

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - MAY 17



A Worldwide Celebration
of Sexual and Gender Diversities

**ANNUAL PHOTO ALBUM WITH SNAPSHOTS
FROM AROUND THE GLOBE 2019**



All eyes were of course on Taiwan which became on May 17 the first Asian country to allow same-sex marriage. A huge victory for Taiwan's LGBTI+ movement, which shines a wonderful rainbow all over this year's International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

In 2019, “**Justice and Protection for All**” was the motto at global level. Although many event organisers chose their own specific focus, the global theme resonated across many different contexts.

Because protection and justice, although they are part of the most basic and precious of Human Rights, are far from a given.

Over 70 countries still criminalise same-sex conduct, even if there have been recent progress in India, Angola and Trinidad and Tobago. Recently, Kenya failed to make History on that front in Africa.

Only 27% of UN Member States have broad protection policies in place for sexual minorities.

Only 3% of States prohibit “conversion” therapies!

For Transgender people the situation is even worse. Although the WHO revision of the ICD-11 in 2018 depathologised trans identities, processes for gender marker and name change almost inevitably still include requirements that are blatant human rights violations (forced surgery and sterilisation, forced divorce, destitution of parental rights, etc.). Intersex people are still subject to forced unnecessary surgery.

Only a handful of countries provide any form of legal protection, leaving Transgender and Intersex people vulnerable to stigmatisation and discrimination.

In the face of this, organisations and individuals rise everywhere to express their voices, tell their stories, change hearts and minds, lobby governments, take to the courts and much more.

Every year, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia provides everyone with a unique opportunity for this, as the global scope of the Day amplifies their voices.

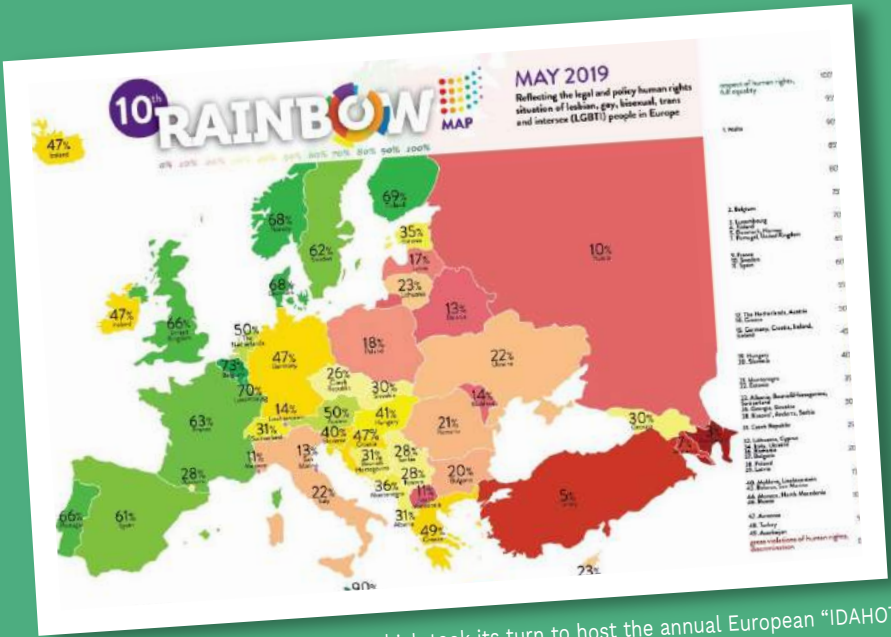
As a global event marked at the highest levels of the United Nations the Day aims at providing some form of **protection** to local activists especially in difficult and dangerous contexts. For protection is a necessary condition to access **justice**.

We hope that the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia has once again provided the opportunity to take the debate even just a little bit further.



Note: This album provides a few snapshots from the many events that were recorded. They bear testimony to the organisers' creativity and courage. 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. Our website May17.org and our Twitter feed [@may17org](https://twitter.com/may17org) provide more detailed coverage of events and organisers.

¹All figures on this page from ILGA World



The May 17 week kicked off in Norway, which took its turn to host the annual European “IDAHOT+ forum” which brings together governments, European institutions, and civil society. ILGA Europe presented their annual edition of the Rainbow Maps and Index evidencing worrying setbacks for the rights of LGBTQI people in some European countries.



