



INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA

A Worldwide Celebration of
Sexual and Gender Diversities

MAY 17

SUMMARY REPORT 2016

**THIS REPORT PROVIDES A SELECTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA 2016.**

Hundreds of organisations are involved in the activities mentioned in this report. It would be impossible to mention them all. As a matter of fairness, we choose not to mention any individual organisation. Country reports provide all further details of events

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“Millions of people around the world observe the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May. I believe in and strive to achieve a world rooted in tolerance, freedom and equality; a world where we are all free to live a life of dignity. There are no exceptions. Human rights are for everyone, no matter who you are or whom you love.”

UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON



Australia • IDAHOT 2016 Community gathering.



Japan • IDAHOT 2016 campaign.



Twitter Open action for IDAHOT 2016.

Editorial

“With hundreds of events registered across the world, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia has once again proven to be an essential moment in the global advocacy for sexual and gender minorities.

Three countries, Bhutan, Brunei and Vanuatu saw IDAHOT actions for the first time, bringing the total number of countries where IDAHOT actions have been registered to an amazing 132, which is probably the best proof that sexual and gender diversities know no borders!

From the highest levels of the UN, with the Secretary General himself participating in a video of the UN's Free and Equal campaign, to confidential community gatherings in Brunei, the Day has offered an entry point for action to the broadest possible range of stakeholders.

This year, the Day has been particularly well marked by authorities around the globe and never have so many heads of States (USA, UK, Mexico, Chile, Denmark), Ministers, MPs and elected officials supported the day through announcing actions, meeting activists, public declarations, flying the rainbow flag, lighting official buildings in Rainbow colours or passing legislation giving the Day official status as a Day of action for sexual and gender diversities.

Public institutions at local levels have also marked the Day on a large scale, with municipalities, schools, police forces, fire brigades and hospitals being particularly visible. The IDAHOT is definitely becoming a favourite moment of action for institutions to show their support!

Companies and corporations have also been highly visible. For the first time, Google mentioned IDAHOT on the home page of their search engine, drawing the attention of millions of people! Many other companies mobilised too, from internal staff events all the way to

huge partnerships with LGBT organisations. But the Day belongs foremost, of course, to activists. All over the world they have shown their creativity once again, with bicycle (P)rides, Flashmobs, beauty pageants, human flags, kiss-ins, concerts, vigils and prayers, and many more, including a “Tango against homophobia and transphobia”, in Argentina of course!

The global focus issue of IDAHOT 2016, Mental Health and Well Being, was part of many of these events, highlighting the need to combat so-called conversion “therapies”, to stop the medical classification of Trans identities as mental troubles, and to care about the mental well-being of LGBTI people.

While most activities were held successfully, including in challenging places like Moldova, Brunei, Jordan, Russia, Uganda or Pakistan, several IDAHOT events had to be cancelled under pressure. This year about 15% of IDAHOT initiatives were not announced in advance for fear of triggering hostility. This is much more than in previous years, which clearly signals that opposition to sexual and gender diversity is growing across the world.

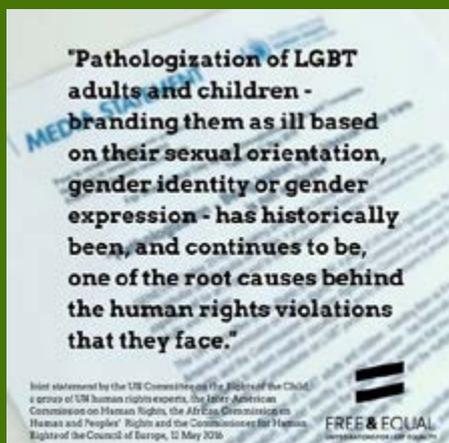
This situation should remind us all that LGBTI people still need support, solidarity and sometimes protection. With this, sexual and gender minorities can truly unleash their fantastic transformative power - not just to access their own fundamental basic human rights but, as increasing support from straight allies shows, for the benefit of everyone towards more inclusive, happy, diverse and respectful societies.

As an instrument for a better future, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia truly deserves everybody's engagement!

Tamara Adrian
Chair, IDAHO Committee



International events



UN Joint Statement for IDAHO 2016.

European institutions have been particularly engaged in several ways, mainly through the now traditional “IDAHO Forum” which brings EU stakeholders together to discuss cooperation and regional politics.

