

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - MAY 17



A Worldwide Celebration
of Sexual and Gender Diversities

#IDAHO TB

WORLDWIDE PHOTO ALBUM 2018

An illustration of five diverse people of various ethnicities and ages standing together. They are holding a white sign with the text 'ALLIANCES FOR SOLIDARITY' in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is framed by horizontal lines. The background is a teal grid with yellow and white confetti and balloons. The people are dressed in colorful, patterned clothing. One person on the right is wearing a yellow hijab and has their right arm raised in a fist.

**ALLIANCES
FOR SOLIDARITY**

IDAHOBIT'18
INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST
HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA AND

This year's global focus on "Alliances for Solidarity" resonated across the world, with many organisations taking ownership of the theme to reach out to allies and supporters.

Alliances are definitely the backbone of our struggles. In a world where traditional fault-lines between progressives and conservatives are being blurred by populist movements, it is more essential than ever to reconnect all our social struggles together.

So this May 17 provided an essential moment around the globe for all defenders of sexual and gender diversities to express their support. Voices of sexual and gender minorities and all their supporters and friends resonated around the globe, from Australia to China, from Kenya to Chile.

In some places, opponents violently cracked down on peaceful May 17 events. In Lebanon, the Beirut Pride festival had to be suspended. In Georgia, Caucasus, the Orthodox Church and Neo-Nazi factions threatened to physically assault LGBT groups, leading to the cancellation of planned events. In China, some university authorities actively tried to discourage students from holding events to mark May 17.

But however hard opponents tried, the mobilisation for sexual and gender diversities did not abate.

Everywhere, more and more voices joined the global celebration for sexual and gender diversities.

This album provides a few snapshots from the many events that were recorded. They bear testimony to the organisers' creativity and courage.

THIS REPORT PROVIDES A SELECTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA 2018.

Hundreds of organisations were involved in celebrations around the world. It would be impossible to mention them all. As a matter of fairness, we chose not to mention any individual organisation.

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[1] "We are visible". Activists in Ukraine hold a rainbow flashmob against discrimination in their country.

[2] A sea of colour: Germany's annual Rainbow Flashmob drew hundreds of people in more than 20

cities. **[3]** Brussels City Council launched their #sharethecolour campaign, promoting gender and sexual diversity using vivid visuals and striking high-fashion design.

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[1] "Different. Equal. Together." More than 200 Russian gathered in St Petersburg, despite government and police opposition. They released a rainbow of balloons, including black balloons to represent the persecution of the queer community in Chechnya. **[2]** Finnish schools celebrated May 17 as part of a national push for more education on gender and sexual diversity. **[3]** Activists in Guatemala protested against homophobic and transphobic violence. Central and South America have the highest rates of homophobic and transphobic murder. **[4]** Rainbow Palace: the La Moneda presidential palace in Santiago, Chile, lit up in rainbow colours in support of its LGBTIQ+ citizens.

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[1] Tbilisi, Georgia: Queer activists rallied together in front of the Government Chancellory, despite counter-protests by neo-Nazi and religious groups. “We are citizens of this country. We are members of this family. We are not going anywhere.” **[2]** League of Legends' developer, Riot Games, launched a set of rainbow icons in their game in celebration of 17 May.

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[1] For those who came before: Spanish activists in Madrid gathered in Pedro Zerolo Square, which was newly-renamed in commemoration of the late LGBT activist. **[2]** Also in Spain, community activists gathered in Oviedo to protest for trans equality and justice. **[3]** Mendoza, Argentina: activists and politicians raised a rainbow flag outside the Governor's Office in support for LGBTIQ+ rights.

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[1] Gathering at the European Parliament. The EP recognised May 17 officially as early as 2006 and has been celebrating it vibrantly ever since **[2]** Out and proud, LGBTIQ+ groups in Myanmar took over a shopping centre on 17 May to celebrate diversity and acceptance.

