. Most solar calendars (like the Gregorian and Julian) begin the year regularly at or near the northern winter solstice, while cultures and religions that observe a lunisolar or lunar calendar celebrate their Lunar New Year at less fixed points relative to the solar year.

4

## World Braille Day

World Braille Day falls on January 4th, coinciding with the birthday of Louis Braille, who was born on January 4, 1809. It is a day to celebrate his life and the transformative impact of the Braille system on the lives of people who have visual impairments.

6

## Epiphany

It is the day that marks the revelation of Jesus Christ as divine. It is also known as the Three kings or the Wise Men. In some countries, it is celebrated with parades, processions, special food and gifts.

7

## Orthodox Christmas

Christmas Eve is on January 6, followed by the Divine Liturgy on January 7. The Christmas celebrations include prayers to honour the Nativity of Christ.

27

## Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Memorial Day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust.

19

## World Religion Day

This day to promote understanding and respect among religions has been celebrated on the third Sunday since 1950.



# February

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# February

- 15** **Maha Shivaratri (until 16 February)**  
Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism.
- 15** **Carnaval (until 17 February)**  
Carnival in the Netherlands is mostly celebrated in traditionally Catholic regions, particularly in the southern provinces of North Brabant and Limburg, but also in Overijssel, especially in Twente. While Dutch Carnaval is officially celebrated on the Sunday through Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday, since the 1970s the feast has gradually started earlier and generally includes now the preceding weekend. Carnaval, rooted in Catholic tradition, is celebrated in several countries on the same dates.

- 17** **Lunar New Year**  
Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist Spring Festival, or the Lunar New Year, celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. Families gather to spend the evening preparing boiled dumplings and festive meals and giving money to children in red envelopes.
- 17** **Ramadan (19 March)**  
Islam - Muslim Month of Fasting. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset with the last ten days reserved for possible all-night prayer vigils.
- 18** **Ash Wednesday**  
Christian - Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. The first day of Lent, is the period of 40 days before Easter in which many Christians sacrifice ordinary pleasures.

- 20** **World Day of Social Justice**  
World Day of Social Justice is an international day recognising the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protection. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).
- 21** **International Mother Language Day**  
International Mother Language Day is annually on February 21. The first observance was organised by UNESCO as a celebration of linguistic and cultural diversity: International Mother Language Day | United Nations

11

## International Day of Women and Girls in Science

To achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the United Nations General Assembly declared 11 February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in 2015. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).



# March

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# March

- 1** **Zero Discrimination Day**  
Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination. For more information, please visit [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org).
- 2** **Purim (until 3 March)**  
Purim commemorates the time when the Jews were living in Persia and were saved by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther. Purim begins on the evening of Tuesday, March 13 and ends on Wednesday, March 14.
- 4** **Holi Phagwa**  
Hinduist - Also known as the "Festival of Colours," this holiday can be traced to Hindu scriptures commemorating good over evil. This date is also a celebration of the colourful spring and a farewell to the dull winter.
- 19** **Navrati (until 27 March)**  
Navratri is the symbolic celebration of nine nights of battle of the good against the evil with the result of victory of the good on the tenth day. During this period, Mother Durga is worshipped as the deity of power, energy and wisdom.
- 19** **Eid-al-Fitr (until 20 March)**  
End of Muslim Month of Fasting (Ramadan). Eid al-Fitr means "break the fast" and is the last day of Ramadan, marking the end of a month of fasting. The phrase commonly used by Muslims to wish someone a happy Eid is "Eid Mubarak," which translates to "Blessed Eid" in Arabic.
- 20** **Nowruz**  
Persian Spring Festival Nowruz is the Iranian or Persian New Year celebrated by various ethnic groups worldwide that started as a Zoroastrian celebration. It is a festival based on the Iranian Solar Hijri calendar, on the spring equinox on or around 21 March on the Gregorian calendar.
- 21** **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
On this day in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the UN General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

- 25** **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**  
Every year on 25 March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the slavery system. The International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

- 31** **International Transgender Day of Visibility**  
International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring on March 31 dedicated to celebrating transgender and non-binary people and raising awareness of discrimination faced worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.



8

**International Women's Day**  
A global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. For more information, please visit [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com).

# April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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# April

1

## Pesach/Passover (until 9 April )

Jewish - Pesach is a week-long observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II.

3

## Good Friday

Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

5

## Easter

Christian — Roman Catholic and Protestant. Easter Sunday. Most important of the Christian celebrations. Celebrates Jesus' resurrection from Crucifixion. The date of Easter Sunday is determined by the Gregorian calendar.

6

## Easter Monday

Public holiday in the Netherlands. No work, no study.