This year the Forum was hosted by the Danish government under the theme ‘Building Bridges and Alliances’ and opened by Crown Princess Mary. The forum provided the opportunity for the release of many publications and reports, including the ILGA Europe and Transgender Europe maps and indexes of the situation of LGBTI people in Europe.



2016 UN Free and Equal Video Campaign “Why We Fight”.

At an international level, ILGA released an update of its global report on the legal state of LGB people. The “Transmurder monitoring report” also released its update on the extent of hate crimes targeting the Transgender community.

The United Nations have also been particularly visible. As in previous years, many UN agencies made special IDAHOT declarations reaffirming their commitment to fight against discrimination based on sexuality and gender orientation or expression. UNAIDS, UN Women, UNDP and the International Organisation for Migration, are among some of the agencies that spoke out. The UN High Commission for Refugees flew a huge Rainbow Flag on their Geneva headquarters. UNESCO brought together Ministers and civil society representatives from across the world for a two-day IDAHOT conference on combatting violence against LGBT schoolchildren and students. And the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released a ground-breaking “Why We Fight” video, already seen by hundreds of thousands of people. The World Bank also took a stand, by calling the attention on the economic costs of homophobia and transphobia within the developing world.



Crown Princess Mary opens IDAHO Forum 2016.

In line with the annual focus issue on “Mental Health and Well-Being”, a large alliance of UN and regional human rights mechanisms issued a special statement. The statement makes an urgent appeal for an end to the pathologisation of trans, lesbian, gay or bisexual adults and children, highlighting the many harmful impacts and human rights violations linked to pathologisation and stigma. This statement follows a declaration from the World Psychiatric Association which also strongly condemns all forms of psychiatric pathologisation of LGBTI people and strongly opposes so-called “conversion therapies”.



UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva commemorate IDAHOT 2016.

International networks and organisations have also been very active on the day, with many supportive declarations and publications issued by renowned entities.



Asia



Philippines • #WellAndFab campaign for IDAHOT 2016.

Asia this year saw a range of events and actions held across the continent.

East to west and north to south, Asian community groups and campaigners joined together to support IDAHOT 2016, with events that covered a variety of issues. We have heard so far of events in 17 countries.

In China activists launched a campaign focusing on gender-neutral bathrooms in NGOs, businesses and UN facilities. UNDP launched the Being LGBTI in China Survey Report. Actions in the country also included the launch of a special collection of stamps that included traditional Chinese imagery and pro-LGBT designs. These are the country's first ever stamps with LGBTI imagery.

In several countries large-scale events were held in major cities and town. In South Korea a large scale dance flashmob in Seoul drew hundreds of participants. In Singapore events included a nature bike ride and several events focused around health and wellbeing. In Cambodia, the now traditional week of IDAHOT celebrations included a rainbow-colored "tuk-tuk" ride.

In India, the Day generated several large-scale online actions and some street events too.

Among these, the 'Queers Against Quacks' campaign targeted stigma and discriminatory practices within mental health professions. The actions involved many members of the public



Indonesia • Social media posts.



Thailand.

and saw an incredible response across India, especially in the form of online engagement and discussion - even generating support from the national psychology association.

In the Philippines, a large online campaign also focused on the issue of mental health by loudly and proudly affirming that we are “Well and Fab”.

In Myanmar, the annual “&Proud” photo competition and exhibition was held once again to mark IDAHOT 2016, featuring work from LGBT amateur photographers.

In Pakistan, a beauty pageant crowned “Miss Pakistan 2016”, while Nepal’s LGBT community elected “Miss Pink” in a similar event.

IDAHOT actions also took place in Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.



Cambodia.

For the first time, IDAHOT was celebrated in Bhutan, where the UN offices held a special day of events and disseminated supportive videos. Advocates reminded that the right to be who you are is an integral part of the nation’s Gross National Happiness. An inspiration many should follow!

For the first time IDAHOT was also celebrated in the very conservative state of Brunei, where a private community event was held.



India.

Bhutan • Bhutan sees first ever IDAHOT action.



Hong Kong • Street actions.



Latin America and Caribbean



Venezuela • Parliament recognizes May 17 as national day of action against LGBT phobias.

