

RELIGIONS and BELIEFS:

The UK is a 'secular' state, so in general terms it is very tolerant. People living here can believe what they wish, and worship whatever they want. You can find out about places of worship in your area through a public library or any telephone directory.

Nevertheless, the country still has strong historical Christian traditions, the monarch (the king or queen) is automatically 'Defender of the Faith', and the Church of England is automatically given some seats in Parliament's House of Lords.

The key Christian churches are Anglican (Church of England, which is Protestant), Catholic, Methodist and Baptist. But there are also many others such as Greek and Russian Orthodox churches, Salvation Army meeting halls, churches of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Kingdom Halls of Jehovah's witnesses, etc.

Muslims also worship freely here and there are many mosques, just as there are many Hindu, Baha'i and Sikh temples. The British will fiercely defend the right of these groups to meet peacefully.

There are also multi-faith celebrations, some organized by the United Nations Association, which befriend people from outside the UK who may need support.