



Religions for Peace

2009



Multifaith
Women's
Calendar

The *Religions for Peace* Global Women of Faith Network allows women from different religions and cultures to coordinate strategies and pool resources and capabilities for cooperative action to achieve results that would be difficult for any single member to accomplish alone.

“Conscious of the importance of strengthening and enriching our societies on the basis of a spiritual strength our traditions offer, we find it necessary to create spaces which would permit us to unite our objectives and create strategies in order to construct together a road which leads to unity, solidarity, equity and reciprocity.”

– *Religions for Peace* Latin American & Caribbean Women of Faith Network, Lima, Peru, August 2003

“We envision the *Religions for Peace* Asian & Pacific Women of Faith Network to be a dynamic entity playing a role in strengthening community based responses for peace and human development in the Asia and Pacific region. As trusted and respected members of our faith communities we acknowledge our importance and unique role in shaping social values and public opinion.”

– *Religions for Peace* Asian & Pacific Women of Faith Network, Bangkok, Thailand, April 2008

“We the *Religions for Peace* European Women of Faith Network commit ourselves in a spirit of friendship to work together to promote social justice and peace for an inclusive Europe.”

– *Religions for Peace* European Women of Faith Network, Rovereto, Italy, July 2008

“Guided by the ethos of equality and dignity of each person ingrained in our spirituality and African values, and rooted in our collective strength, we are deeply committed to the elimination of poverty, conflict, and HIV/AIDS in Africa through cooperation, mobilization, positive transformation, advocacy, and the enforcement of global human rights instruments.”

– *Religions for Peace* African Women of Faith Network, Nairobi, Kenya, February 2003

Multifaith Women's Calendar

KEY TO SYMBOLS



Bahá'í



Jainism



Buddhism



Judaism



Christianity



Sikhism



Hinduism



Zoroastrianism



Islam



United Nations

* Holy day begins at sundown on the previous evening

This Women's Calendar seeks to celebrate the faith traditions of the world's many religious communities. *Religions for Peace* looks forward to highlighting other holidays in the future and welcomes the Network's suggestions on which days to feature.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				✈ Ghambar Maidyarem (ends)		
				1	2	3
☞ Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday		✈ Epiphany (Western)	✈ Christmas (Eastern) ☾ Ashura			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
☸ Mahayana New Year (begins)		☸ Maghi (begins)	New Year			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
☸ World Religion Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	☸ Lunar New Year	☸ International Holocaust Remembrance Day		✈ Jashne Sadeh Ghambar	☸ Vasant Panchami	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



JAN



VASANT PANCHAMI

This popular Hindu festival marks the beginning of spring and is dedicated to Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and the arts. Yellow clothes and yellow sweets, symbolizing both spirituality and the ripening of crops, are customary.



We have to understand that we [women of faith] are one of the largest and most organized forms of civil society in the world today. If we use this capacity properly, there is no reason why we cannot resolve conflict and promote peace in the world. - Ms. Bedriyya Mohammed, *Muslim*, Ethiopia • Addis Ababa Muslim Women's Council

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
 Nirvana Day	 Tu B'shevat*					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 Nirvana Day (Alternate)					 World Day of Social Justice	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	 Maha Shivaratri		 Ash Wednesday (Western)			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

The World Day of Social Justice promotes the goals of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, where governments recognized the need to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, and unemployment. This is the first year it is observed.



The more one sheds light on the other, the more one lights up the world aiming to illuminate humanity.

- Mrs. Yolande Illiano, *Roman Catholic*, Belgium • Co-Chair, *Religions for Peace European Women of Faith Network*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	 Clean Monday Lent begins (Eastern)	2	3	4	5	6
 International Women's Day	 Mawlid al-Nabi* (Birth of Muhammad)	 Purim*	 Holi  Magha Puja Day  Holi Mohalla	11	12	13
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem (begins)					 Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem (ends)	 Now-Ruz* (Persian New Year)  International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				 Khordad Sal	 Bikarami Samrat (New Year)	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Having a proper ordination of Buddhist women may be one factor that will reduce the heavy burden on Thai monks in their effort to end suffering and bring peace, harmony, and well-being to the world and women in general.

