

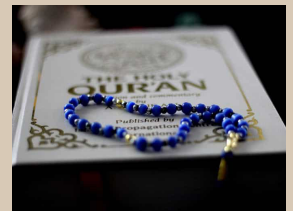
# WORLD RELIGION DAY IS JANUARY 16, 2022

The third Sunday in January is annually celebrated as World Religion Day. It was established by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States in 1950 as a way to encourage interfaith understanding. Baha'i is a form of faith that emerged in 19<sup>th</sup> century Persia and follows three core principles: unity of God, religion and humankind. They believe that all humans are born equal and have the same rights as each other. The first World Religion Day was observed in 1950. The day calls for members of all religions in the world to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals. "The world's primary religions fall into two categories: Abrahamic religions, such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam; and Indian religions, which include Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and others."<sup>2</sup> There are approximately 1.2 billion persons who are Unaffiliated to any religious practices.



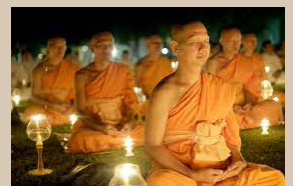
"Of the world's major religions, Christianity is the largest, with more than two billion followers. Christianity is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and is approximately 2,000 years old. Its largest groups are the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Protestant churches, and its sacred text is the Bible. Over the centuries, Christianity grew in numbers as it spread around the world, often through missionaries and colonizers."<sup>2</sup>

Islam is the second largest practiced religion with an estimated 1.8 billion followers worldwide. "It started in Mecca (a city in modern-day Saudi Arabia) in the 7<sup>th</sup> century CE and was spread by the Prophet Muhammad (570–632 CE), who followers of Islam believe to be God's ultimate prophet. Islam states that the teachings of God, who is known as Allah, were written down in a holy book known as the Qur'an, which is the faith's spiritual text." Most Muslims belong to one of the two major branches of Islam: Sunnis and Shi'ah.<sup>2</sup>



"Hinduism, with an estimated 1.1 billion followers, is the world's third largest religion and also one of the oldest, with beliefs and practices that date back at least as far as the 1500s BCE. Hinduism is practiced primarily in India, Nepal, and Indonesia. Little is known about the founding of Hinduism, but its teachings deeply influence almost all aspects of believers' lives." In recent years, certain aspects of Hinduism have become popular in the West, such as the practice of yoga, as well as the use of chakras to identify and treat illness.<sup>2</sup>

"The fourth most widely practiced religion is Buddhism, with approximately 500 million followers worldwide and more than 250 million in China alone. Based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha, the religion was founded in India nearly 2,500 years ago. There are two main branches of Buddhism: Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism. Tenets of Buddhism include a vow of non-violence and an adherence to ethical behavior in all aspects of life."<sup>2</sup>



UAW-FORD  
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JANUARY 2022

Sources: 1. <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/world/world-religion-day>  
2. <https://www.britannica.com/story/what-is-the-most-widely-practiced-religion-in-the-world>

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