Faith on set: crib sheet for HoDs and ADs

One page for heads of department, ADs and production. Plan at prep, not on the floor. For every faith and for none.

At booking

- Ask everyone the same question: 'Anything we should plan for: prayer, food, holy days, kit, access?'
- Don't guess from a name or how someone looks. Don't assume someone has no needs either.
- Never ask what someone believes. Ask what they need.

Prayer

- Prayer times move with the sun through the year. Check them for the dates you're shooting.
- Muslim crew may need about 10 minutes, up to five times a day. In winter, sunset prayer (Maghrib) can land near wrap.
- Friday midday congregational prayer (Jumu'ah) can mean a longer lunch or a swap. Plan it on the schedule.
- Ask the 2nd AD or location manager for a clean, quiet space. Water nearby for washing (wudu) helps.

Fasting

- Ramadan moves about 11 days earlier each year. Fasting runs dawn to sunset. Lent, Yom Kippur and other fasts differ.
- Ask catering to hold food for after sunset. Avoid heavy lifts late in a long fasting day if you can.
- Eid dates depend on the moon. Plan a floating day off rather than a fixed date.

Sabbath and holy days

- Shabbat runs from Friday sunset to Saturday nightfall. Sunday worship matters to many Christians.
- Ask at booking about Christmas, Easter, Passover, Diwali, Vaisakhi, Eid and others. Put agreed days in the schedule.

Food

- Halal, kosher, vegetarian and vegan are about how food is prepared and kept apart, not just the label.
- Pass requests to catering through the production office before the shoot, not on the day.

Dress, PPE and contact

- Turban-wearing Sikhs are legally exempt from head protection rules at work (HSE). Other PPE still applies.

Dress, PPE and contact (continued)

- Head coverings can sit under hoods and hi-vis. Talk it through.
- Ask about physical contact, changing space and lone working. Don't assume.

Content

- Share the script or brief at booking so crew can raise concerns before they sign.
- Not every request can be met. Say so early and plainly.

Keep it private

- Faith is special category data under UK GDPR. Never put it on a call sheet or crew list.
- Share only what's needed, with the person's say-so. Write down the plan, not the belief.