

**ABOUT ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY**

On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.

[This year](https://www.unaids.org/en/2024-zero-discrimination-day) is the tenth anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day and the theme is “To protect everyone’s health, protect everyone’s rights”. [Learn more](https://www.unaids.org/en/2024-zero-discrimination-day)

**Introduction**

**Zero Discrimination Day** is an annual day celebrated on 1 March each year by the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) (UN) and other international organizations. The day aims to promote [equality before the law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_before_the_law) and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN. The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014, and was launched by [UNAIDS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNAIDS) Executive Director Michel Sidibé on 27th of February of that year with a major event in [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-1)

In February 2017, UNAIDS called on people to "make some noise around zero discrimination, to speak up and prevent discrimination from standing in the way of achieving ambitions, goals and dreams."[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-2)

The day is particularly noted by organizations like UNAIDS that combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. "HIV related [stigma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_stigma) and discrimination is pervasive and exists in almost every part of the world including our Liberia", according to Dr. Ivan F. Camanor, Chairman of the National AIDS Commission of Liberia.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-3) The [UN Development Programme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Development_Programme) also paid tribute in 2017 to LGBTI people with HIV/AIDS who face discrimination.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-4)

Campaigners in India have used this day to speak out against laws making discrimination against the LGBTI community more likely, especially during the previous campaign to repeal the law ([Indian Penal Code, s377](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Section_377_of_the_Indian_Penal_Code)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-5)) that used to criminalize homosexuality in that country, before that law was overturned by the Indian Supreme Court in September 2018.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-6)

In 2015, Armenian Americans in California held a 'die-in' on Zero Discrimination Day to remember the victims of the [Armenian genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_genocide).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Discrimination_Day#cite_note-7)

**What is discrimination day**.

Zero Discrimination Day is an annual observance held on March 1st, initiated by the United Nations AIDS program (UNAIDS) in 2014. The day aims to promote diversity, tolerance, and acceptance, advocating for the eradication of discrimination in all its forms globally. It highlights the importance of respecting everyone's rights, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or any other characteristic.

Zero Discrimination Day serves as a reminder of the need for societies to create environments that foster inclusivity and equality, where everyone can live with dignity and without fear of discrimination. It also encourages individuals and communities to take action to challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices and to support those who are marginalized or stigmatized.

Zero Discrimination Day is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a catalyst for tangible change. It inspires action at every level of society, urging policymakers, institutions, and individuals to enact laws, policies, and practices that promote equality and protect the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable. It empowers people to speak out against injustice, to stand up for those who are oppressed, and to strive for a world where diversity is celebrated and discrimination has no place.

As we commemorate Zero Discrimination Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable world. Let us recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every individual and pledge to work tirelessly towards a future where zero discrimination is not just a dream but a reality for all.

Zero Discrimination Day is an annual observance that stands as a beacon of hope and a call to action against all forms of discrimination. Initiated by the United Nations AIDS program (UNAIDS) in 2014, this day, observed on March 1st each year, serves as a global reminder of the urgent need to create a world where everyone is treated with dignity, respect, and equality, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or any other characteristic.

The essence of Zero Discrimination Day lies in its unwavering commitment to promoting diversity, fostering tolerance, and championing inclusion. It is a day to challenge societal norms, stereotypes, and prejudices that perpetuate discrimination in all its insidious forms, whether subtle or overt. It serves as a platform for individuals, communities, and organizations worldwide to unite in solidarity, advocating for the eradication of discrimination and the advancement of human rights for all.

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**Detail**

Zero Discrimination Day is an annual global observance that originated from the United Nations AIDS program (UNAIDS) and is observed on March 1st each year. It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the negative impacts of discrimination and to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion worldwide. Here are some key details about Zero Discrimination Day:

1. **Origins**: Zero Discrimination Day was first observed on March 1st, 2014, after being launched by UNAIDS. It was established to address the alarming levels of discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS. Over time, its focus has expanded to encompass all forms of discrimination.
2. **Theme**: Each year, Zero Discrimination Day is organized around a specific theme to highlight different aspects of discrimination and promote relevant actions. Themes may include issues such as gender equality, racial discrimination, LGBTQ+ rights, disability rights, and more.
3. **Objectives**: The primary objective of Zero Discrimination Day is to raise awareness about the damaging effects of discrimination on individuals and communities. It seeks to challenge stereotypes, prejudices, and social norms that perpetuate discrimination and inequality. Additionally, the day aims to promote tolerance, acceptance, and respect for diversity in all its forms.
4. **Activities**: Zero Discrimination Day is marked by various activities and initiatives organized by governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, schools, and individuals. These activities may include educational campaigns, workshops, seminars, art exhibitions, cultural events, social media campaigns, and advocacy efforts.
5. **Advocacy**: One of the central components of Zero Discrimination Day is advocacy. It provides a platform for individuals and organizations to advocate for policy changes, legal reforms, and social interventions aimed at combating discrimination and promoting human rights. Advocates often use the day to lobby governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to take concrete actions to address discrimination.
6. **Global Impact**: Zero Discrimination Day has gained recognition and support from governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and individuals worldwide. It serves as a reminder of the commitments made under various international agreements and declarations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims the right to equality and non-discrimination for all individuals.
7. **Partnerships**: Collaboration among various stakeholders is essential for the success of Zero Discrimination Day. Governments, UN agencies, NGOs, businesses, celebrities, and community leaders often collaborate to organize events, amplify messages, and mobilize resources to advance the goals of the day.

