



Queen Mary
University of London



5th anniversary edition

Awareness and
Inclusion Calendar
2026/27

Academic year 2026/27

September

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29	30	1	2	3	4

October

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
28	29	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

November

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

December

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29	30	31	1	2	3

January

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29	30	31

February

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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

March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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

April

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29	30	1	2

May

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
26	27	28	29	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

June

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29	30	1	2	3	4

July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
28	29	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

August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

A warm welcome to Queen Mary University of London's annual Awareness and Inclusion Calendar.

This calendar features a programme of important dates and occasions our diverse community have asked us to mark and celebrate. As we work to become 'the most inclusive university of our kind', we want everyone to feel like they have a place here at the University, and that they belong.

Now in its fifth edition, the calendar draws together nearly 200 dates across the academic year, selected in light of the wide-ranging interests of our Staff Affinity Networks, Queen Mary Students' Union, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group. It also carries a refreshed design, with monthly spotlight pages to prompt learning and conversation.

Inclusion is built through ordinary practice as much as through single events, so I would encourage people to use the calendar when setting deadlines, arranging team events, and considering requests around days of religious or cultural significance. Alongside that, I hope it offers everyone an opportunity to celebrate our diversity and difference, to meet new people and to learn about one another.

Dr Philippa Lloyd

Vice-President, Policy and Strategic Partnerships



September

In the spotlight: Community

The Queen Mary Community celebrates the people, partnerships and shared values that make Queen Mary a diverse and inclusive place to study and work. Rooted in the University's vision to be "the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere", the community brings together students, staff, alumni and local partners to create opportunities, support success and drive positive social change.

Guided by principles of respect, fairness, collaboration and belonging, the Queen Mary Community encourages everyone to contribute to a welcoming environment where different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives are valued. Through volunteering, public engagement and community initiatives, members of the community help make a difference both on campus and across the wider community.

Did you know? Queen Mary is one of the UK's most diverse universities, with students and staff representing communities from across the globe.



To learn more, scan or go to
qmul.ac.uk/about/queen-mary-heritage/queen-mary-and-westfield



September 2026

Notes

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
31	1 Birth of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji	2	3
7 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	8	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day
14 Welcome Week starts National Inclusion Week starts	15	16 Bisexual Awareness Week starts National Fitness Day	17
21 International Day of Peace Semester 1 starts Yom Kippur ends Occupational Health Awareness Week starts	22	23 International Day of Sign Languages Bi Visibility Day Bisexual Awareness Week ends	24 Heritage Open Days
28	29 International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	30	1

Fri	Sat	Sun
4	5	6
11 Heritage Open Days start Rosh Hashanah starts	12	13 Rosh Hashanah ends
18 Welcome Week ends	19	20 Heritage Open Days end National Inclusion Week ends Yom Kippur starts
25	26	27 Occupational Health Awareness Week ends
2	3	4

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October

In the spotlight: Black History Month

Black History Month is observed every October in the UK and recognises the histories, achievements, and contributions of Black people and communities. It was established in the UK in 1987 and provides an opportunity to reflect on the impact of Black individuals across all areas of society, both past and present.

The month also highlights the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality, and it encourages action to challenge racism and discrimination in all its forms.

Black History Month is marked through a range of activities, including talks, exhibitions, cultural events, and community discussions, which promote learning, reflection, and the sharing of diverse perspectives. It offers an opportunity to celebrate cultural heritage and to consider how everyone can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.



To learn more, scan or go to
qmul.ac.uk/blackhistorymonth



October 2026

Notes

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
28	29	30	1 Black History Month starts Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Awareness Month starts International Day of Older Persons
5 Dyslexia Awareness Week starts	6	7	8
12 Dyspraxia Awareness Week starts	13	14	15 Baby Loss Awareness Week ends Global Handwashing Day
19	20	21 International Pronouns Day	22 International Stammering/ Stuttering Awareness Day
26 Intersex Awareness Day	27	28	29

Fri	Sat	Sun
2	3	4
9 Baby Loss Awareness Week starts	10 World Mental Health Day World Homeless Day National Hate Crime Awareness Week starts	11 Dyslexia Awareness Week ends National Coming Out Day International Day of the Girl Child
16	17 National Hate Crime Awareness Week ends	18 World Menopause Day Dyspraxia Awareness Week ends
23	24	25 Ace Week starts
30	31 Halloween Black History Month ends Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Awareness Month ends Ace Week ends	1

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November

In the spotlight: UK Disability History Month

UK Disability History Month is an opportunity to recognise the achievements, experiences and contributions of disabled people, while reflecting on the importance of accessibility, equality and inclusion.

