











Introduction

The calendar has been developed as a resource for NHSGGC staff to demonstrate a visible and supportive role which is committed to respecting and celebrating diverse communities, cultures, and faiths. This calendar provides details of all the main religious festivals*, major national and international days of celebration or memorial which reflect the diverse population of our staff and our community.

Calendar Key:

	Dates with a circle symbol indicate a national or an inclusion related event/day
	Buddhist Event/Observance
	Christian Event/Observance
	Hindu Event/Observance
	Islamic Event/Observance
	Jewish Event/Observance *All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening before
	Sikh Event/Observance
	Dates with a square symbol indicate a NHSGGC public holiday

We focus further on the six major world faiths - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. This does not mean we do not recognise that there are many more faiths equally as important. We also recognise that a large proportion of our NHSGGC community may have no religion or belief.

January 2026



LGBTQ+ Forum Chair Andy Wyllie (first from left) and Vice-Chair Ross McCready (third from right), with members and allies at June 2025 Pride Stall

Our commitment to fairness means actively breaking down barriers so that every colleague has an equal chance to succeed and contribute. When we ensure equity in opportunity, we unlock the full potential of our entire staff, which is the engine for exceptional service and compassionate care." - NHSGGC Colleague

JANUARY is Braille Literacy Month • Cervical Health Awareness Month • Alcohol Concern Dry January • Thyroid Awareness Month • National Blood Donor Month

Special Days:

1st	New Years' Day NHSGGC Public Holiday
2nd	NHSGGC Public Holiday
3rd	Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)
6th	Epiphany (Christianity)
7th	Nativity (Orthodox Christianity)
11th	Human Trafficking Awareness Day
13th	Maghi (Sikhism)
14th	14th – 17th Pongal (Hinduism)
15th	15th – 16th Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
19th	19th – 26th Cervical Cancer Prevention Week Feast of Epiphany (Orthodox Christianity)
20th	Guru Gobind Singh Birthday (Sikhism)*
27th	Holocaust Memorial Day
31st	Guru Har Rai Birthday (Sikhism)

*The exact date of the celebration can vary due to the use of different calendars within the Sikh community, though January 20, 2026, is widely cited. Some Sikh communities, including some in Punjab, have celebrated on a different date based on the lunar Bikrami Calendar.

January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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26	27	28	29	30	31	1
✝	○				✪	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

February 2026

Special Days:

2nd	2nd – 3rd Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam) 2nd – 8th Race Equality Week
4th	World Cancer Day
5th	Time to Talk Day (dedicated to breaking the silence around mental health)
9th	9th – 15th Children's Mental Health Week
10th	Losar / Tibetan New Year (Buddhism)
15th	International Childhood Cancer Day MahaShivaratri (Hinduism) Nirvana Day (Buddhism)
17th	Lunar New Year (Buddhism) 17th – 18th March Ramadan (Islam)
18th	Ash Wednesday (Christianity) 18th – 2nd April Lent (Christianity)
23rd	23rd – 12th April Great Lent (Orthodox Christianity)
28th	Rare Disease Day

FEBRUARY is LGBT+ History Month • UK National Heart Month • Raynaud's Awareness Month










GRI Endoscopy Unit 'We stand against racism'

"The breakout sessions I attended were extremely insightful and practical. They created a safe space for open dialogue, allowing us to learn from diverse perspectives and exchange ideas with colleagues. The networking opportunities throughout the day were a highlight, fostering new connections and strengthening our professional community."

(EDI Conference 2025)

February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	31	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	1
						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8



Dr Lesley Thompson KC, Board Chair, with some of the NHSGGC Excellence Award Winners 2025

"Visiting the stalls was a fantastic way to discover new resources and initiatives. It was inspiring to see so many people dedicated to making a positive impact on equality, diversity, and inclusion, providing us with tangible tools and strategies to bring back to our own workplaces."

(EDI Conference 2025)











MARCH is International Women's History Month • Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month • Prostate Cancer Awareness Month • Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month • Endometriosis Awareness Month

March 2026

Special Days:

	23rd Feb – 12th April Great Lent (Orthodox Christianity)
1st	18th Feb – 2nd April Lent (Christianity) 17th Feb – 18th Ramadan (Islam) Zero Discrimination Day
2nd	2nd – 3rd Purim (Judaism)
3rd	Holi (Hinduism) Magha Puja Day (Buddhism)
4th	4th – 6th Hola Mohalla (Sikhism)
8th	International Women's Day
14th	Sikh New Year (Sikhism)
16th	Disabled Access Day Lailat al Qadr (Islam) 16th – 22nd Sign Language Week
17th	17th – 23rd Neurodiversity Celebration Week
19th	19th – 20th Eid ul Fitr (Islam)
21st	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
25th	Annunciation (Christianity)
26th	Rama Navami (Hinduism)
29th	29th – 4th April Holy Week (Christianity)
30th	30th – 6th April World Autism Acceptance Week
31st	International Transgender Day of Visibility

March 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23	24	25	26	27	28	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 	1	2	3	4	5

April 2026

Special Days:

1st	23rd Feb – 12th Great Lent (Orthodox Christianity) 29th March – 4th Holy Week (Christianity) 18th Feb – 2nd Lent (Christianity) Pesach (Judaism) 30th March – 6th World Autism Acceptance Week
2nd	2nd – 5th Theravada New Year (Buddhism)
3rd	Good Friday (Christianity) NHSGGC Public Holiday
5th	Easter Sunday (Christianity)
6th	NHSGGC Public Holiday
7th	World Health Day
8th	International Romani Day
10th	Great & Holy Friday (Orthodox Christianity) 10th – 17th Parkinson's Awareness Week
12th	Pascha (Orthodox Christianity)
13th	13th – 14th Yom HaShoah (Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day) (Judaism)
14th	Vaisakhi/Baisakhi (Sikhism)
20th	20th – 26th Lesbian Visibility Week
26th	Lesbian Visibility Day
28th	National British Sign Language Day





















Julian Heng (second from right), Planning and Development Manager, at the 2025 EDI Conference Equality and Human Rights Team stall

"The voices of our diverse team are our best resource for innovation. When we create a safe space for every perspective to be heard—especially those that challenge the status quo—we gain a deeper understanding of our patients' needs and design healthcare solutions that are truly comprehensive and culturally competent." - NHSGGC Colleague

APRIL is World Autism Acceptance Month • Stress Awareness Month • National Deaf History Month • Parkinson's Awareness Month • Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	31	1   	2 	3  	4	5 
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13 	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20 	21	22	23	24	25	26 
27	28 	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

May 2026



Members of the Staff Disability Forum, LGBTQ+ Forum, and BME Staff Network with Liam Spence (centre), Head of Staff Experience


"Equality, diversity, and inclusion are not just words on a page; they're the foundation of a great team. When we respect and value everyone's unique experiences, we build trust and create a safe environment where we can all do our best work." - NHSGGC Colleague

May is Tourette's Awareness Month 15th May - 15th June • Hepatitis Awareness Month • Bladder Cancer Awareness Month • National Smile Month 12th May - June 12th June

Special Days:

1st	Vesak (Buddhism)
4th	4th – 10th Deaf Awareness Week NHSGGC Public Holiday
5th	African World Heritage Day
11th	11th – 17th Mental Health Awareness Week
13th	National Day for Staff Networks
17th	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHO)
18th	Marriage of Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatima (Islam) 18th – 24th Dementia Action Week
21st	Global Accessibility Awareness Day World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 21st – 23rd Shavuot (Judaism)
24th	Pentecost (Christianity)
25th	First Day of Hajj (Islam) 25th – 26th Waqf al Arafah - Hajj (Islam)
26th	26th – 27th Eid-ul-Adha (Islam)
31st	Pentecost (Orthodox Christianity)

May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	1 	2	3
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18 	19	20	21 	22	23	24 
25 	26 	27	28	29	30	31 
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

June 2026

Special Days:

1st	1st – 7th Volunteers' Week
9th	9th – 15th Carers Week
14th	World Blood Donor Day
15th	15th – 21st Learning Disability Week 15th – 21st Men's Health Week 15th – 21st Refugee Week
16th	16th – 17th Hijra (Islam) Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikhism)
18th	Autistic Pride Day
20th	World Refugee Day
21st	21st – 27th Armed Forces Week
24th	Reserves Day
25th	25th – 26th Day of Ashura / Muharram (Islam)
27th	Armed Forces Day














NHSGGC staff marching at Mardi Gras for Pride 2025

"This conference reaffirmed that EDI is not just a matter of compliance or political correctness, but the key to growth. A diverse and inclusive workforce is more innovative, resilient, and better equipped to solve complex problems, ultimately leading to greater success for everyone."

(EDI Conference 2025)

June is Pride Month • Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death) Awareness Month • Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month • Tourette's Awareness Month
15th May - 15th June • National Smile Month 12th May - June 12th June

June 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
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22	23	24 	25 	26	27 	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
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July 2026



International Nurses 2025

"Diversity is the mix, but inclusion is the glue. We bring all of our unique backgrounds and skills to the table, and through genuine inclusion, we bind those elements together to form an unbreakable, high-performing team dedicated to the best patient outcomes." - NHSGGC Colleague

Special Days:

5th	NHS Scotland's Anniversary
14th	International Non-Binary People's Day
17th	World Day for International Justice
18th	Black Leaders Awareness Day
22nd	22nd – 23rd Tisha B'Av (Judaism)
24th	International Self Care Day
29th	Asalha Puja (Buddhism) (dates may vary)
30th	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

July is South Asian Heritage Month 18th July - 17th Aug
• Disability Pride Month • Make a Difference to Children Month • International Women with Alopecia Month • International Group B Strep Awareness Month

July 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
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August 2026

Special Days:

1st	World Lung Cancer Day
9th	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
12th	International Youth Day
15th	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christianity)
23rd	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
25th	25th – 26th Mawlid al-Nabi (Birthday of Prophet Muhammad) (Islam)
27th	Ullambana (Buddhism)
28th	Rakhsha Bandhan (Hinduism)