6

## International Asexuality Day

International Asexuality Day (IAD) is a worldwide campaign to promote understanding of asexual people and recognise their experiences. The four focus themes are celebration, advocacy, education and solidarity.

19

## National Anti-Bullying Day

In the Netherlands, this day aims to tackle bullying and raise awareness about bullying. Different organizations join to promote anti-bullying strategies and create safe spaces.

26

## Lesbian Visibility Day

Lesbian Visibility Day (LVD) occurs every year on April 26, created to celebrate, recognise, and bring visibility to lesbian-identified members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

27

## Kings Day

Celebration of the Dutch King's birthday. This is a public holiday in the Netherlands.



2

## World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognised day on 2 April to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

# May



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31						

# May

- 1** **Visakha Puja**  
This Buddhist is a holiday to celebrate the birthday of Buddha. It is an important Buddhist celebration, commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha. It is on the full moon day of the month of Visakha in the lunar calendar.
- 4** **Remembrance Day**  
"Dodenherdenking" in Dutch. It is the day to commemorate the soldiers and citizens who died during World War II. Remembrance Day is honored by holding two minutes of silence from 8:00pm to 8:02pm.
- 5** **Liberation Day in the Netherlands**  
Public holiday in the Netherlands to celebrate the end of occupation by Nazi Germany during World War II.
- 10** **Mother's Day**  
Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in March or May.
- 14** **Ascension Day**  
Christian - The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, also called Ascension Day, Ascension Thursday, or sometimes Holy Thursday, commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven.
- 21** **Global Accessibility Awareness Day**  
Global Accessibility Awareness Day is an awareness day focusing on digital access and inclusion for more than one billion people with disabilities and impairments. For more information, please visit [globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org](http://globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org).
- 21** **Shavuot (until 23 May)**  
Jewish commemorate receipt of the Torah on Mount Sinai (two of three pilgrimage festivals).
- 21** **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**  
This day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and the essential role of intercultural dialogue in achieving peace and sustainable development. For more information, please visit [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org).

17

**The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia**  
This day aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBTQIA+ rights work worldwide.



- 24** **Pentecost**  
Christian - Whitsun is the name used in Britain, and throughout the world among Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists, for the Christian High Holy Day of Pentecost. It is the seventh Sunday after Easter, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples.
- 25** **Whit Monday**  
Public holiday in the Netherlands because of Whit Monday.

- 25** **Eid-al-Adha (until 28 May)**  
It is one of the two major Islamic holidays. It is on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic calendar, and marks the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. It also highlights the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, called Hajj. Prayers are held at the mosque followed by an evening feast.

# June

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# June

- 20** **World Refugee Day**  
World Refugee Day raise awareness of the plight of refugees around the world and of the efforts to protect their human rights. Students and teaching staff could consider organising events or lectures to address this day. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).
- 21** **Father's Day**  
This day aims to honour the role of paternal figures in society. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the variety of ways fatherhood and paternal care are experienced across cultures, identities, and family structures. It is celebrated on different dates in some countries.
- 25** **Ashura (until 26 June)**  
Ashura means the 10th day and marks the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic lunar calendar. The observance begins at sunset on Friday, July 4th for Muslims following traditional customs. This day holds different significance for Sunni and Shia Muslims.
- 27** **Pink Saturday**  
Annual event in the Netherlands to celebrate LGBTQ+ pride and diversity. It is one of the largest pride festivals in the country. In 2026 the host location will be Noordwijk, the host location changes every year.



