

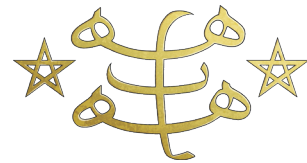
World Religion Day

World Religion Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday of January. The idea for it originated with followers of the Bahá'í faith.

What Is the Bahá'í Faith?

- Bahá'ís believe that all human beings are different but equal.
- They believe that all religions have value and that there are common features and similarities between them.
- They believe that there is one God who is known by a range of names in all religions, such as Buddha, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUH).
- The diversity between the religions are due to the way people think about God.
- Bahá'ís believe that no one should be treated differently because of their colour, age, race, whether they are male or female or what religion they believe in.

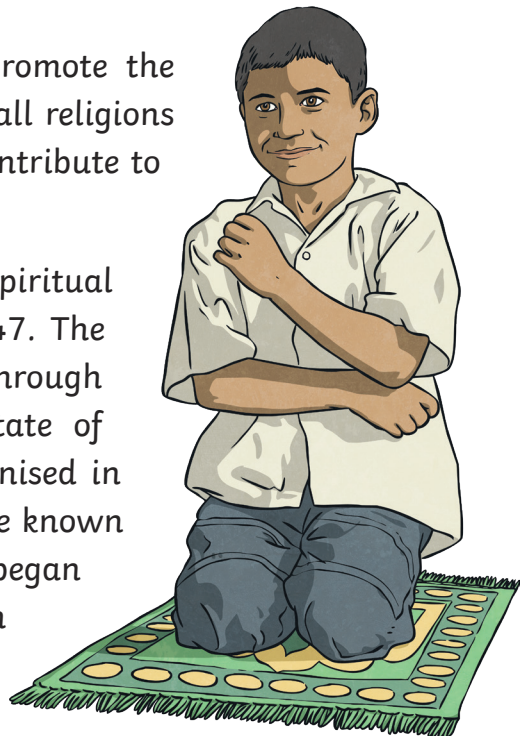
The ringstone symbol represents people connecting with God.



World Religion Day

The purpose of World Religion Day is to promote the Bahá'í principles; that all people are equal, all religions have value and the idea that religions can contribute to uniting humanity, rather than dividing it.

World Religion Day was first observed by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith in October 1947. The day was initially referred to as World Peace Through World Religion which took place in the state of Maine, United States. By 1949, it was recognised in a range of communities in the US and became known as World Religion Day. Internationally, it began to be celebrated in 1950 in Australia, then throughout the world.



The Six Main Religions

The six main worldwide religions are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Each of these religions encourage respect, equality and kindness to others.

Here is a summary of some their beliefs and values around this:

Sikhism

- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.
- Everyone is equal in God's eyes and everyone should be treated equally.

Christianity

- In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.
- To love God and look after one another.

Hinduism

- This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.
- One should not behave towards others in a way that is disagreeable to oneself.

Buddhism

- Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
- Buddhists have a promise called the bodhisattva vow, which is the commitment to put others before oneself.

Judaism

- What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.
- You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Islam

- Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.
- When a flower blooms, its colour and scent first touch the garden near it and then spread. In the same way, a Muslim's should first touch those nearest to him, his family and his neighbours.

Celebrating World Religion Day

World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of ways. People from different faiths are encouraged to listen and talk to one another. Many people attend special services and some religions hold interfaith events, where faith leaders get together to give lectures and talks.

Ultimately, the different events that take place help people to understand the basic values and beliefs of other religions. They highlight the need to respect other religions and demonstrate how everyone can cooperate to create a cohesive world for humankind.

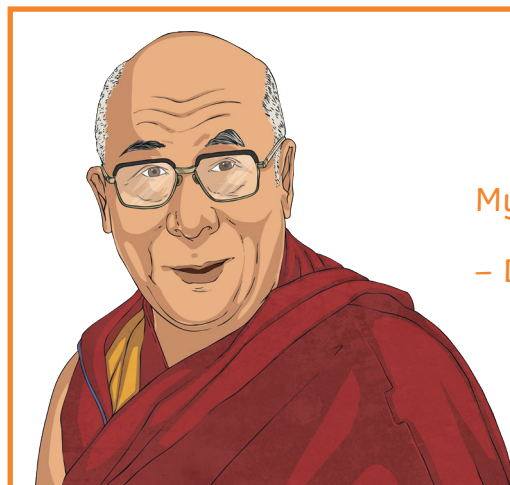
How Can We Celebrate World Religion Day?

- Take the time to study different faiths from around the world.
- Become aware of how many different religions there are, even the smaller, lesser-known ones.
- Speak to others about their religion and spend time speaking to others about yours.

Jainism is an ancient Indian religion. Jains believe that one should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.

Aims of World Religion Day:

- To promote inter-faith understanding and harmony.
- To unite everyone, regardless of faith.



My religion is simple. My religion is kindness.

– Dalai Lama (Buddhist spiritual leader)