These values are closely aligned with Queen Mary's vision to be "the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere". Inclusion is a core value that underpins the University's commitment to supporting students and staff from all backgrounds and creating an environment where everyone can flourish.

The Queen Mary Community is built on principles of respect, fairness, collaboration and equality of treatment. Through its Community Charter, the University encourages a culture where diverse perspectives are valued and all members share responsibility for creating a supportive and welcoming environment.

UK Disability History Month also highlights the progress achieved through the efforts of disabled people and their allies in challenging barriers and advancing rights. It is a time to celebrate achievements, learn from history and renew our commitment to inclusion.

By embracing accessibility, respect and belonging, we can help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate, succeed and thrive within the Queen Mary community and beyond.



To learn more, scan or go to
qmul.ac.uk/disability-history-month



November 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
26	27	28	29
2	3	4 National Stress Awareness Day	5
9 UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) starts	10	11 Armistice Day	12
16	17	18	19 International Men's Day World Toilet Day Transgender Awareness Week ends UK Disability History Month starts
23	24 Guru Nanak birthday* Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence starts	26
30 Movember ends	1	2	3

Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1 Movember starts
6	7	8 Intersex Day of Solidarity Diwali Remembrance Sunday
13 Transgender Awareness Week starts	14 World Diabetes Day	15
20 UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) ends Transgender Day of Remembrance Carers Rights Day	21	22
27	28	29
4	5	6

Notes

[illegible]

*dates may vary

December

In the spotlight: Christmas

Christmas Day is celebrated annually on 25 December.

Christmas is a Christian festival that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by millions of people around the world. For many, it is both a religious and cultural occasion that brings together traditions, values, and community.

The day is associated with themes of generosity, goodwill, and togetherness. It provides an opportunity for people to reflect on shared values, spend time with family and friends, and show kindness to others.

Celebrations vary across cultures and communities but often include attending church services, exchanging gifts, sharing meals, and participating in seasonal traditions such as decorating homes and gathering for festive events.

Christmas also offers an opportunity to recognise and celebrate diverse traditions, while fostering a sense of connection and inclusion within wider society.



To learn more, scan or go to
qmul.ac.uk/faith



December 2026

Notes

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
31	1 World AIDS Day	2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
7	8	9	10 Human Rights Day 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence ends
14 Study period starts	15	16 Study period ends	17
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
28	29	30	31

Fri	Sat	Sun
4 Hanukkah starts	5 International Volunteer Day	6
11 Semester 1 ends (teaching ends)	12 Hanukkah ends	13
18 International Migrants Day	19 UK Disability History Month ends	20 International Human Solidarity Day
25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27
1	2	3

[illegible]

January

In the spotlight: Jewish Heritage and Queen Mary

Queen Mary has a longstanding connection to Jewish heritage through its campus history and location within the diverse communities of east London. Within the Mile End campus lies the Grade II-listed Novo (Nuevo Beth Chaim) Cemetery, a historic Sephardic Jewish burial ground established in 1733, providing a unique link to the history and contributions of Jewish communities in London.

Queen Mary's Libraries hold a range of resources supporting learning and research into Jewish history, culture, identity, and lived experiences. This commitment to preserving Jewish heritage is reflected in the Making and Remaking the Jewish East End project, which explores the history and experiences of Jewish communities in east London.

Local to Queen Mary is Rinkoff Bakery, founded in 1911 by Ukrainian Jewish immigrant Hyman Rinkoff. The family-run bakery has served generations of east Londoners and remains an important part of the area's cultural heritage.

