

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA DECLARATION OF INTENT



La Valletta (Malta), 14 May 2014

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobideclaration of Intent

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Human beings are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights, regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

We are committed to the principle of the universality of human rights and reaffirm that cultural, traditional or religious values cannot be invoked to justify any form of discrimination, including discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons constitute diverse and vulnerable groups, who, on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, continue to be victims of hatred, violence, discrimination, bullying and ill-treatment.

We recognise that specific action is often required in order to counteract homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and related intolerance.

We welcome international initiatives taken to promote human rights of LGBTI persons, and reaffirm that this declaration does not substitute these documents.

In view of this, we the signatories intend to:

1. Ensure that appropriate legislative and/or other measures are adopted and effectively implemented to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
2. Ensure that the rights to freedom of expression and assembly are guaranteed, particularly with regard to public events, such as pride marches, by ensuring these events take place lawfully and by guaranteeing the effective protection of participants;
3. Register, investigate and prosecute hate motivated crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity and publicly disavow such crimes, as appropriate;
4. Ensure that the right to education can be effectively enjoyed free from discrimination; unhampered by gender stereotypes; and free from violence, bullying, social exclusion, or other forms of discriminatory and degrading treatment related to sexual orientation or gender identity;

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5. Remove all obstacles that impede the right to respect for private and family life on the grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity;
6. Guarantee the full legal recognition of a person's gender identity in all areas of life, in particular by enabling the change of name and gender in official documents in a fast, transparent and accessible manner;
7. Remove abusive and disproportionate requirements for legal gender recognition, make available appropriate gender reassignment services and ensure that no-one is subjected to gender reassignment procedures without his or her consent;
8. Welcome international initiatives aimed at increasing the level of knowledge on the human rights situation of intersex persons;
9. Raise human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity at the regional and international level and cooperate with other states or relevant intergovernmental organisations to tackle homophobia and transphobia across borders;
10. Adopt measures to promote equality of LGBTI persons at the national level, and support the adoption of strategies at the regional and international level when appropriate;
11. Mainstream the promotion of equality for all across government, with an adequate focus on sexual orientation and gender identity, and raise public awareness on diversity and inclusion at all levels of society, starting from a young age;
12. Cooperate with and consult non-governmental organisations defending the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons on the adoption and implementation of measures that may have an impact on the human rights of LGBTI persons and ensure that all civil society actors working on LGBTI rights issues are afforded a safe and enabling environment, in law and practice, to carry out their legitimate functions and operate free from hindrance and insecurity.