



Want to get more information or tell us about your events for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia?  
Get in touch with us via:

 [contact@dayagainsthomophobia.org](mailto:contact@dayagainsthomophobia.org)

 [www.dayagainsthomophobia.org](http://www.dayagainsthomophobia.org)

 [facebook.com/may17idahot](https://facebook.com/may17idahot)

 [twitter.com/may17idahot](https://twitter.com/may17idahot)

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



# INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

A WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION OF SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITIES

# MAY 17

# Why a Worldwide Day to Defend LGBT Rights?



At least 81 countries in the world criminalize same sex relationships.



This means that 40% of the world population (or 2.8 billion people) are not free to choose who they love. Millions of homosexual and bisexual people live in a constant state of fear.



In 10 countries, the death penalty can be applied for same sex acts.



A multitude of countries do not offer any form of legal recognition of trans and gender variant people's true gender. With few exceptions, in almost all countries, which provide legal gender recognition, trans and gender variant people face forced psychiatric treatment and in the majority of countries even sterilization if they want their true gender to be recognized.



Sexual and gender minorities face public stigmatization, police violence, state repression, attacks and murders. Their most basic human rights are being denied daily.



According to our calculations, 70% of the world population lives under laws, regulations and practices which severely restrict freedom of expression.

Details of all figures and more data on [www.dayagainsthomophobia.org](http://www.dayagainsthomophobia.org)

# Facts and Figures about May 17



Since 2005, May 17 has been dedicated to the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, 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 and local authorities to the alarming situation faced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people and all those who do not conform to majority sexual and gender norms.



May 17 is now celebrated in more than 120 countries, with advocates staging hundreds of activities, events and actions all over the world. These mobilisations unite millions of people in support for the upholding of human rights for all, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.



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



The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia is breaking records for global mobilisation and outreach, with at least 200 million people reached by campaign messages around the globe in 2013.

# What Country Activists Say about May 17

“The fact that the Day is officially recognized by almost 20 States, countless local authorities and several international institutions like the EU provides a strong argument for the legitimacy of our action in hostile contexts. On the Day, our opponents don't just have to face us, they have to face millions of our supporters, friends and allies worldwide.”

ALBANIA

“The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia constitutes a moment when different groups coexist and come together under the same agenda, which gives a necessary complement to more specific dates that allow particular visibilities and empowerments.”

BRAZIL

“The fact that we know thousands of other activists are taking action on the same day is an incredible booster of our self-confidence. This is the only moment in the year that allows this.”

CAMBODIA

“The Day has made a vital contribution to LGBT activism in China. We now have celebrations all over the country and May 17th has become the main moment for visibility of sexual and gender minorities.”

CHINA