Each year, Queen Mary marks Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January, an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Holocaust and to reaffirm our commitment to inclusion, respect and belonging for all.



To learn more, scan or go to qmul.ac.uk/makingthejewisheastend and qmul.ac.uk/about/queen-mary-heritage/queen-mary-and-westfield



January 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
28	29	30	31
4 Study period starts World Braille Day	5	6 Study period ends Epiphany	7 Examinations start
11	12	13 Maghi Lohri starts	14 Maghi Lohri ends
18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21
25 Semester 2 starts	26	27 Holocaust Memorial Day	28

Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Tamil Heritage Month starts New Year's Day World Day of Peace (Catholic)	2	3
8	9	10
15 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	16	17 World Religion Day
22 Examinations end	23	24 International Day of Education
29	30	31 Tamil Heritage Month ends

Notes

[illegible]

February

In the spotlight: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

A significant global gender gap persists across science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), with women and girls underrepresented at many levels. Addressing this imbalance is essential to fostering innovation, equity and excellence.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015, celebrates the vital contributions of women in STEM while promoting equal access to participation and challenging systemic barriers.

At Queen Mary, we are committed to advancing gender equality in science and engineering through coordinated action. This includes initiatives such as the British Council Women in STEM Scholarships, supporting women from underrepresented regions to access postgraduate study.

We also promote progression and inclusion through networks like the EECS Women in Higher Education Network (WHEN), which fosters mentoring, collaboration and community for women across career stages.

These efforts form part of our Athena Swan Gender Impact Plan, driving sustainable and inclusive change.



To learn more, scan or go to
un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day



February 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 LGBTQIA+ History Month starts National Heart Month starts World Interfaith Harmony Week starts Tinnitus Awareness Week starts Sexual Violence Awareness Week starts	2	3	4 World Cancer Day
8 International Epilepsy Day	9	10 Ash Wednesday and start of Lent	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
15 Parinirvana Day Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week starts	16	17	18
22 Eating Disorder Awareness Week starts	23	24	25

Fri	Sat	Sun
5	6 Time to Talk Day* Lunar New Year	7 Ramadan starts* World Interfaith Harmony Week ends Tinnitus Awareness Week ends Sexual Violence Awareness Week ends
12	13	14
19	20 World Day of Social Justice	21 Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week ends
26	27	28 Rare Disease Day LGBTQIA+ History Month ends National Heart Month ends Eating Disorder Awareness Week ends

Notes

*dates may vary

March

In the spotlight: Eid al-Fitr

Eid al Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast, is one of the most important celebrations in the Islamic calendar. It marks the end of Ramadan, a sacred month of fasting, reflection, and spiritual growth observed by Muslims worldwide.

In 2027, Eid is expected to fall on Tuesday 9 March (beginning the evening of 8 March), subject to the sighting of the moon.

Eid is celebrated to mark the completion of Ramadan and to give thanks for the strength, patience, and spiritual growth experienced during the month. It is a time to express gratitude, renew faith, and show compassion for others, particularly through charitable giving so that everyone can share in the celebrations.

Celebrations are centred around community and connection, and typically include special prayers, giving to charity, spending time with family and friends, and sharing meals and traditional foods. It is also common to wear new or best clothing and exchange greetings such as “Eid Mubarak”.

Eid offers an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the values of generosity, gratitude, and community, while highlighting the diversity of our wider society.



To learn more, scan or go to
[qmul.ac.uk/human-resources/
equality/protected-characteristics/
equalityreligion](https://qmul.ac.uk/human-resources/equality/protected-characteristics/equalityreligion)



March 2027

Notes

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 International Women's History Month starts Brain Tumour Awareness Month starts Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS) St David's Day	2	3 World Wildlife Day World Hearing Day	4
8 International Women's Day Ramadan ends*	9 Eid al-Fitr starts*	10 Eid al-Fitr ends*	11 University Mental Health Day
15 International Long Covid Awareness Day Neurodiversity Celebration Week starts	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18 Global Recycling Day
22 World Water Day Holi* Purim starts	23 Purim ends Hola Mohalla starts*	24	25 Hola Mohalla ends*
29	30 International Day of Zero Waste World Bipolar Day	31 Transgender Day of Visibility International Women's History Month ends Brain Tumour Awareness Month ends	1

