

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,
BIPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA**

17 May 2023

As we mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, we face a stark fact. In every corner of the world, LGBTQI+ people continue to face violence, persecution, hate speech, injustice and even outright murder.

Meanwhile, retrograde laws continue to criminalize LGBTQI+ people around the world, punishing them for simply being who they are.

Each assault on LGBTQI+ people is an assault on human rights and the values we hold dear.

We cannot and will not move backwards.

The United Nations firmly stands with the LGBTQI+ community, and will continue working until human rights and dignity are a reality for all people.

I renew my call to all Member States to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and end the criminalization of consensual same-sex relations and transgender people. Being yourself should never be a crime.

In keeping with this year's theme — "Together Always: United in Diversity" — I call on the world to speak with one voice to eliminate the stigma, discrimination, harmful practices, and often deadly violence endured by LGBTQI+ people.

Human rights are non-negotiable. They belong to every member of the human family — no matter who they are or whom they love.

Let's continue working to build a peaceful, just world in which all people are free and equal in dignity and rights.