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[1] Melbourne, Australia: university students celebrated 17 May with rainbows and drone photography.
[2] Rainbow House and the City of Brussels unveiled a mural painting of Ihsane Jarfi, who died in a homophobic hate crime in 2012.

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[1] Also in Melbourne, staff at the Women's Hospital showed their colours for 17 May. **[2]** German beekeepers painted rainbow runways onto their hives for 17 May, a celebration of all the queen-bees who keep the world buzzing. **[3]** A homemade rainbow cake makes for a great way to share the May 17 commemoration with friends and colleagues. **[4]** Bollywood showed their pride: this year, many high profile Indian celebrities voiced their support for sexual and gender diversity.

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[1] Parisians came together to commemorate the victims of LGBTIQ+ hate crimes. Tragically, the flowers they left there in commemoration were found burnt the next morning. **[2]** Moroccan film makers made a film showing the persecution experienced by LGBTIQ+ people in a country where homosexuality is still illegal. **[3]** IKEA stores across the world flew the rainbow flag for May 17, showing support and solidarity to LGBTIQ+ people. **[4]** Samoan activists made a custom selfie frame to raise awareness of LGBTIQ+ rights. **[5]** New Zealand/Aotearoa Parliament was the first Parliament to fly the Intersex Flag to celebrate 17 May.

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[1] Brussels' annual Pride week is timed to coincide with 17 May. Thousands from around the world filled the city's centre to celebrate with live music, glitter and dancing. [2] A woman shouts slogans during a march to mark IDAHOTB in Madrid, Spain. | Photo Credit- REUTERS [3] Fiji held its annual Pride march under the banner of this year's theme. The closing dinner was attended by the country's former President. [4] Trade unions in Turkey marched on 17 May in protest of an indefinite ban on all public LGBT events in the province of Ankara.

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[1] "Never forget": Frankfurt's Lovewalk is bright and colourful but dedicated to the victims of Nazi persecution. **[2]** French Minister Mounir Mahjoubi came out on May 17 to underline the need for public visibility at all levels. **[3]** In Romania, people brought a pair of shoes in the name of those LGBT people who are still hidden and don't dare to be present themselves. **[4]** In Moldova, activists chose not to use the rainbow flag, to avoid "gutt reactions" of hostility. Instead, this year they marched with pink foam hearts.

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[1] Pride has no age . A local drag queen visited a UK primary school on May 17, where children performed Pride songs and dances to celebrate diversity. **[2]** In Cambodia, couples tied the knot at a 17 May celebration. Same sex marriage is not yet legal in Cambodia but marriage equality movements are getting momentum.

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[1] In the Democratic Republic of Congo, LGBTIQ+ advocacy is highly dangerous but 17 May provided a rare opportunity for initiatives, supported and protected by Embassies. **[2]** Amnesty International in Venezuela hosted a colourful debate on LGBTIQ rights, using the topic "Alliances for Solidarity". **[3]** The annual 17 May rally in Paris drew record crowds and focused on the trans rights as an priority issue. **[4]** This rainbow picket in Moscow proved you don't need large crowds to celebrate 17 May. **[5]** With six teams and over 200 people, ShanghaiPRIDE's Rainbow Colour Bike Race brightened the rainy streets of Shanghai.

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[1] In Thailand, beauty queens, activists and national authorities join forces and hands to mark the Day. [2] Australian team proudly joined the annual "tuk-tuk" race in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh. [3] Riga, Latvia: more than 8000 people took to the streets to celebrate Baltic Pride, the largest in North Eastern Europe.