In Australia, one of the countries most mobilised for May17, many city councils raised the rainbow flag to mark the Day. And iconic buildings such as Brisbane Bridge once again lit up in rainbow colors.



Pride marches are also part of traditional May 17 celebrations. In Brussels, the annual Pride march is always timed on the Saturday next to May 17. But marches also took place this year in other places, like here in Fiji



Raising the flag for May 17 remained very popular all over the UK, with cities, police forces, schools, hospitals, local councils, companies and many other entities participating. But many other events could be seen across the country on May 17, like here at Manchester College.



In Belgium's Flemish part a stunning 100% of cities raised the Rainbow flag on May 17.



In Utrecht in the Netherlands, people gathered for a "Walk of Love".

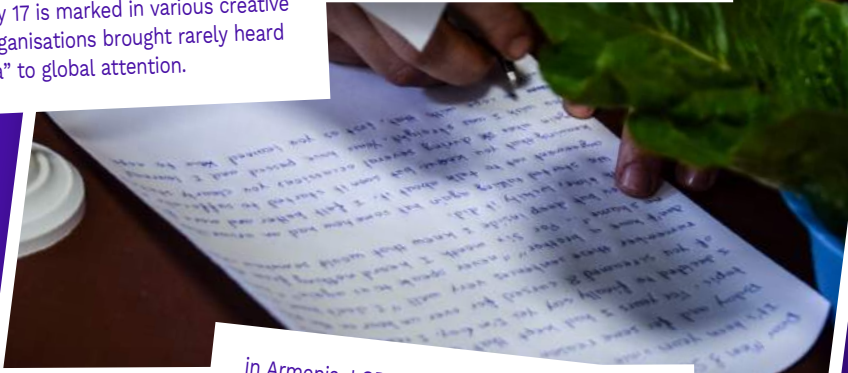
AG Canada @pflagcanada · May 17
 JD to have attended the raising of the Transgender and Pride flag along with **rontoPflag** on #IDAHOT2019 🏳️‍🌈 in Toronto. Thank you @JohnTory for stating r commitment to stand up to hatred, violence, and discrimination.
 agcanada #familyforall



From Quebec's State-wide's annual campaign to Police forces from east to west raising the Rainbow Flag, May 17 was a vibrant moment in all Canadian provinces. Here, Flag raising ceremony in Toronto



In Africa too, May 17 is marked in various creative ways. Kenyan organisations brought rarely heard "Voices of Kenya" to global attention.



In Armenia, LGBTI people were invited on May 17 to write their untold stories. These were then shared on social media to bring these personal testimonies into the public light.



In Belfast, hundreds of people marched to protest that same-sex marriage is still not legal in Northern Ireland



This year again the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia provided the backdrop for a peaceful and sunny beach walk in Durban, South Africa



Equality march Krakow, Poland. Credit: Beata Zawrzel/NurPhoto via Getty Images



In Germany, the popular May 17 action is the now very traditional "Rainbow Flashmob" taking place in over a dozen major cities.

may17 @may17org - May 17

SHOCKING report released today for international Day Against Homophobia Biphobia and Transphobia **#IDAHOBTB #IDAHOBT #IDAHOBTIT** reveals 'Dark year' for France as LGBT+ assaults hit record high in 2018 **!24.my/4wCN.T** via **@FRANCE24**

