

AWARENESS

LGBTI Rights: 3 ways you can help



“May 17 marks the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT), aimed to celebrate sexual and gender diversities, and raise awareness against continued violence and discrimination experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people,” reports the World Economic Forum.

Moreover, it explains that this date was selected to commemorate the World Health Organization decision made on May 17, 1990, to “declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.”

The Human Rights Watch – advocates for global LGBTI rights – writes that “sexual orientation and gender identity are integral aspects of our selves and should never lead to discrimination or abuse”.

Ways you can help promote fair rights for the LGBTI community:

1. Understand LGBTI identities

“By embracing LGBTI people and understanding their identities, we can learn how to remove many of the limitations imposed by gender stereotypes,” suggests international human rights organisation Amnesty International.

By celebrating our diversity as human beings, we can remove the stigma we may have and advocate for the protection of others’ rights.

2. Promote an inclusive workplace

“The International Labour Organization’s mandate encompasses equality and non-discrimination in the world of work”, which implies that businesses should help promote diverse workforces, including men, women and the LGBTI, through equal respect, opportunities and benefits.

Creating an equal and non-discriminatory workplace ensures that all people, regardless of gender or sexual preference, have equal economic and social inclusions.

3. Socially embrace LGBTI persons

“LGBTI people, especially transgender and gender non-conforming people, are often at risk of economic and social exclusion”, explains Amnesty International. Being aware of our prejudices and damaging societal stereotypes allows us to provide social inclusion for the LGBTI.

Moreover, Amnesty International says “Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which set out for the first time the rights we’re all entitled to) protects everyone’s right to express themselves freely.” This lists the importance of welcoming all gender and sexual differences to encourage a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive society, which includes encouraging non-stereotypes and non-prejudices in children.

In what way will you help LGBTI rights today?