In Argentina authorities at all levels took action to mark IDAHOT 2016. In Rosario the regional government opened an “LGBT House” to promote the rights of the LGBTI community. Buenos Aires city legislature marked the Day with a discussion on healthcare for transgender people while many other provinces marked the Day by recognising May 17 as an official provincial day of action against discrimination towards the LGBTI community.

As in previous years, more than 70 public offices, embassies and municipalities in Chile marked the day by raising the rainbow flag. In addition and for the first time the Presidential building was illuminated with the rainbow flag colours. Other activities included discussions about the advancement of equal marriage and the organisation of the First National Bisexual Pride held in Santiago.

In Venezuela, years of efforts of activists were rewarded as the National Assembly officially recognised the IDAHOT as a national day of action. The 5th annual parade against homophobia was also celebrated in Caracas, while other parades and activities were held around the country.

Brazil had once more amazing activities all across the country, spearheaded by the national LGBT federation, in most all of its 27 states. Multiple events marked the international focus issue on mental health and wellbeing. This year’s activities in many states involved a week of pre-May 17th events in universities, law societies, psychology societies, social work councils, trade unions, as well as some government health, education and public security departments, among others, culminating in Marches to commemorate IDAHOT 2016.

The Cuban ‘Jornada’ against homophobia was held for the ninth consecutive year, with events in multiple cities, which included film screenings, symbolic wedding ceremonies, and a mass parade that included the participation of Mariela Castro.



Puerto Rico • IDAHOT street action.

Activities in Mexico reached a peak this year, as the President officially marked the day by illuminating the presidential house with the colours of the rainbow flag and announcing the national recognition of equal marriage bill, to be presented to the national congress.

Ecuador’s local organizations marked the Day with their already traditional free kiss and hugs events in different cities across the country. Bolivia saw local authorities launch a week full of activities focused on the legal protection of LGBTI people. In Peru, the national report on LGBTI Rights was presented on IDAHOT. Activists also staged a Bike (P)ride and flashmob in the streets of Lima.



Cuba • Mariela Castro leads weeklong IDAHOT 'Jornada'.

Kissing against discrimination was seen in Paraguay, with the now traditional “besatón” on the Parliament steps, which was attended by hundreds of activists.

In Costa Rica most activities were organized by the delegation of the United Nations, municipalities and universities together with local activist and allies. Puerto Rico and Guatemala held their traditional IDAHOT marches, bringing thousands of people to the streets for the rights of LGBTI people. In Panama the 3rd annual parade against homophobia took place on May 17 with the slogan “celebrate all the forms of love”. Parents and friends of LGBT people also organized a giant picnic to celebrate the diversities of families. Honduras marked the day with activities during a whole month. Activities included cinema festivals, a Trans-specific forum, a forum for LGBTI families and their allies, and a Pride march on May 17.



Colombia • IDAHOT march ends in central “Zocalo” square.

Affiliates of the global “It gets better” project in Chile, Peru, Mexico and Ecuador, also marked the day with different activities, from producing an online campaign for social media to the organization of the 3rd “It gets Better” awards.

In Jamaica, activists held a Human Rights Symposium, a cultural event and met with representatives from government, private sector and civil society organisations

Last but not least, regional organisations were actively involved in many local events, but also developed specific actions. The regional UNAIDS office launched infographics on the situation of so called “conversion therapies” in the region and updates on the situation of HIV in the region.



Mexico • Presidential residence lights up for IDAHOT.



Chile • President Bachelet lights up the Presidency “la Moneda”.



Europe



Hungary • Flashmob in the streets of Budapest.



Kosovo • First Pride march.



Moldova • Success for Moldova's Pride march.

Europe's strong commitment was once again seen across the region, with major events being held in cities and towns in almost every European nation.

At the institutional level, the 4th annual IDAHO Forum was held this year in Copenhagen (see section on international events). The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs Frederica Mogherini also released an official statement on the day and similar expressions were seen across the European political establishment.

Several European States (mainly the Netherlands, the UK and Germany) also mobilised their diplomatic and embassy services to support local events by LGBTI activists.

Outside of the political world IDAHOT once again proved to be an important date for Europe's LGBTI community. For many advocates IDAHOT marks the beginning of Pride season with activities spanning to the end of June, while for many others IDAHOT provides the single major milestone in the year.