- Professor Parichart Swanabubba, *Buddhist*, Thailand • Mahidol University



MAGHA PUJA DAY

Commemoration of Buddha delivering the Fundamental Teaching to 1,250 enlightened monks at Veruvana. Recognized as an opportunity to gain merit, Magha Puja is observed by chanting, meditation, the lighting of oil lamps, and the reaffirmation of commitment to Buddhist practice.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					ॐ Ram Navami	
			1	2	3	4
☉ Palm Sunday (Western)		🌿 World Health Day 👉 Mahavir Janma Kalyanak	🌸 Buddha's Birthday (Mahayana)	✡ Pesach* (begins)	☉ Good Friday (Western)	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
☉ Easter (Western) ☉ Palm Sunday (Eastern)	🌿 Vaisakhi (New Year) 🌸 Saka New Year (begins)	🌸 Saka New Year (ends)		✡ Pesach (ends)	☉ Holy Friday (Eastern)	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
☉ Pascha (Easter) (Eastern)		🌸 Ridvan Festival* (begins) ✡ Yom Hashoah*				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	👉 Akshay Tiritiya ॐ		🌸 Ninth Day of Ridvan*	✡ Chambar Maidyozarem (begins)		
26	27	28	29	30		



APRIL



PESACH

Also known as Passover in the Jewish faith, Pesach commemorates the freeing of the children of Israel from Egyptian slavery led by Moses over 3000 years ago. No leavened bread or foods are to be eaten during the eight days of celebration—seven in Israel.



As women of faith, we remember our common humanity. We remember our common hopes. We listen to hear each other's concerns. We know each one has something to contribute.

- Mrs. Judith Hertz, Jewish, USA • Co-Chair, Commission on Interreligious Affairs, Union for Reform Judaism

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Pentecost (Western) 31						 Ridvan festival* (ends) 2
3	 Ghambar Mailyozarem (ends) 4	5	6	7	8	 Wesak 9
10	11	12	13	14	 International Day of Families 15	16
17	18	19	20	 Ascension Day (Western) 21	22	 Declaration of the Bab* 23
24	25	26	27	 Ascension Day (Eastern) 28	 Ascension of Baha'u'llah*  Shavuot* (begins) 29	30



PENTECOST

Fifty days after Easter, this Christian holiday commemorates the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus' Apostles. From this point on, the Apostles began spreading Jesus' message, marking the official beginning of the Church.



Now more than ever, we must commit to work and be in the most conscious, intentional way, for a non-consumerist, caring and loving society, and a healthy planet.

- Rev. Marta Benavides, *Christian Protestant*, El Salvador • *Religions for Peace Latin American & Caribbean Women of Faith Network*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
 Pentecost (Eastern)  Trinity Sunday (Western)						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	 Ghambar Mailyoshem (begins)					
28	29	30				








Together, we can realize a world transformed, one in which every girl awakes in safety and without want.

- Ms. Merhizia Labidi-Maiza, Muslim, France • Coordinator, Religions for Peace International Women's Coordinating Committee



GLOBAL WOMEN OF FAITH NETWORK

Launched in 2001, the *Religions for Peace* Global Women of Faith Network serves to build the capacity of religious women and their organizations to engage in building peace, promoting just and harmonious societies, and protecting the earth.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					 Ghambar Maidyozarem (ends)	
			1	2	3	4
 Wassana		 Buddhist Lent (begins)  Guru Purnima		 Martyrdom of the Bab*		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Meraj al-Nabi*						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
 Dharma Day  Khordad Sal (Qadimi)				 Tisha B'av*		
26	27	28	29	30	31	



MERAJ AL-NABI

For Muslims, this commemorates the night Prophet Mohammad spiritually ascended to heaven and met other prophets and attained the utmost nearness to Allah. It was in this ascent that five daily prayers were made obligatory for Muslims.



See a reflection of your face in the faces of others and build strong bridges of peace in love.

- Sr. Maria Ifechukwu Udorah, *Roman Catholic*, Nigeria • Chair, *Religions for Peace Nigeria Women of Faith Network*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31					1
2	3	4	 Raksha Bandhan  Lailat al-Bara'ah*	5	6	7
9	10	11	 International Youth Day	12	 Krishna Janmashtami	 Assumption of Mary (Roman Catholic)
16	 Paryushana-Parva (begins)	18	 Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai)	20	21	 Ramadan* (begins)
 Ganesha Chaturthi	 Khordad Sal (Shenshai)	25		27	28	29



PARYUSHANA-PARVA

For eight days in the Shwetambar tradition or ten days in the Digambar tradition, Jains devote their time to fasting, meditating, and praying; on the final day, sins committed during the previous year are confessed and forgiveness is prayed for.



I believe that we are one big family. We all have the same aspirations and should collaborate together based on these collective needs. There is nothing we can't accomplish together.

- Dr. Tanvir Khan, Muslim, USA • Islamic Circle of North America

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		 Parkash		 Anant Chaturdashi	 Kshamavani	
		1	2	3	4	5
						 Ghambar Paitishem (begins)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			 Laylat al-Oadr*  Ghambar Paitishem (begins)			 Rosh Hashanah* (New Year's Day)  Navaratri (begins)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 Eid al-Fitr* (Ramadan ends)	 International Day of Peace					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	 Yom Kippur*  Dasera					
27	28	29	30			



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GHAMBAR PAITISHEM

This Zoroastrian seasonal festival celebrates the creation of the earth and the harvesting of the summer crop. Liturgical services are performed on the first four days; the fifth day is reserved for communal interaction. This festival pays tribute to Ahura Mazda and His creations.