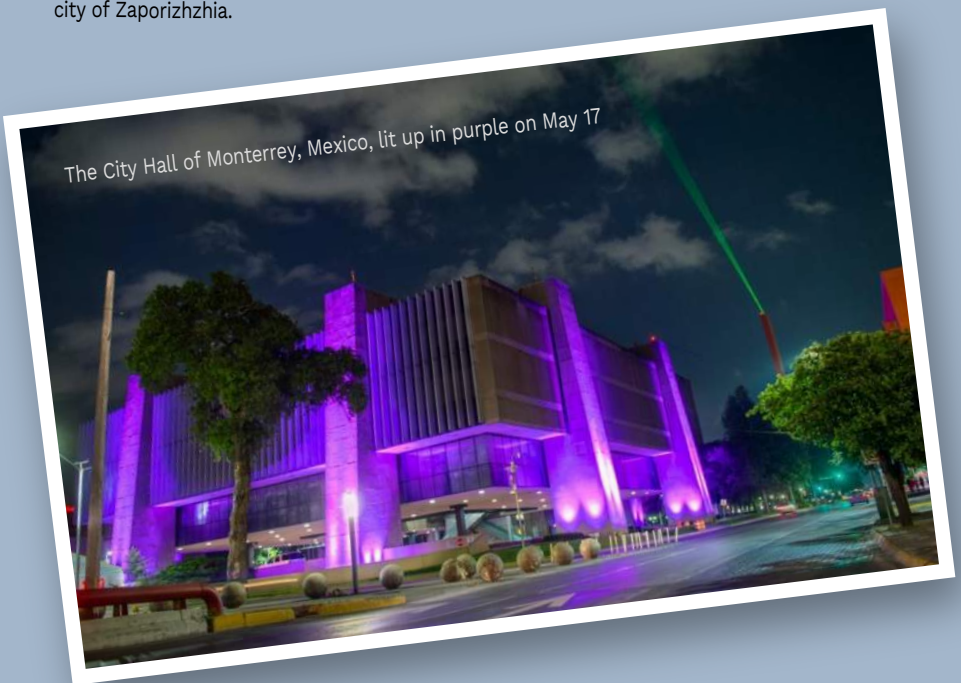
'Dark year' for France as LGBT+ assaults hit record high in 2018
As countries across the world prepared for the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia on Friday, a French support group...

france24.com

May 17 has for many years now been a preferred moment to release reports on the situation of LGBTQI+ people. This has now become a tradition in France where this year's report signals a 66% rise in acts of violence against LGBTI people.



May 17 often provides the opportunity to host first LGBTI events. Here, a first Pride march takes place in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia.



The City Hall of Monterrey, Mexico, lit up in purple on May 17

In Japan, activists and a botanical garden created a special Rainbow flowerbed. For love to flourish



A first LGBTI gathering peacefully takes place in Serbia's second largest city Novi Sad.

In Turkey, police forces stopped the Bar Association to hold a support meeting on May 17. Activists in Ankara nevertheless gathered to send Rainbow kites into the sky to protest Human Rights abuse. Photo credit: *Gülistan Aydoğdu*





May 17 is celebrated vividly all over Australia. Here a community gathering in Blue mountains



Australia's nationwide youth movement registered an astounding 925 events for this year's May 17



The regional Asia-Pacific UNESCO office launched the "Colour me in" campaign, a creative online campaign involving artists to raise awareness about the challenges faced by LGBTI learners in the region



In the cities of Krasnodar and Rostov, activists traded the traditional balloons of the Rainbow Flashmob for paper lanterns that shone a light of hope over Russian skies.

Protect in our homes at school

Among many events at the UN, the Free and Equal campaign released its much awaited annual video.



In the Albanian capital, the annual Pride march went ahead undisturbed



In the face of increased harassment from police and religious groups, the traditional May 17 celebrations in Lebanon were much more low key this year. But anonymous activists created huge visibility by taking the Rainbow flag on a boat to the iconic "Pigeon Rock" in Beirut



This year the traditional May 17 walk in Moldova was held under the slogan "I'm OK". For the first time the march was supported by a Member of Parliament, signalling that the slogan might one day come true.



