

Contact/Greeting

A person of faith may not wish to give someone of the opposite sex eye contact or shake their hand. (This is not the person being rude; there are certain sensitivities around the appropriateness of interaction especially when it comes to the opposite sex.)

Language

Swearing and degrading language could be offensive to people of faith. (For example, for Christians using Jesus' name as a swear word could be considered offensive.)

Personality

For many people of faith humility and reflection are really important. This may manifest itself in seeming to be more reserved or quiet than other people but this should not be seen as the person of faith attempting to be separate or think they are better than others. People of faith do have senses of humour and do like having fun.

Religious observance

Muslim men and women are required to offer five daily prayers. During prayer, Muslims face Mecca. This direction is called qibla and in Britain, is in a south-easterly direction. Muslims can pray more or less anywhere, provided it is clean and quiet. The main congregational prayer, Jumu'ah, is held on Friday between 1 and 2 pm and in most denominations its observance in a mosque is mandatory.

Putting an event (such as a training day or an interview) on a Friday might prove difficult for a Muslim as Jum'ah is really important on a Friday to many Muslims.

Sunday activities would be difficult for some Christians as it is their 'Sabbath' or rest day.

For Jewish people Friday evening until Saturday evening is their Sabbath.

Provision of prayer facilities

A person of faith may request access to a place to pray, and if it is possible to provide a room without an unacceptable adverse impact on business or other staff, it is good practice for employers to provide a prayer room for their employees. Where only one room is available, it could be designated as a multi-faith prayer or contemplation room.

The room should be clean and quiet. The qibla (the direction in which Muslims pray) could also be pointed out on the wall or a compass can be placed in the room for use by those wishing to pray. Some people of faith such as Muslims will not generally pray in a room where there are photos, posters, images or statues of people or animals.

Diet

- Jewish people would not eat Pork or any pork by-products; they would probably eat only kosher food (food prepared according to Jewish law). They also would not want to have meat and dairy products in the same meal.
- For Muslims, food has to be 'halal' which means it has been prepared according to Islamic rules. They also would not want to eat Pork.
- Hindus in general don't eat beef, some will be strict vegetarians.
- For Sikhs dietary requirements vary, many would not eat pork or beef.
- Buddhists are usually vegetarians although some still eat Fish and eggs. One of their core beliefs is the sacredness of all life, not just human.
- On the whole vegetarian food might be the best option if preparing food for a person of faith.

Appearance

- Some Muslim Women wear clothing which covers their whole body except their face and hands. Some Muslim men would want to cover from their naval to their knees so might be uncomfortable wearing shorts. Beards are considered obligatory in some denominations.
- For Sikh men the wearing of a Turban is required and modesty in dress is expected.
- The wearing of religious symbols has been in the media recently (particularly the wearing of a Cross) there is however no religious requirement for a Christian to do this.
- In general, modesty in dress is expected of many people of faith.