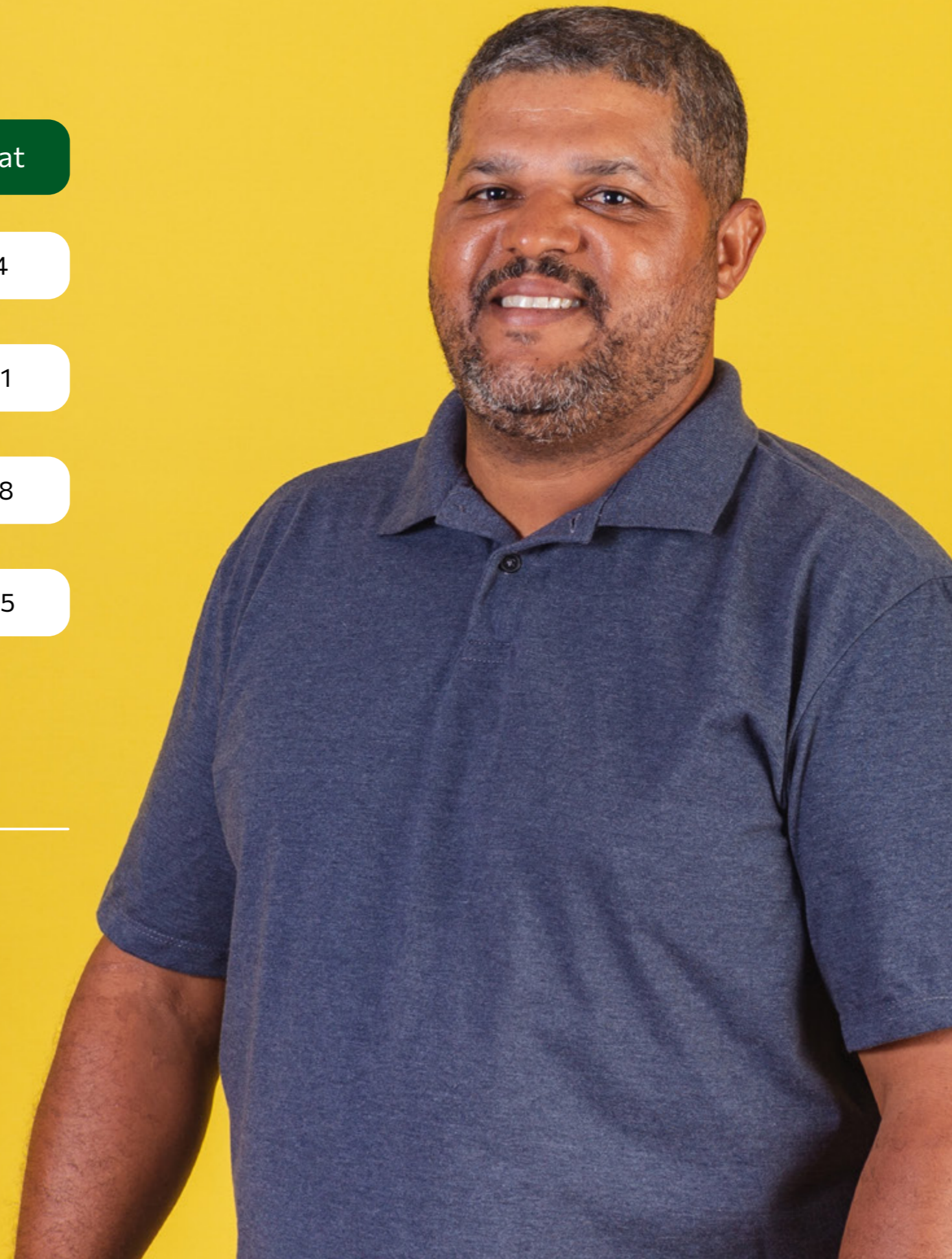
16

## Neurodiversity Pride Day

On this date, people celebrate the neurodivergent uniqueness and the value of neurodiversity in society. It is a day to appreciate all who are neurologically distinct. Celebrated worldwide, it's a day created by and for neurodivergents and those who love us.

# July

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# July

14

## International Non-Binary People's Day

International Non-Binary People's Day is on 14 July and is aimed at raising awareness about the issues faced by non-binary people around the world. The day was first celebrated in 2012.



1

## Keti Koti

Keti Koti or *Dag der Vrijheden* is an annual celebration on 1 July that marks Emancipation Day in Suriname. Ketikoti marks the date when slavery was abolished in Suriname in 1863.

# August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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30	31					

# August

- 10** **Chung Yuan**  
Chung Yuan is a traditional Chinese festival. The festival is rooted in Buddhist and Taoist traditions. It is a time for reflection on family heritage and respect.
- 15** **National Remembrance Day**  
The official end of the Second World War in the Kingdom of the Netherlands is commemorated. On this day all victims of the war against Japan and the Japanese occupation of the former Dutch East Indies are commemorated.
- 23** **The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**  
This day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. It was first celebrated in other countries such as Haiti where on the night of 22 to 23 August 1791 the beginning of the uprising that would play a key role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade took place. For more information, please visit: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org).
- 25** **Mawlid an-Nabi (until 26 August)**  
Mawlid is a time for Muslims to remember and celebrate the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad.
- 28** **Raksha Bandhan**  
Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival that celebrates the bond between a brother and a sister. Traditionally, the sister ties a sacred thread on the wrist of the brother. The brother gives his sister presents and takes an oath to protect her and keep her out of harm's way at all times. The ritual is then followed by giving each other homemade sweets.



9

## International Indigenous Day

This day aims to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population with particular attention to environmental protection. The United Nations established this day in 1994 to raise awareness and promote the rights of Indigenous communities globally. The date commemorates the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982.

# September

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27	28	29	30			



# September

## 11 Rosh Hashanah (until 13 September)

Rosh Hashanah, literally “Head of the Year” in Hebrew, is the beginning of the Jewish new year. It is the first of the High Holidays or “Days of Awe,” ending ten days later with Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some adherents to Judaism only focus on the first day of the holiday and others focus on both days.

