

World Religion Day

World Religion Day is an annual event celebrated on the third Sunday in the month of January. It was initially started by followers of the Bahá'í Faith. Bahá'ís believe that all people are equal and that all religions have common values. They 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 idea for World Religion Day began at a Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith. The day was called 'World Peace Through World Religion' and first took place in the state of Maine, USA, in 1947. It was renamed World Religion Day in 1950.

The intention was that for one day a year, all religions should be celebrated and their similarities and differences respected and appreciated.

The Six Main Religions

Around the world, there are many religions and faiths. However, the six main 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

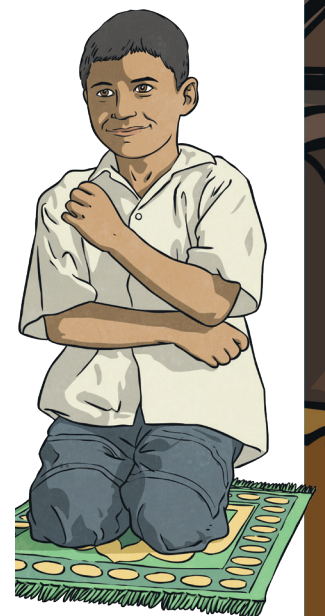
- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.
- Everyone is equal in God's eyes and everyone should be treated equally.

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. Many people will attend special services which centre around respecting other religions and reflecting on the universal message of the six main religions - treating each other with respect and understanding the need to create a better world for everyone.

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 take time to speak to people 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 develop understanding between all religions.
- To unite everyone, whatever their religious beliefs.