In Kosovo, IDAHOT saw the country's first Pride march. In Moldova too, activists managed to hold their Pride March, with heavy police protection. In Brussels, the annual Pride march is timed to coincide with IDAHOT each year. In Russia, advocates braved the ban on public action and staged a beautiful balloon release over St Petersburg.

In Ukraine, activists staged a creative “puzzle flashmob” that made for a superb video. In Armenia, Albania and Azerbaijan, a week of IDAHOT programs saw public events, lectures, the release of reports, the launch of public campaigns and even a bike (P)ride through Albania’s capital Tirana.

In Hungary, activists staged various simultaneous actions to occupy the public space. In Greece, a campaign camp was organised to help foster cross-European solidarity and cooperation and saw activists from several countries taking part in training and workshops. In Slovenia, IDAHOT activities included a public “wedding” ceremony in protest of a recent referendum, which restricted marriage rights for same-sex couples. In Austria, the national affiliate of the global “It Gets Better” project had their videos screened on TV throughout the day.

The United Kingdom once again showed an amazing commitment to the Day, increasingly referred to there with the acronym “IDAHOBIT”, with a whole host of events and actions held across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and dozens of rainbow flags flying on official buildings, including London City Hall.

For many actions, IDAHOT was a truly international event. In Krakow, Poland, an international march invited individuals from across the region to join for LGBTI equality. In the UK, Germany, Sweden and France events also invited activists from across the world to cooperate and foster international solidarity.

Public events, church services, community gatherings, flag raising and online campaigns marked the Day in Malta, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Estonia, Cyprus, Luxemburg, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia, and more.

Across the region several events focused on mental health and wellbeing. The IDAHOT 2016’s global theme helped connect many academics, universities and mental health professionals to LGBTI communities, and helped foster important dialogue.

But in spite of the fantastic visibility of successes, the region also saw IDAHOT actions being increasingly challenged.

In Turkey for example, the IDAHOT events that had been taking place in Ankara for over 10 years, were banned this year by authorities. In the republic of Georgia, where religious fundamentalists from the “World Congress of Families” helped thwart IDAHOT mobilisation by organising their conference in counter-protest, activists who staged a non-violent silent protest action were arrested by authorities (and fortunately released rapidly).



Slovenia • Symbolic same sex marriage celebrations.



UK • Dozens of buildings raise the rainbow flags or light up.



Africa and Middle East



Lesotho • IDAHOT 2016 event.

Across Africa, public and registered events took part in 10 countries in the region.

We also estimate that small and closed events also took part in at least 10 more countries. In many countries the risks involved forced events to take place behind closed doors.

Across the continent LGBTI campaigns benefitted from the international solidarity IDAHOT brings, with events that would not normally be held in the public sphere. In many countries embassies and diplomatic services helped support local LGBTI communities in various ways. Through public events, training, workshops or simply messages of support.

In Zimbabwe, Uganda, Lesotho, Botswana or Swaziland public events provided the LGBT community a precious opportunity to come together. In Kenya, IDAHOT discussions focused on asylum seekers and migrants. We also heard from activities in Ghana, Nigeria, Madagascar and Tanzania, where Trans and LGB activists held the country's first ever Trans National Forum to mark IDAHOT 2016. In Uganda, a country with a well-documented record of oppression, the LGBT community this year saw the country's largest ever pride event.

South Africa saw probably the region's strongest selection of events, with several actions held across the country.



South Africa • LGBT Pop-up Pride.



Uganda • IDAHOT sees biggest public community gathering ever.



Israel • Tel Aviv city hall lights up.

The Middle East saw a strong mobilisation from several groups, despite the difficulties faced by campaigners across the region.

In Lebanon several events were held across the country, including a gathering in front of a Beirut police station to protest the arrest of Trans people.

In Amman, Jordan, an IDAHOT community event brought together some 40 people. Though held in total confidentiality, the event was important in terms of community building and fostering links with Human Rights organisations.

An online action helped mobilise communities and diaspora from Egypt, Sudan and Algeria, while in Tunisia activists organised the second international feminist art festival Chouftouhonna and conducted a campaign action to support decriminalisation of same-sex relationships.

In Israel, an IDAHOT symposium gathered many experts and researchers in Tel Aviv University, while the city hall lit up in rainbow colours on IDAHOT night.



Lebanon • Protest against arrest of Trans people in front of Beirut police station.



Botwana.



Lesotho.



North America



Canada • Canada, PM Trudeau announces legislation towards full equality for Trans people.

