



ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

1 March 2018

“We will not achieve our vision for health or realize any of the Sustainable Development Goals if we do not confront discrimination.”

Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director

ZERO DISCRIMINATION

On Zero Discrimination Day, UNAIDS is highlighting the right of everyone to be free from discrimination.

No one should ever be discriminated against because of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, language, health (including HIV) status, geographical location, economic status or migrant status, or for any other reason. Unfortunately, however, discrimination continues to undermine efforts to achieve a more just and equitable world. Many people face discrimination every day based on who they are or what they do.

Discrimination will not disappear without actively addressing the ignorance, practices and beliefs that fuel it. Ending discrimination requires action from everyone. Zero Discrimination Day is an opportunity to highlight how everyone can be a part of the transformation and take a stand towards a more fair and just society.

EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

Discrimination is often based on misinformation or fear of the unknown. By looking at people in everyday situations, this year's campaign challenges people to recognize where discrimination is taking place and to take action to stop it.

Everyone has the right to enjoy a safe and nurturing environment. Everyone has the right to good health care. Everyone has the right to love who they love.

THE CHALLENGE

The campaign challenges people to inform themselves about discrimination by taking a quiz and sharing it with friends and family. We can all challenge discrimination and spread the knowledge.

Ending discrimination is the right thing to do. It is good for our communities, good for the economy and good for the future.



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Would you still be her friend if she were **HIV-positive**?

Discrimination on the basis of HIV status is a violation of human rights.



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Photo: MSF/Marulo

Would you want him on the team if he were **gay**?

Discrimination based on sexual orientation is a violation of human rights.



WHAT IF ...

This year's Zero Discrimination Day campaign highlights everyday situations where discrimination occurs. It invites people to ask themselves "What if ..." and to reflect upon their own actions.

- ▶ What if the person serving you coffee was a refugee? Would you go back to the coffee shop?
- ▶ What if the person you bought your vegetables from was living with HIV? Would you buy her food?
- ▶ What if your neighbour had tuberculosis? Would you stop to chat?
- ▶ What if your child's friend was living with HIV? Would you let them play together?
- ▶ What if your neighbour had a different religion from you? Would you still welcome her into your home?
- ▶ What if your colleague was gay? Would you still work with him?



**Would you buy
food from him if he
were **HIV-positive**?**

Discrimination on the basis of HIV status is a violation of human rights.

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FACTS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION

1. Discrimination is the negative treatment of person or a group of people on the basis of: gender, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social class, age, marital status, family responsibilities, etc.¹
2. Discrimination discourages people from accessing health-care services, including HIV prevention methods, learning their HIV status, enrolling in care and adhering to treatment.
3. One hundred and thirty million girls between the age of six and 17 are out of school and 15 million girls of primary-school age—half of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa—will never enter a classroom. Every child has a right to education.²
4. Out of 143 economies, almost 90% have at least one legal difference restricting women's economic opportunities. Seventy-nine countries have laws that restrict the type of jobs women can do.³
5. More than a billion people live with some form of disability. People living with disabilities are four times more likely to report being treated badly by health-care staff and nearly three times more likely to be denied health care.⁴
6. Three of the world's most fatal communicable diseases—malaria, HIV and tuberculosis—disproportionately affect the world's poorest populations, and in many cases are compounded and exacerbated by other inequalities and inequities, including gender, age, sexual orientation or gender identity and migration status.⁵
7. In a survey of 19 countries, one quarter of people living with HIV reported experiencing some form of discrimination in health care.

8. Stigma and discrimination towards key populations is reinforced by criminal laws and other structural barriers, which fuel violence, exploitation and a climate of fear.
9. Sixty-two per cent of men who have sex with men in Kampala, Uganda, reported that they had experienced physical violence in the previous 12 months.
10. Nearly 30% of women globally experience physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.
11. Seventy-two countries criminalize same-sex sexual relationships. Thirty-two countries retain the death penalty for drug offences and more than 100 countries criminalize some aspect of sex work.
12. All people are equal before the law and are entitled to the protection of the law without discrimination.
13. Keeping girls in school benefits girls, their families and their communities. And yet nearly four out of 10 schoolgirls are made fun of for being female. By the time girls reach secondary school, one in five report that they are “unhappy to be a girl”.⁶
14. Discriminating against women affects food production. Women make up 43% of the agriculture workforce in developing countries and yet only 5% are able to access agricultural advisory services.
15. Discriminating against same-sex sexual relationships leaves people vulnerable to violence, arrest and detention and to violations of their right to privacy. Same-sex sexual relationships are criminalized in 72 countries.⁷

“I have faced discrimination in school because of my appearance, hence I felt isolated and alone.”

27-year-old man from Zambia

“I am HIV-positive. I was born with HIV and I am 24 years old and stigma, I should say, has been a problem, one of the biggest challenges of my life.”

Girl from Uganda

“After 14 years working for the same company, many of us were replaced by younger employees ... we were let go because we were over 50.”

56-year-old from the United Kingdom

“When my parents confronted me because my brother told them I was gay, they called me a sinner, rejected me and kicked me out.”

27-year-old man from Côte d'Ivoire

“Just because I am in a wheelchair doesn't mean I cannot think, work or live on my own.”

38-year-old man from the United States of America



TEN ACTIONS FOR STATES

1. Provide free and compulsory primary education and make secondary education generally available and accessible for all.
2. Eliminate discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) employees in the workplace.
3. Review and repeal punitive laws that have negative health outcomes and work against established public health evidence.
4. Strengthen the legal and policy environment to ensure that laws protect women and girls from gender inequality and violence.
5. Develop curricula and sensitize law enforcement officers and prison personnel to treat sex workers and people who use drugs respectfully.
6. Develop remedies, sanctions, specialized equality bodies and public awareness campaigns to eliminate gender discrimination and harassment at work.
7. Address discrimination in health-care settings by strengthening and implementing policies, regulations and standards for the prohibition of discrimination on all grounds in connection with health-care settings.
8. Guarantee that access to justice is made available to everyone, including the most marginalized.
9. Ensure that everyone enjoys the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
10. International human rights law lays down obligations that states are bound to respect. By becoming parties to international treaties, states assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfil human rights.

FIVE ACTIONS FOR YOU

1. Treat people with respect and don't discriminate based on their race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc.
2. Stand up for the rights of people left behind, including sex workers, people who use drugs, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, women and girls, migrants, etc.
3. Denounce discrimination through social media and other platforms.
4. Write to your lawmakers to push for the reform of laws that discriminate.
5. Remind your government that it has the obligation under international human rights law to ensure enjoyment of all human rights without discrimination.



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