

# International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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**FLASH MOB AGAINST  
HOMOPHOBIA AND  
TRANSPHOBIA IN  
MEXICO**

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**ZERO  
DISCRIMINATION  
CAMPAIGN AND  
CONFERENCE IN  
COSTA RICA**

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**GUIDELINES ON  
MINIMUM STANDARDS  
FOR LGTBI PEOPLE IN  
GUATEMALA**

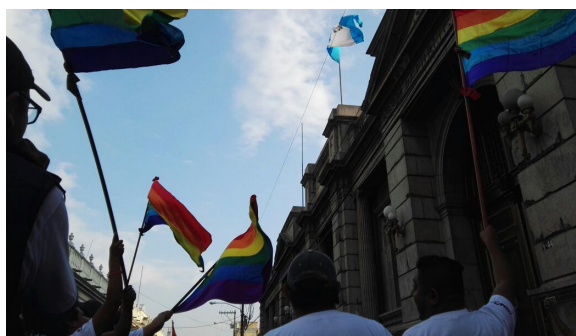
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## **UNHCR's commitment to LGBTI refugees, returnees, internally displaced and stateless people**

Although progress have occurred in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) rights, many LGBTI persons face violence, exclusion and discrimination as a result of their diverse sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE), and have to flee their countries or places of habitual residence in order to seek protection.

Marking its commitment to protect LGBTI rights, the UNHCR celebrated the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOT) on May 17. IDAHOT represents the recognition of sexual and gender diversity, and aims to draw attention to the challenges experienced by LGBTI people. The 2017 IDAHOT's theme focused on the acknowledgement of the specific risks faced by LGBTI persons and their family members.

UNHCR offices and partners in the Americas organized a series of activities and actions to commemorate this year's IDAHOT.



# Flashmob against Homophobia and Transphobia

Mexico City, Mexico

A group of LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees participated in a flash mob against homophobia and transphobia organized by the national LGBTI rights organization *Fundación Arcoiris* in the Alameda Central of Mexico City. *Fundación Arcoiris* participates in the SGBV working group facilitated by UNHCR in Mexico.



Photo by Fundación Arcoiris

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# Zero Discrimination campaign and Conference

San José, Costa Rica

The joint HIV UNAIDS UNCT team and UNHCR Costa Rica launched the “Zero Discrimination” online campaign with the motto "Let's End Discrimination Now". Everyone is invited to join the campaign using the hashtag #Cerodiscrimination.

On May 24, UNHCR also organized a round table conference on the consultation presented by the Costa Rican government to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the lack of state regulations for the protection of same sex couples and gender identity. The conference featured the participation of high-level Costa Rican authorities, as well as UN agencies' representatives and civil society.

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# Guidelines and demonstration in Guatemala

Guatemala City, Guatemala



The UNHCR and the Lambda Association have developed and published guidelines on minimum standards for LGBTI people of concern in Guatemala. The guidelines aim to harmonize the assistance received by LGBTI displaced (including refugees, asylum seekers, deportees and persons in transit) in the safe spaces provided by the National Protection Network as well as in public services provided by Government institutions.

On May 17, the Lambda Association participated on the demonstration organized by several LGBTI organizations against an homophobic initiative of law reform in Guatemala.

# Further LGBTI actions and advances

Americas region

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## Honduras

The story of Carlos, a Honduran refugee has been filmed and used for the global IDAHOT campaign this year. You can watch the video at the UNHCR Facebook page.

(External link: <https://www.facebook.com/ACNUR/videos/1552988711378000/>)

## Canada

The Canadian government has issued Guidelines for the protection of people with diverse sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The *Chairperson's Guideline 9: Proceeding Before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression* is available online at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada website.

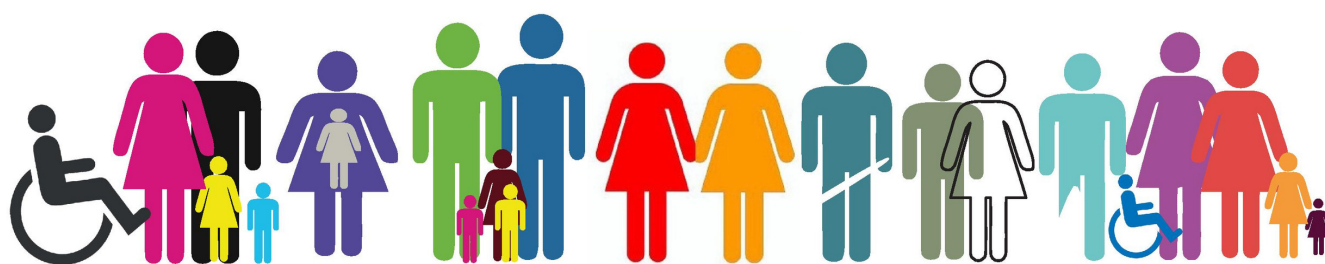
(External link: <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/BoaCom/references/pol/GuiDir/Pages/GuideDir09.aspx>).

## Brazil

In Brazil, a booklet was developed to promote the rights of LGBTI people and it is currently being used by UNHCR and partners. The booklet is available online in Portuguese.

(External link: [http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/portugues/Publicacoes/2016/Revista\\_Avante\\_2016.pdf](http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/portugues/Publicacoes/2016/Revista_Avante_2016.pdf)).

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