

DEIJA COMMEMORATIONS CALENDAR JANUARY 2026

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month-

January was declared National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month in 2010. It is a time to acknowledge those experiencing enslavement and those who have escaped. Although slavery is commonly thought to be a thing of the past, human traffickers generate hundreds of billions of dollars in profits by trapping millions of people in horrific situations around the world, including here in the U.S. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex or to provide labor or services against their will. (source: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)

January 1

New Year's Day, **Russian New Year** is a beloved holiday and much of the merriment and gift-giving that Americans associate with Christmas can be found in Russian New Years celebrations.

January 3

Wolf Moon is one of 13 thanksgiving celebrations recognized by many Native American communities

January 4

World Braille Day celebrates Louis Braille's birthday. He was a French educator who created a reading and writing system known as "braille" for the visually impaired.

January 5

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti commemorates the birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and is an important day for Sikhs.

January 14

Orthodox New Year (or Old New Year) marks the start of the new year according to the Julian calendar.

January 14

Makar Sankranti is a Hindu festival dedicated to the deity Lord Surya which marks the transition of the sun into Makara rashi (or Capricorn zodiac).

January 15-16

Lailat al Miraj (Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj) is a Muslim holy day that celebrates the prophet Muhammad's pilgrimage from Mecca to Jerusalem, and ascension to Heaven.

January 18

World Religion Day is celebrated in the Baha'i faith and highlights the common themes across various faiths and religions worldwide.

January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day recognizes the life, achievements and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was a prominent leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. The strategic theme for 2026 is Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way.

January 27

International Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and honors the millions of victims of the holocaust.



*Holocaust survivor Irene Fogel Weiss as a child, circa 1938-41 (courtesy of Irene Fogel Weiss) and as an adult, today. US Holocaust Memorial Museum
Image source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*