



ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY
1 MARCH 2016

I STAND FOR #ZERODISCRIMINATION



STAND OUT

1 MARCH IS ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

STAND OUT

“WHEN THE MOST MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE FACE DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE, ALL OF US ARE DIMINISHED. THE UNITED NATIONS IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.”

BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

On Zero Discrimination Day 2016, celebrate individuality and stand out. Embrace the diversity that exists around us, understand and accept people’s differences, open minds and respect and support one another.

Each person has a diverse set of talents and skills that can enrich societies and strengthen communities. Welcoming and embracing diversity in all its forms reinforces social cohesion and brings valuable benefits.

Zero Discrimination Day is an opportunity to join together against discrimination and celebrate everyone’s right to live a full and productive life with dignity. Gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language or any other status should never be a reason to discriminate.

By joining hearts and voices, individuals, communities and societies can transform the world. Zero Discrimination Day is an opportunity to highlight how everyone can be part of the transformation and stand out for fair and just societies.

CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION

- ▶ **Discrimination can happen anywhere: at the health-care facility, at work, at school, at home and in the community. Discrimination doesn’t just hurt individuals or groups of people—it hurts everyone:**
- ▶ **Discriminating against people on the basis of their race causes individual suffering and weakens social cohesion.**
- ▶ **Limiting the chances of girls and young women to get a proper education harms not only individual life chances but prevents societies benefiting from a deeper pool of talent.**
- ▶ **Stigmatizing people living with HIV discourages people from getting tested and receiving life-saving health care and treatment.**
- ▶ **There are many things that can be done to counter discrimination and encourage acceptance: standing out and speaking up when something is wrong, raising awareness, supporting people who have been discriminated against and promoting the benefits of diversity.**



ZERO DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH-CARE SETTINGS

Imagine a young woman newly diagnosed with HIV being told by her doctor that she must be sterilized, a sex worker facing violence or abuse from a nurse, a disabled person denied access to proper advice about their sexual health, a gay man frightened of disclosing his sexuality to medical staff, a person who injects drugs dying after being refused treatment or a transgender person attempting suicide after being turned away from a clinic. Unfortunately, such cases happen all too frequently throughout the world, even though health-care settings should be considered as safe and caring environments.

Any obstacles that inhibit access to health-care facilities, including to testing, treatment and care services, must be removed. Access to health must be open to everyone. On Zero Discrimination Day, let's resolve to tear down the walls of fear and prejudice that prevent people from accessing services that keep them alive and well. In 2016, everyone, everywhere should have the right to health.

**“STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION DAMAGE
PEOPLE AND FRAGMENT SOCIETIES—
PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO
SUFFER IN FEAR AND DARKNESS.
IN 2016, TRANSFORM AND STAND OUT
FOR ZERO DISCRIMINATION.”**

MICHEL SIDIBÉ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNAIDS



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT #ZERODISCRIMINATION CAMPAIGN

The campaign will use different platforms (the White Table Gallery, Facebook, Instagram) to promote and display personal stories about overcoming discrimination.

Through the use of drawings, pictures, gifs, audio and video, people can show their support for #zerodiscrimination.

White Table Gallery

A new exhibition on whitetablegallery.org will provide a creative space for partners and friends to express what zero discrimination means to them.

Instagram

Several artists, designers and illustrators have created original pieces providing their interpretation of zero discrimination. Follow @unaidsglobal to see the artworks.

Facebook

Everyone can support and participate in this year's campaign through the #zerodiscrimination Facebook page. Anyone can share their own interpretation of zero discrimination, showing support by sharing pictures and drawings of a butterfly or posting images and photos with the hashtag #zerodiscrimination.

Twitter

Tweets and images are available for download on unaids.org and can be shared in support of the #zerodiscrimination campaign.

FACTS AND FIGURES

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH—THE ENJOYMENT OF THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH—IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT THAT INCLUDES ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, TIMELY AND QUALITY HEALTH-CARE SERVICES. ¹

SEVENTY-FIVE COUNTRIES HAVE LAWS THAT CRIMINALIZE SAME-SEX SEXUAL RELATIONS. ²

IN ONE ANALYSIS FROM SWAZILAND, NEARLY 62% OF MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN SURVEYED SAID THAT THEY FEARED SEEKING HEALTH CARE BECAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION. ³

IN ONLY FOUR OUT OF TEN COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE DO EQUAL NUMBERS OF GIRLS AND BOYS ATTEND SECONDARY SCHOOL. ⁴

DISABLED PEOPLE ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO REPORT BEING TREATED BADLY AND NEARLY THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE DENIED HEALTH CARE THAN NON-DISABLED PEOPLE. ⁵

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

² http://old.ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2015.pdf

³ Risher, K., Adams, D., Sithole, B., Ketende, S., Kennedy, C., Mnisi, Z., ... & Baral, S. D. (2013). Sexual stigma and discrimination as barriers to seeking appropriate healthcare among men who have sex with men in Swaziland. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 16(3Suppl 2).

⁴ UNESCO. Teaching and learning: achieving quality for all. EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/14, Jan. 2014

⁵ World Health Organization: 10 facts on disability, September 2013.

