ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

*By Divya*

**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 Sidibe on 27th of February of that year with a major event in [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing" \o "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. Camano, 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)