Overall, Zero Discrimination Day is a critical opportunity to promote a culture of inclusion, respect, and equality. By raising awareness, challenging discrimination, and advocating for change, individuals and organizations can contribute to building a more just and equitable world for all.

**You**

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Zero Discrimination Day has its roots in the global response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS was widespread during the early years of the epidemic, fueled by fear, stigma, and misinformation. Recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, the United Nations AIDS program (UNAIDS) launched Zero Discrimination Day as a way to raise awareness and promote tolerance and compassion.

Here is an overview of the history of Zero Discrimination Day:

1. **Early Years of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic**: In the 1980s and 1990s, as the HIV/AIDS epidemic spread globally, people living with HIV/AIDS faced severe discrimination and stigma. They were often ostracized by their communities, denied access to healthcare, education, and employment, and subjected to violence and human rights violations.
2. **Emergence of Zero Discrimination Day**: In response to the discrimination and stigma experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, along with its partners, launched Zero Discrimination Day on March 1st, 2014. The date was chosen to symbolize the fight for zero discrimination and to coincide with other important global health observances.
3. **Expansion of the Agenda**: While Zero Discrimination Day initially focused on combating discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, its scope has since expanded to encompass all forms of discrimination. This expansion reflects the interconnectedness of different forms of discrimination and the importance of addressing discrimination in all its manifestations.
4. **Annual Observance**: Since its inception, Zero Discrimination Day has been observed annually on March 1st. Each year, the day is marked by various activities and initiatives aimed at raising awareness, promoting tolerance, and advocating for the rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations.
5. **Global Recognition**: Zero Discrimination Day has gained recognition and support from governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and individuals worldwide. It has become an important platform for advancing the goals of equality, diversity, and inclusion on a global scale.
6. **Themes and Campaigns**: Each year, Zero Discrimination Day is organized around a specific theme or campaign to highlight different aspects of discrimination and promote relevant actions. These themes may include issues such as gender equality, racial discrimination, LGBTQ+ rights, disability rights, and more.
7. **Impact**: Zero Discrimination Day has contributed to raising awareness about the damaging effects of discrimination and stigma and has helped to mobilize action to address these issues. While challenges remain, the day serves as a reminder of the ongoing commitment to building a more just, equitable, and inclusive world for all.

In summary, Zero Discrimination Day emerged as a response to the discrimination and stigma faced by people living with HIV/AIDS but has since evolved into a broader initiative to combat discrimination in all its forms. It continues to play a crucial role in promoting tolerance, understanding, and respect for diversity on a global scale.

**You**

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Overall, Zero Discrimination Day is a critical opportunity to promote a culture of inclusion, respect, and equality. By raising awareness, challenging discrimination, and advocating for change, individuals and organizations can contribute to building a more just and equitable world for all.

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Conclusion

In conclusion, Zero Discrimination Day is an annual global observance initiated by the United Nations AIDS program (UNAIDS) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of discrimination and promote equality, diversity, and inclusion. Since its inception in 2014, the day has served as a platform for advocating against discrimination in all its forms, including but not limited to discrimination based on HIV status, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, and other characteristics.

Zero Discrimination Day encourages individuals, communities, governments, and organizations to take action to challenge stereotypes, prejudices, and discriminatory practices. It highlights the importance of respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their differences. Through various activities, campaigns, and advocacy efforts, the day aims to foster a culture of tolerance, acceptance, and mutual respect worldwide.

While progress has been made in addressing discrimination, significant challenges persist, and there is still much work to be done to create a world where everyone can live free from discrimination. Zero Discrimination Day serves as a reminder of the ongoing commitment to building inclusive societies where diversity is celebrated and discrimination has no place.

In essence, Zero Discrimination Day calls upon individuals and societies to unite in solidarity, promote understanding, and strive for a future where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of who they are or where they come from. It is a celebration of diversity and a reaffirmation of the fundamental principle that every human being deserves to live a life free from discrimination.



