

**Declaration by High Representative, Federica Mogherini, on behalf of the European Union  
on the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia And Biphobia,  
17 May 2016**

On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, the EU reiterates its strong commitment to the equality and dignity of all human beings irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Despite recent progress around the world, almost 80 jurisdictions still criminalise same-sex relations. In many places discrimination and violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex persons is a daily occurrence. The EU repeats its call to all Governments around the world to abide by their international human rights commitments, to repudiate intolerance and to promote equality as enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other instruments.

On this day, the EU also wishes to pay homage to the courageous advocacy efforts carried out by human rights defenders, activists, media journalists, and civil society organisations to address the violations faced by LGBTI persons. Their work has been crucial every step of the way in putting these issues on the table, documenting abuses and advocating for the effective protection of fundamental human rights.

In line with the EU Guidelines on the rights of LGBTI persons and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, we will continue to work with all partners to advance the human rights of all around the world.