Calendar of Observances

The increasingly pluralistic and multicultural population of the U.S. is made up of many different ethnic, cultural, faith and religious communities. To promote understanding, respect and inclusion, ADL offers this resource as a tool to increase awareness of and respect for religious observations and ethnic and cultural festivities that may affect students, colleagues and neighbors in your community.

Religious Observations

The calendar includes significant religious observances of the major faiths represented in the United States. It can be used as a resource to plan
- school exam schedules and activities,
- workplace festivities and
- community events.

Note that Bahá'í, Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown the previous day and end at sundown on the date listed.

**National and International Holidays**

The calendar notes U.S. holidays that are either legal holidays or observed in various states and communities throughout the country. Important national and international observances that may be commemorated in the U.S. are also included.

**Calendar System**

The dates of secular holidays are based on the Gregorian calendar, which is commonly used for civil dating purposes. Many religions and cultures follow various traditional calendar systems that are often based on the phases of the moon with occasional adjustments for the solar cycle. Therefore, specific Gregorian calendar dates for these observances will differ from year to year. In addition, calculation of specific dates may vary by geographical location and according to different sects within a religion.