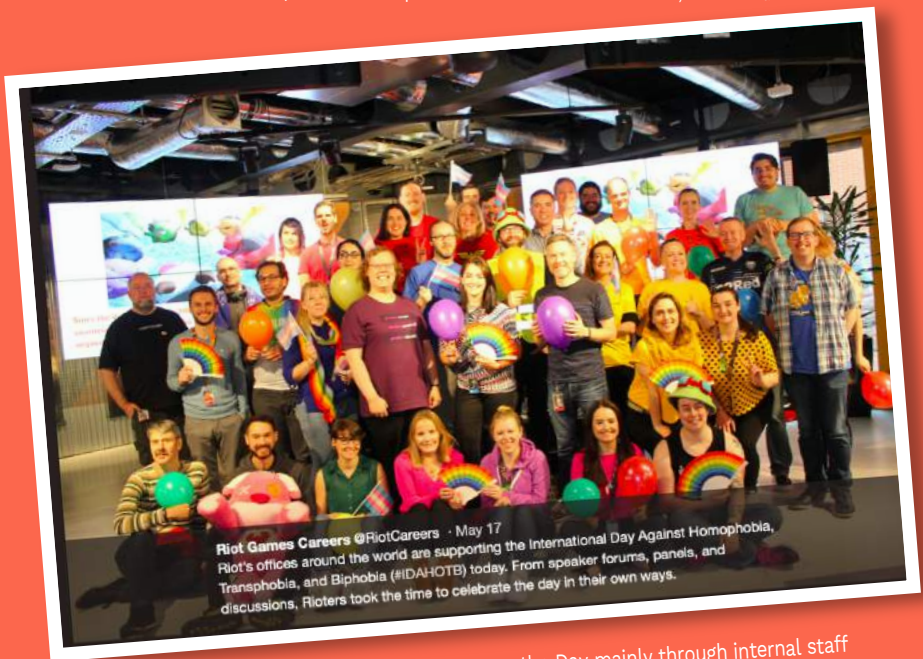
LBT women in Nepal came together to reflect over their personal stories and their shared struggles



The now traditional "Kiss-in" for equality, diversity and human rights for LGBT people took place for the 9th consecutive year in Asunción, Paraguay.



Queer activist Ray Lately at a BBQ organized in Kenya to celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. *Credit: Halima Gikandi/The World*



Companies once again played their part too on the Day mainly through internal staff events in favour of LGBTI workplace equality but some companies also went public with public rainbow displays or special May 17 products.



"Speak up for Change - Speak up to change" was the motto of the Symposium in Vietnam marking the Day



Irish Youth mark the Day in a joyful community event



UN agencies in Myanmar reaffirmed their commitment to respect human dignity & to champion human rights. Flag raising ceremony in presence of UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNHCR



HIV activists in India share messages of diversity, love and acceptance

From songs, dance and theater play in the biggest shopping mall to film screenings and political debates, May 17 vibrated in several cities across Myanmar.



Hondurans marched to demand the legal recognition of trans peoples' gender identity, and marriage and adoption rights for same-sex couples. *Credit Mirte Postema/Human Rights Watch*

New Zealand/Aotearoa: In an amazing recognition of sexual, gender and bodily diversities, the Parliament raised the Rainbow, the Trans, the Intersex and the Bisexual flags on May 17.





Trans visibility marked the Day in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Brazilian activists stand tough in resistance to the increased homophobic climate in the country. Here an assembly in Curitiba.



The IV Meeting of LGBTI Political Leaders of the Americas gathered in Colombia the most recognized open LGBTI politicians of the continent.



President Manuel Lopez Obrador declared May 17 as the National Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia in Mexico.



Chinese authorities made it almost impossible for events to take place in China this year, in spite of a vibrant and peaceful civil society. Here at Shandong high school students were authorized to organise a public event.



Spanish LGBTI Activists occupied the iconic Puerta del Sol in Madrid.



IDAHO Thailand's annual event marked the Day with readings, dance and a beauty pageant.



Embassies from the Netherlands, Israel, Belgium, Canada together with the government of the city of Buenos Aires supported an artistic intervention in the first subway station in the world that remembers an LGBTI activist.



Activists marched on May 17 claiming equal rights and respect for LGBTI people in El Salvador.



La Moneda - the Chilean presidential palace lit up in Rainbow colors on May 17. Activists gathered to demand the full recognition of adoption and parental rights.

Many diplomatic representations supported many local events on May 17, providing valuable safe spaces for activists:



British High Council in Trinidad



EU representation in Myanmar



Embassy of the Netherlands in India

Many landmark buildings are being lit up on May 17 by authorities to show their support for LGBTQI+people.



The Presidential Palace in Chile. In Chile alone 45 cities, 13 Embassies, the Senate, the Court of Justice and the Presidential palace light up in rainbow colors.



Guanajuato, Mexico



Little Rock Bridge, Arkansas



Vancouver, Canada, Convention Center



Puerto Rico Governor's house



Especially in light of this year's focus on "Justice and Protection", EU institutions were as visible as ever.

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#IDAHOT #IDAHOTB #IDAHOBIT



For more details, visit [may17.org](https://www.may17.org)