



# Death & Dying

(Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism)



- Death
- Preparation of Death
- Funeral
- Aftercare
- Segregation
- Golden Rules



# Death

- Hinduism: Upon death the soul enters another re-incarnation
- Islam: Process where the spirit is transferred from the physical body to the Hereafter
- Sikhism: Constant cycles of birth and rebirth



# Rituals & Observances Before Death

- Hinduism:
  - water from the River Ganges
  - Prayers or reading from classical texts
  - Picture of their favourite deity
- Islam:
  - Hear recitals from the Qur'an
  - Travel to Mecca, Saudi Arabia to die
- Sikhism:
  - Hear prayers or readings from the 'Guru Granth Sahib'



# Home, Hospital or Hospice

- Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism prefer to die at home



## Last Words

- Hinduism: Ideally one should die with God's name (Ram, Ram)
- Islam: Declaration of Faith
- Sikhism: Ideally one should die with God's name (Vahe Guru)

Staff should recognise the importance of these words



# Expression of Grief at Death

- Hinduism: Usually open, involves crying and wailing
- Islam: Usually involves crying
- Sikhism: Expected to keep their emotions under control



## Touching the Body by a Non-Faith Member

- Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism

Usually no objection – but check





# Post-Mortem

- Hinduism and Sikhism: no restrictions
- Islam: strictly forbidden



## Cremation or Burial

- Hinduism: Mostly cremated, some sects bury
- Islam: Only bury – not permitted to cremate  
Haste in burial  
Transporting of body abroad
- Sikhism: Normally cremated



## Shroud or Coffin

- Hinduism: White shroud
- Islam: White shroud, no coffin
- Sikhism: 5 K's



# Attendance of a Non-Faith Member

- Hinduism: Any faith member free to attend
- Islam: Usually hold private funerals
- Sikhism: Any faith member free to attend



# Attendance of Women

- Hinduism: Women attend Crematorium and stay behind the men
- Islam: Advisable to ask family beforehand
- Sikhism: Women attend Crematorium / funeral and stay behind the men



## Mourning Period

- Hinduism: 13 days
- Islam: 3 days
- Sikhism: Between 2 to 5 weeks



# Segregation

- Segregation between males and females is traditionally quite important in all three faiths
- Comforting the opposite gender



# Golden Rules

The message for Professionals is to be receptive to cultural and religious differences, in all cases (where possible), consult with the client about their particular needs

Do not make assumptions based on a religious or cultural background, although knowledge of that background may make communication and accommodation easier





Thank you