

**Statement by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif
on the
International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
(IDAHOBIT) 17 May 2020**

On this International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), UN-Habitat joins with the international community to support the LGBTI community and "Break the silence". We stand firmly behind the full human rights of all LGBTI people. Violations of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people undermine the shared international goal of gender equality. Addressing and ending such violations is part of the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's promise to leave no one behind.

UN-Habitat advocates for the protection of the Human Rights of LGBTIQ community through public advocacy and statements of the Executive Director. At UN-Habitat, we show commitment to diversity not only among staff, but also through programming. The Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit integrates LGBTIQ related human rights concerns into all programmatic work ensuring they refer to the rights of LGBTIQI. At UN-Habitat, we also ensure intersectional representation of LGBTIQI groups, not just in global meetings such as the World Urban Forum, but also in the regional and country level meetings.

We are committed to working closely through and with inter-agency mechanisms, UN Country Teams, civil society partners and others to contribute to the empowerment and realization of LGBTI people's rights. UN-Habitat will continue to build capacity of staff on LGBTIQI rights focusing on dignity and inclusion in the workplace with the support of UN Globe.

National laws need to uphold equal rights and freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for LGBTI people. Even where there is progressive legislation already in place, social norms may not reflect them.

We urge States and cities worldwide to adopt inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services with comprehensive implementation measures, to protect the rights of trans and gender diverse persons. This includes policies that help create safe cities and safe public spaces free of violence and harassment against the LGBTI community.

As the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, I will continue to support UN-Globe's advocacy for an inclusive workplace free of stigma for all and overcome all hurdles specific to them.

Human Rights are universal, and for all people everywhere. Let us continue to stand against homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia. We are not all the same, but we are all equal!

For more information contact

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