North America this year showed strong and vocal action especially from institutions.

In Canada and the United States strong support was seen from within the political establishment, as leaders of both countries spoke in support of IDAHOT 2016.



USA • US leaders speak up for IDAHOT 2016.

Perhaps the biggest news from the day came from Canada, where IDAHOT 2016 was marked with the passing of landmark legislation for the protection of Transgender citizens. The new laws were announced in a statement made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, during which he reaffirmed his government's commitment to the equality of LGBTI individuals with the simple message 'love is not a crime'.

The new laws grant Transgender and non-binary Canadians new protections, which will hopefully help tackle discrimination and human rights issues facing many members of the community.

In the United States President Barrack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry were among the many high levels politicians who once again spoke in support of the day.



Canada • Like in Toronto, several cities in Canada raise the rainbow flag each year for IDAHOT.

Special U.S. Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons Randy Berry and House of Representatives leader Nancy Pelosi also spoke out. Following the introduction of over two dozen bills to curb LGBT rights at the state and federal level, Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in observation of IDAHOT 2016 released a video featuring many Members of Congress as the kickoff of the **#WeAreWithYou** campaign to show support for the LGBT community.

The United States was also the home of the largest online dialogue for IDAHOT, with tens of thousands of tweets and social media posts coming from across the country. The huge online response, the largest we have ever seen, was in part thanks to Google, who publicly supported the day with a message on the search engine's homepage. With strong division currently existing across America on the subject of trans and LGBT rights the response online was incredible to see. Although many used the opportunity to support the ongoing backlash, the internet was filled with messages of support, meaningful dialogue, and an incredible response from the American media.

American civil society also contributed hugely to the visibility of the Day. From a video series highlighting global innovators in the fight for LGBTI equality to roundtables and public debates, organisations allowed many voices from around the world to be heard.

In Canada's French speaking province of Quebec, where the Day is widely celebrated, this year's focus issue was on LGBTI seniors.

Oceania and Pacific



Australia • Get together for IDAHOT in Sydney.

Across Oceania local communities came together to support the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

In Australia in particular the response was incredible, as the nation took global leadership in the IDAHOT, which is often marked there with the acronym IDAHOBIT.

Iconic scenes were once again seen in Brisbane, as the city's bridge was lit in rainbow colours for the second year. In every state and territory across Australia LGBTI groups marked the day, with many choosing to focus on the issues most affecting their local communities. For many this issue was marriage equality, as the national debate keeps unfolding.

Sports sessions, religious gatherings, picnics, dances and public protests were held to mark the day – and the selection of events and actions seen in both Australia and the broader region was more varied and interesting than ever.

A significant response was also seen this year from the official establishment, as police, fire and ambulance services stood in solidarity with LGBTI people on the Day. A positive response was also seen from governmental authorities, as many local councils flew the rainbow flag and supported the day in other ways. In New Zealand a number of small events were seen across the country. A positive response was also seen from the public and government, which included much online discussion over the day.



Fiji • IDAHOT supporters.



Australia • Community event in the Blue Mountains.

In Fiji, where the Day is being marked consistently, a large alliance of UN agencies, LGBT organisations, Human rights organisations, authorities and embassies came together over a daylong conference, while several civil society groups launched online public campaigns to mark the day.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, Vanuatu saw its first ever IDAHOT action with a panel discussion and a community event. Vanuatu is the third country this year to mark IDAHOT for the first time, bringing the total number of countries which have seen IDAHOT actions to 132!



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,
TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA**

A Worldwide Celebration of
Sexual and Gender Diversities

MAY 17

Since 2005, May 17 has been dedicated to the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), marking the day in 1990 when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

It constitutes an annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, opinion leaders, local authorities, etc. to the alarming situation faced by Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender or Intersex people, and all those who don't conform to majority sexual and gender norms.

The sheer diversity of social, religious, cultural and political contexts in which gender and sexuality are expressed, makes it impossible for the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia to take one specific form or agenda. It is a moment when everyone can take whatever action they wish.

The Day has been given official recognition by many authorities at all levels, from city councils to parliaments and governments. European institutions, UN agencies and many other bodies mark the Day each year with special events



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The International IDAHO Committee was established by the founders of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia in 2005. Its missions is to inspire, support, and document the global mobilisations around May 17.

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