## 20 Yom Kippur (until 21 October)

In 2026, Yom Kippur will begin at sunset on 20 September and end at nightfall on 21 September. Yom Kippur is often considered the holiest day of the year for Jews, and the day is dedicated to atonement and abstinence.

## 23 Bi Visibility Day

This day is dedicated to raising awareness about bisexuality, its history, and the culture of the bisexual community. It aims to combat the marginalization of bisexual people.

## 25 Sukkot (until 2 October)

Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur. The celebration begins with the building of Sukkah for sleep and meals. Sukkot is named for the huts Moses and the Israelites lived in as they wandered the desert before reaching the promised land.



23

## International Day of Sign Languages

This day was established by the United Nations to promote awareness of sign languages as a vital part of human rights.



# October

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# October

- 3** Simchat Torah (until 4 October)  
Simchat Torah marks the completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of the new cycle.
- 10** World Mental Health Day  
World Mental Health Day is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.



6

## Diversity Day

Diversity Day in the Netherlands is celebrated on this date that focuses on the importance of inclusion and diversity. The aim is to encourage everyone to appreciate differences and to embrace and use everyone's unique talents under the motto "Difference Enriches". For more information, please visit [diversityday.nl](https://diversityday.nl).

# November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30					



# November

1

## All Saint's Day

All Saints' Day is a Christian holiday dedicated to honouring all the saints particularly in Catholic, Orthodox, and some Protestant traditions. It is also dedicated to honouring children and infants who have passed. In Mexico, the indigenous traditions before the colonization that commemorated the dead were combined with the Catholic traditions brought by the Spanish to celebrate Dia de Muertos until 2 November.

2

## All Soul's Day

All Soul's Day is a Christian holiday dedicated to remembering and praying for the souls of the faithful departed.

8

## Diwali

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions. It symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance".

19

## International Men's Day

International Men's Day celebrates worldwide the positive value men bring to society, highlighting positive role models and raising awareness of men's well-being. For more information, please visit [internationalmensday.com](http://internationalmensday.com).

20

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

Annual observance day that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. It started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor the memory of Rita Hester.

24

## Equal Pay Day

In the Netherlands, women still earn 12% less per hour than men, this is called: the wage gap. This is the difference between the average hourly wage of all working women and all working men in the Netherlands. Equal Pay Day emphasises the need to continue to pay attention to the wage gap in the Netherlands. For more information, please visit [www.womeninc.nl](http://www.womeninc.nl).

25

## Orange the World

On this date, the campaign "Orange the World" starts. It aims to raise awareness and take action to stop violence against women and girls. The campaign takes place every year from 25 November to 10 December. For more information, please visit [www.orangetheworld.nl](http://www.orangetheworld.nl).



17

## International Students Day

17 November was chosen to be International Students' Day due to the events that unfolded in Prague during World War II. Nine students were executed without trial in concentration camps on 17 November 1939. Nowadays, November 17 marks a celebration of the multiculturalism of international students.



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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# December

- 1** **World AIDS day**  
World AIDS Day is a global movement to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS.
- 4** **Chanukah (until 12 December)**  
Chanukah is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and the subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE. In modern Hebrew, Chanukah may also be called the Festival of Lights.
- 5** **Sinterklaas**  
The celebration of *Sinterklaas* takes place on 5 December. It is often celebrated with gifts in creative ways or given with poems.
- 8** **Bodhi Day**  
Bodhi Day is an important event in the Buddhist religious calendar. It marks the day that Siddhartha Gautama reached enlightenment after meditating under a Bodhi tree for 49 days. After he reached enlightenment he became known as the Buddha.
- 11** **Purple Friday**  
Purple Friday is a day to solidarity with the LGBTIQ+ community by wearing the colour purple.
- 18** **International Migrants Day**  
On International Migrants Day we reflect on and celebrate the contributions of millions of migrants worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).
- 25** **Christmas Day**  
Christmas, marking the birth of Jesus Christ, is a global festival celebrated on December 25th, cherished by billions for its religious and cultural significance. It's a public holiday in many countries and a focal point of the festive season, embraced by both Christians and non-Christians alike.
- 26** **Second day of Christmas**  
The second day of Christmas may involve continuing community and family gatherings, meals, or church services. In some cultures, it is time to give to charity, reflecting on Saint Stephen's legacy of compassion.
- 31** **New Year's Eve**  
Last day of the year in the Gregorian calendar. It is a time for people around the world to reflect on the past year and prepare to welcome the new year.



3

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities was declared by the United Nations on 3 December to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development, and to raise awareness. For more information, please visit [who.int](http://who.int).