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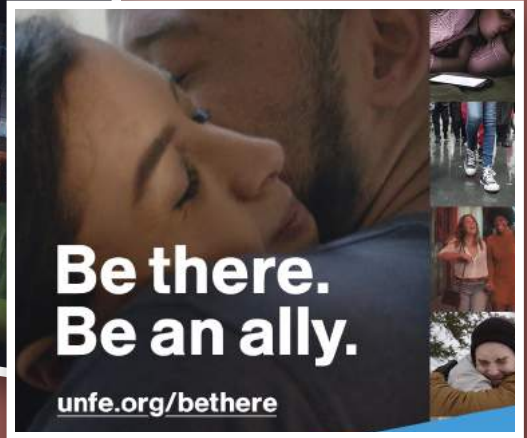
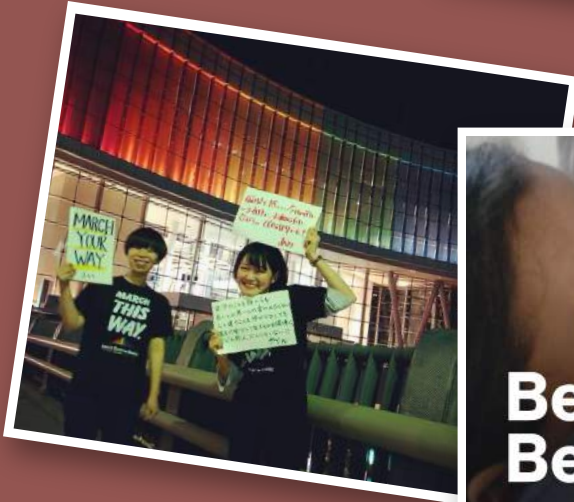
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[1] EU institutions, networks and civil society meet yearly at the annual IDAHOTB forum. This time the host was Portugal. **[2]** Geneva proudly flew the Rainbow flag along the city's bridges. **[3]** Pride in religion: Christian LGBT groups organised vigils across Spain and Italy. The Gionata project was launched in 2007 and has been marking every May 17 since. **[4]** ILGA Europe and Transgender Europe networks released their much awaited annual reports on progress towards full equality and justice. **[5]** EY celebrated 17 May globally, including with an international photo competition through its Unity program, a global network of 1600 LGBT staff.

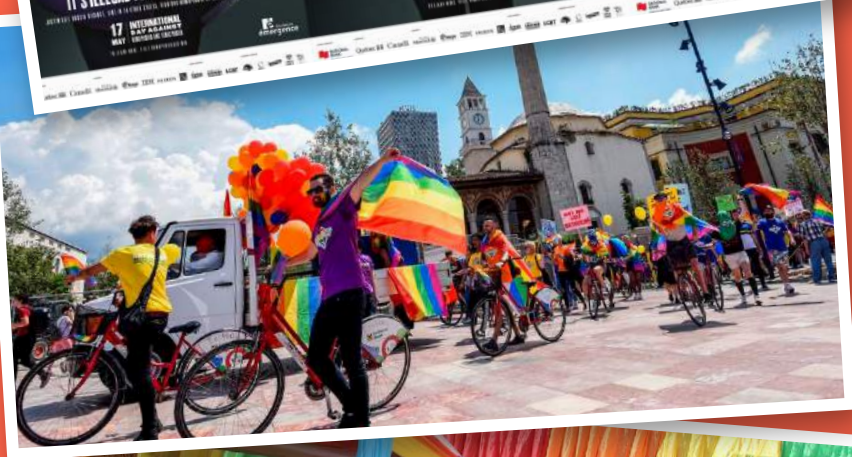


[1] The Workplace Pride network timed their annual conference to coincide with 17 May. Over 250 representatives from large corporations met in Amsterdam to discuss diversity and inclusion **[2]** The South African LGBT+ Management Forum launched the first Workplace Equality Index, to hold companies in the country accountable for progress on inclusion of LGBT+ people. **[3]** In Japan, messages for equality and against stigma are held up high on busy parts of Tokyo. **[4]** The United Nations 'Free and Equal' campaign released a powerful video to mark May 17. In line with this year's theme, the video calls on allies to "be there".

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[1] In the Canadian province of Quebec, the annual May 17 campaign focused this year on international solidarity. [2] In the Albanian capital of Tirana, activists took their bikes to the streets for the annual bike (P)ride. [3] The celebrations in Uganda were blocked by authorities, in a shameful infringement of the most basic Freedom of Expression.