According to the Midrash, the Torah was given to the world in order to establish peace.

- Mrs. Evelyn Falck, Jewish, Ecuador • Chair, Religions for Peace Latin American & Caribbean Women of Faith Network, International Council of Jewish Women

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					 International Day of Non-Violence	 Sukkot* (begins)
				1	2	3
 Pavaran Day						 Shemini Atzeret*
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
 Simchat Torah*	 Ghambar Ayathrem (begins)			 International Day of Rural Women	 Ghambar Ayathrem (ends)	 Diwali  Mahavir Nirvan  Bandi Chhor Divas
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		 New Year Day  The Birth of the Bab*  Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji			 Gnan Panchami	 United Nations Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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BANDI CHHOR DIVAS

This Sikh festival commemorates the return of the sixth guru, Sri Hargobind Ji, to the holy city of Amritsar after being released from prison at Gwalior Fort. The evening is illuminated with earthen oil lamps or candles and fireworks.



A confident, educated, empowered woman is likely to steer her family in a better direction. This creates a happy family. Happy families make happy communities. Happy communities make a stronger and wiser nation.

- Mrs. Husena Poonawalla, Muslim, USA • Dawoodi Bohra Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 All Saints Day (Western) 1	 Lokashah Jayanti  Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji 2	3	4	 The Birth of the Baha'ullah* 5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	 International Day of Tolerance 16	17	18	19	 Universal Children's Day 20	21
22	23	 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar Ji 24	 Hajj*  International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 25	 Day of the Covenant 26	 Eid al-Adha* 27	 Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha* First of Advent (Eastern)  Maun Agiyaras 28
 First of Advent (Western) 29	30					



DAY OF THE COVENANT

This Bahá'í festival commemorates Baha'u'llah's appointment of his eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Baha, as the Center of His Covenant in order to preserve the unity of the Bahá'í religion.



Engaging religious leaders and communities of faith in the effort to end violence against women is essential to weaving a fabric of equality and respect for all persons, their potential, and their right to live a life free from violence.

- Dr. Inés Alberdi • Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		 Immaculate Conception (Roman Catholic)  Bodhi Day - Enlightenment Day		 Human Rights Day		 Hanukkah (begins)*
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					 Muharram* (New Year's Day)	 Hanukkah (ends)*
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 International Human Solidarity Day					 Christmas (Western)	 Anniversary of Zarathustra's Death
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
 Ashura*				 Ghambar Madyarem (begins)		
27	28	29	30	31		



RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

The largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions who are dedicated to achieving peace. *Religions for Peace* aims to create global multi-religious partnerships that mobilize the moral and social resources of religious people to address their shared problems.



Women of Faith employ and promote active non-violent responses to conflict situations, deep-seated biases and social injustices, leading by example and acting with moral courage and accountability.

- Dr. Lillian Sison, *Roman Catholic*, Philippines • Chair, *Religions for Peace Asian & Pacific Women of Faith Network*

NOTES

Religions for Peace

Religions for Peace—the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition—advances common action among the world’s religious communities for peace. *Religions for Peace* works to transform violent conflict, eliminate poverty, promote just and harmonious societies, and protect the earth. The global *Religions for Peace* network comprises a World Council of senior religious leaders from all regions of the world; more than seventy national and five regional inter-religious bodies; and the Global Women of Faith Network and Global Youth Network.

Guided by respect for religious differences and a belief in the power of multi-religious cooperation, *Religions for Peace* mobilizes religious communities to collaborate on deeply held and widely shared concerns. Multi-religious cooperation unleashes the hidden assets of religious communities and is more powerful, both substantively and symbolically, than the efforts of individual faith communities alone.

Global Women of Faith Network

The Women’s Mobilization Program was established in 1998 to ensure the perspectives of women are mainstreamed in all of *Religions for Peace’s* programming and to strengthen the capacity of women of faith and their organizations as actors in peace building and human development. In 2001, the program launched the **Global Women of Faith Network** that allows women from different religions and cultures to coordinate strategies and pool resources for cooperative action. The objectives of the Global Women of Faith Network are to:

- I. Enhance multi-religious networking among women of faith globally.
- II. Strengthen capacities of women of faith to build peace, promote just societies and transform conflict through congregations and religious women’s organizations.
- III. Promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in multi-religious collaboration for peace.
- IV. Develop strategic relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships and alliances.

The priority themes for common action to advance these objectives are: network building; peace and security; women of faith as agents of conflict transformation; and gender, poverty and health. The network is growing regionally and nationally in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. The network is a valuable resource for women of all faiths to communicate and learn from each other and to build bridges and partnerships between faith-based women’s organizations, major international agencies and the United Nations.

Religions for Peace 
Global Women of Faith Network

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