

# SPRING 2023 INTERFAITH DISCUSSION GUIDE

## RAMADAN + PASSOVER + EASTER

### Overview

- In the spring of 2023, for the second time in more than three decades, followers of several faiths will observe religious holidays over the same month.
- From March 22 to April 21, this includes the celebrations of Spring Solstice, Ramadan, Passover, Mahavir Jayanti, Theravada New Year, Easter, Vaisakhi and Ridván.
- This means that Muslims, Jews, Christians, Baha'is, Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists, Pagans and others will all be practicing their significant religious and cultural traditions around the same time.
- This convergence is an important opportunity to remind our employees, patients, residents and communities of our interconnectedness.
- It also offers a chance to recommit to our values of Community and Family, celebrating the diverse make-up of the populations we serve and serve alongside.

### Discussion Questions

Consider including an interfaith conversation as part of an upcoming team meeting, or in a one-on-one conversation with a team member.

From the outset remind all participants to [practice the SAFE Universal Relationship Skills](#) – especially remembering to listen with empathy and the intent to understand.

- What values and ideals are important to you, whether through the lens of an ethical, faith, spiritual, or cultural tradition?
  - Where do you find the opportunity to live out those values in your daily work with Sanford/GSS?
- Are you connected to a community that will be observing a religious, cultural, Indigenous or spiritual holiday during this spring period? If so...
  - What is a favorite aspect of that tradition for you?
  - What does it mean to you to be celebrating your meaningful tradition alongside other communities who are celebrating their own?
- Have you ever engaged in a religious or cultural observance outside of your own tradition?
  - If so, what was that experience like?
  - What did you learn?

### Where can I go to learn more?

#### Internal Resources

- [Inclusive language during the month of Ramadan](#)
- Information on [Religious Accommodations](#) for employees
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion site on Inside Sanford](#)
- [Enterprise Spiritual Care/Well-being on Inside Sanford](#)

#### External Resources

- [Harvard University: The Pluralism Project](#) offers resources for learning basics about world religions
- TED-Ed Talk (video): [The five major world religions](#)
- [Religions for Peace USA](#)

Resource adapted from [Shoulder to Shoulder](#) Campaign's Spring 2023 Messaging Campaign