Fri	Sat	Sun
5	6 Laylatul Qadr*	7
12	13	14 MS Awareness Week starts
19 Neurodiversity Celebration Week ends	20 MS Awareness Week ends Nowruz (Persian New Year)*	21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination World Down Syndrome Day
26 Good Friday	27	28 Easter
2	3	4

*dates may vary

April

In the spotlight: Lesbian Visibility Week

Lesbian Visibility Week is an annual celebration that recognises, celebrates and raises awareness of lesbian women and non-binary people who identify with the lesbian community. It provides an opportunity to amplify lesbian voices, celebrate contributions across society, and encourage conversations about inclusion, representation and belonging.

This week also highlights the importance of visibility in tackling discrimination and stereotypes, while recognising the diversity of experiences within the lesbian community. It encourages everyone to be active allies by listening to lived experiences, challenging prejudice, and supporting inclusive environments where everyone can thrive.

Throughout the week, take time to learn more, celebrate lesbian role models, and reflect on how we can all contribute to creating a more inclusive community.



To learn more, scan or go to
[qmul.ac.uk/human-resources/
equality/protected-characteristics/
sexualorientation](https://qmul.ac.uk/human-resources/equality/protected-characteristics/sexualorientation)



April 2027

Notes

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
29	30	31	1 Stress Awareness Month starts Autism Acceptance Month starts
5	6 International Asexuality Day	7 World Health Day Ugadi / Telugu New Year	8
12	13	14 Vaisakhi Bihu / Bengali New Year*	15
19	20 Hanuman Jayanti	21 Passover starts	22 Stephen Lawrence Day International Mother Earth Day
26 Lesbian Day of Visibility Lesbian Visibility Week starts	27	28	29 Passover ends

Fri	Sat	Sun
2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4
9	10	11 World Parkinson's Day
16 Semester 2 ends	17	18 Birthday of Guru Angad Dev
23 St George's Day	24	25
30 Stress Awareness Month ends Autism Acceptance Month ends	1	2

*dates may vary

May

In the spotlight: Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week is a national campaign dedicated to raising awareness of mental health, reducing stigma, and encouraging open conversations about wellbeing. Each year, the week is organised around a specific theme, helping to focus on particular aspects of mental health and inspire understanding and action.

The campaign highlights the importance of prevention, early intervention, and creating supportive environments where everyone can thrive.

At Queen Mary, we are committed to supporting the wellbeing of our community. Students and staff can access a range of services, including confidential counselling, wellbeing advice, and mental health support, alongside dedicated Student and Staff Wellbeing Hubs, which provide resources, guidance, and practical support.



For wellbeing resources for *students*, scan or go to qmul.ac.uk/welfare/wellbeing-support



For wellbeing resources for *staff*, scan or go to qmul.ac.uk/staff-wellbeing/mental-wellbeing



May 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
26	27	28	29
3 Early May bank holiday Yom HaShoah starts Trans History Week starts* Deaf Awareness Week starts*	4 Study period starts Yom HaShoah ends	5 Study period ends	6 Examinations start
10	11 Mental Health Awareness Week starts	12 International Nurses Day International ME/CFS Awareness Day	13
17 Eid al-Adha ends* International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) Mental Health Awareness Week ends	18	19 World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day	20 Global Accessibility Awareness Day
24 Pansexual Visibility Day	25 Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd	26	27
31 Spring bank holiday	1	2	3

Fri	Sat	Sun
30	1	2 Lesbian Visibility Week ends
7	8	9 Trans History Week ends* Deaf Awareness Week ends*
14	15	16 Eid al-Adha starts*
21 World Day for Cultural Diversity	22 International Day for Biological Diversity	23
28	29	30 World MS Day
4	5	6

Notes

*dates may vary

June

In the spotlight: Pride

Pride Month takes place annually throughout June and provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity, achievements and contributions of LGBTQIA+ communities, while reflecting on the importance of equality, inclusion and belonging.