Celebrating South Asian Heritage Month in August 2025

"A team that embraces diversity is a stronger team. By welcoming different perspectives, we improve our communication, solve problems more creatively, and ultimately provide better care to our patients and service users." - NHSGGC Colleague

August is South Asian Heritage Month 18th July - 17th August • National Breastfeeding Month • Psoriasis Awareness Month • Children's Eye Health & Safety Month

August 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	31	1 	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23 
24 	25	26	27 	28 	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



'We are listening' - Kim Donald, Corporate Services Manager, discusses the Speak Up campaign with a 2025 EDI Conference delegate

"Inclusion is about making sure every single person feels they belong. It's about listening to each other, celebrating our differences, and creating a workplace where we all feel valued, supported, and respected." - NHSGGC Colleague

September 2026

Special Days:

4th	Janmashtami (Hinduism)
7th	7th – 13th Scottish Learning Disability Week
10th	World Suicide Prevention Day
12th	12th – 13th Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
14th	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism)
20th	20th – 21st Yom Kippur (Judaism)
21st	International Day of Peace World Alzheimer's Day
23rd	Bi Visibility Day International Day of Sign Language
25th	25th – 2nd Oct Sukkot (Judaism)
28th	NHSGGC Public Holiday

September is East and South East Asian Heritage Month • Childhood Cancer Awareness Month • World Alzheimer's Month • World Dementia Awareness Month

September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31	1	2	3	4 ॐ	5	6
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14 ॐ	15	16	17	18	19	20 ☆
21 ○	22	23 ○	24	25 ☆	26	27
28 □	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

October 2026

Special Days:

1st	25th Sept – 2nd Oct Sukkot (Judaism)
2nd	2nd – 3rd Shemini Atzeret (Judaism)
3rd	3rd – 4th Simchat Torah (Judaism)
5th	5th – 11th Dyslexia Awareness Week
9th	9th – 15th Baby Loss Awareness Week
10th	World Mental Health Day
11th	National Coming Out Day 11th – 19th Navaratri (Nine Nights) (Hinduism)
15th	International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day (Global Wave of Light)
18th	World Menopause Day
21st	International Pronouns Day
25th	Kathina (Buddhism)














October is Black History Month • Speak Up Month
• Down Syndrome Awareness Month • Breast Cancer
Awareness Month • Global Diversity Awareness •
Menopause Awareness Month • Lupus Awareness Month
• ADHD Awareness Month



Owolona Ogbe, BME Staff Network Co-Chair, at the Network's stall during the 2025 EDI Conference

"For NHSGGC, embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion is a core part of our mission. It ensures that our workforce truly reflects the communities we serve, which is essential for delivering patient-centred care that is fair and effective for all." - NHSGGC Colleague

October 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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West Region Armed Forces Event - June 2025

"By focusing on fair work and a culture of respect, we not only attract the best talent but also retain our dedicated staff. A commitment to EDI is a commitment to the well-being and professional growth of our entire workforce." - NHSGGC Colleague












November 2026

Special Days:

2nd	2nd - 6th Talk Money Week
5th	National Stress Awareness Day
8th	Bandi Chor Divas (Release of Guru Hargobind) (Sikhism) Diwali- Festival of Lights (Hinduism) Remembrance Sunday
11th	Armistice Day
13th	13th – 19th Transgender Awareness Week
19th	International Men's Day
20th	Transgender Day of Remembrance
24th	Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikhism) Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikhism)
25th	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

November is Disability History Month 14th Nov to 20th Dec • Men's Health Awareness Month
• Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month • Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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16	17	18	19 	20 	21	22
23 	24 	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2026

Special Days:

1st	World AIDS Day
3rd	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
4th	4th – 12th Chanukah (Judaism)
7th	7nd – 13th National Grief Awareness week
8th	Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
10th	Human Rights Day
18th	International Migrants Day
24th	Christmas Eve (Christianity)
25th	Christmas Day (Christianity) NHSGGC Public Holiday
28th	NHSGGC Public Holiday
31st	Hogmanay / New Year's Eve

December is Disability History Month 14th November
to 20th December • Universal Human Rights Month •
AIDS Awareness Month



Martin Savage, Staff Disability Forum Vice-Chair, at the Forum's stall during the 2025 EDI Conference

"Our pursuit of equality, diversity, and inclusion is a strategic advantage. It leads to better decision-making, greater innovation, and a more resilient organisation, helping us to meet the challenges of healthcare and build a healthier, more equitable future for everyone." - NHSGGC Colleague

December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	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	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10



Suggestions

If you would like to suggest dates for inclusion on future calendars, please email:

✉ ggc.staffexperience@nhs.scot

Useful Links

A Fairer NHSGGC



BME Staff Network –
NHSGGC



LGBTQ+ Staff Forum –
NHSGGC



Staff Disability Forum –
NHSGGC



The Armed Forces
Community



Carers in the Workforce



Sexual Harassment: Cut
It Out



Supporting and Working
with our Neurodivergent
Colleagues





(From left to right) Ann Cameron-Burns, Employee Director, Professor Jann Gardner, Chief Executive, and Dr Lesley Thompson KC, Board Chair, at the 2025 EDI Conference



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.