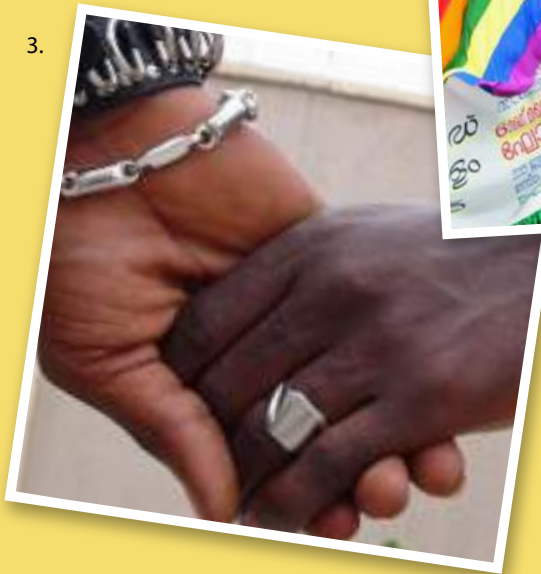
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[1] In Pakistan, a trans activist created an engaging frame, and invited people around her to show solidarity. **[2]** In Kerala, India, the State government announced big policies to bring sexual and gender minorities to the mainstream. **[3]** The first outreach health centre for the LGBTI community opened in Windhoek on 17 May.

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[1] In the Himalaian kingdom of Bhutan, the LGBTIQ+ community and their allies gathered to celebrate gender and sexual diversity in all its forms. [2] In Myanmar, the British Embassy hosted an LGBT choir to the Royal Wedding ceremonies to pay tribute to May 17 [3] The beach walk in Durban, South Africa, was one of the first events this year [4] Cuba has been celebrating 17 May since its beginning in 2005. This year again, street marches and public rallies took place in several cites.

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[1] In Brazil, people gathered to celebrate the Ministry of Human Rights establishing a National Pact against LGBT+ hate crimes. **[2]** Despite the interruption of Beirut Pride under threats from conservative and religious groups, the Lebanese capital bustled with 17 events, including online campaigns, parties, poetry readings, a drag king contest, and much more. Diversity unfolding in the face of adversity!

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[1] IBM Ireland hosted a 17 May event, collecting over 200 support messages, which they made into a colorful rainbow acronym made of post-its. **[2]** In Hanoi, Vietnam, the Be Unique Be U (BUBU) festival annually draws crowds to a joyful celebration of diversity. **[3]** Every year, the Miss Pink Nepal pageant is a landmark for pride, awareness and glamour - credit Wave magazine **[4]** LGBTQI+ events have been prohibited in Ankara, Turkey, since November 2017. But students defied the ban by staging a Pride march through the campus of their University. Despite attempts by the university and the local authorities to stop the event, hundreds of students attended and the event went ahead peacefully.

All over the world, public buildings went Rainbow Color.



Thames barrier



Kosovo Government office



National Theater Mexico



Melbourne bridge, magnificently lit up this year again



European Commission. All EU institutions traditionally celebrate the Day



Czech Embassy in Delhi - all over the world, Embassies of many countries took a stance



Mexico



Mexico



Mexico



Melbourne - credit Tina Eastly



Melbourne - credit Tina Eastly



Melbourne - credit Tina Eastly



European Parliament - Strasbourg, France

Police forces showed their commitment to respect and protect people of all genders and sexualities.



UK Police forces all over the country displayed their support



Smiles and Solidarity from Merseyside (UK) Police, both equally appreciated



Greater Manchester Police proud horse



Schoolkids in Australia repaint a local police station with rainbow colored paint "bombs"



Berlin police caught at "coffee and (Rainbow) cake" break

Rainbow paintings decorated the world for May 17



Paris



Chile



Mexico



Lithuania

Rainbow flags waved on China's campuses. Despite some bans, many LGBT groups managed to stage 17 May events



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#IDAHOTB



For more details, visit
www.dayagainsthomophobia.org