The origins of Pride can be traced back to the Stonewall Uprising in New York City in June 1969, a landmark moment in the LGBTQIA+ rights movement that sparked activism and advocacy for greater equality and visibility around the world. Today, Pride is both a celebration of progress and a reminder of the work that remains to achieve full equality and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ people.

Throughout June, Queen Mary will be delivering its own Pride Month programme, featuring a range of events and activities designed to celebrate LGBTQIA+ identities, promote allyship, encourage learning and create opportunities for meaningful discussion and reflection.

We encourage all staff and students to get involved and join us in recognising and celebrating the rich diversity of our community.



To learn more, scan or go to
qmul.ac.uk/pride-month



June 2027

Notes

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
31	1 Pride starts Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month starts	2	3
7 Carers' Week starts*	8 World Oceans Day	9	10 Shavuot starts
14 Refugee Week starts Men's Health Week starts* Learning Disability Week starts	15 Ashura*	16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib	17
21	22 Windrush Day	23 Women in Engineering Day	24
28	29	30 Pride ends Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month ends	1

Fri	Sat	Sun
4 Examinations end	5 World Environment Day	6
11	12 Shavuot ends	13 Carers' Week ends*
18 Autistic Pride Day	19	20 World Refugee Day Refugee Week ends Men's Health Week ends* Learning Disability Week ends
25	26	27
2	3	4

*dates may vary

July

In the spotlight: South Asian Heritage Month

South Asian Heritage Month takes place from 1 July to 31 July. It celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of people with roots in South Asia, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, as well as the global South Asian diaspora.

The month provides an opportunity to explore the diverse heritage of South Asian communities and recognise their contributions to culture, education, business, science, politics, and public life. It also encourages greater understanding of the shared histories and experience that have shaped communities over time.

Activities include talks, cultural events, exhibitions, storytelling, and community discussions, offering opportunities to celebrate cultural richness, share perspectives and deepen understanding.

South Asian Heritage Month also supports wider conversation about inclusion, belonging and the value of diverse cultures and perspectives.

For information, educational resources and ways to get involved, visit the South Asian Heritage Trust website linked below.



To learn more, scan or go to
southasianheritage.org.uk/about



July 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
28	29	30	1 South Asian Heritage Month starts
5	6	7	8
12	13	14 International Non Binary People's Day	15 World Youth Skills Day
19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29

Fri	Sat	Sun
2	3	4
9	10	11
16	17	18
23	24	25
30	31 South Asian Heritage Month ends	1

Notes

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August

In the spotlight: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition will be observed on Monday 23 August.

This international day, established by UNESCO, is dedicated to remembering the transatlantic slave trade and honouring the lives of millions of people who were subjected to enslavement, as well as those who resisted and fought for freedom.

The choice of 23 August is significant, marking the start of uprisings in 1791 led by enslaved people in Saint Domingue, present day Haiti, which became a key moment in the struggle for abolition.

It is observed worldwide through educational and cultural activities that encourage reflection on the causes, consequences, and lasting impact of slavery. These include talks, exhibitions, performances, and community discussions that promote understanding, remembrance, and a commitment to challenging racism and inequality.

At Queen Mary, our global community represents over 170 nationalities. This day provides an opportunity to share histories and perspectives, and to reflect on the role each of us can play in creating a more just and equitable world.



To learn more, scan or go to
unesco.org/en/days/slave-trade-remembrance



August 2027

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
26	27	28	29
2 Late summer resit period starts	3	4	5
9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11	12 International Youth Day
16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day
23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	24	25	26
30 Summer bank holiday	31	1	2

Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1
6	7	8
13 Late summer resit period ends	14	15
20	21	22
27	28	29
3	4	5

Notes

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**Scan to discover more
about the Equality,
Diversity and Inclusion
team and their work**



**Liberation at the Students' Union:
By students, for students**

Got an idea you want to bring to life?
Whether it's a celebration, awareness
raising, workshop or event, the
Students' Union offers liberation
funding to make it happen. Scan to
find out more.