

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2021

Statement on International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia
May 17, 2021

Jill and I are proud to recognize the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, the anniversary of the day in 1990 when the World Health Organization took the long overdue step of declassifying "homosexuality" as a mental disorder.

So much has changed for the LGBTQI+ community since that day, not only in our laws, but in the hearts and minds of the American people. Courageous activists in America and around the world have championed progress and won. Here at home, marriage equality and greater protections against hate crimes are the law of the land. Overseas, foreign governments, civil societies, and international organizations like the United Nations finally recognize that LGBTQI+ people are deserving of the full measure of dignity and equality.

Despite this progress, both COVID-19 and rising authoritarianism around the world continue to widen economic, social, and safety gaps for LGBTQI+ people, and an epidemic of violence still rages, with a particular impact on the transgender community, specifically transgender women and girls of color. Around the world, some 70 countries still criminalize same-sex relationships. And here at home, LGBTQI+ Americans still lack basic protection in 25 States, and they continue to face discrimination in housing, education, and public services.

My administration will always stand with the LGBTQI+ community. Already, we have rolled back discriminatory policies targeting LGBTQI+ Americans, and we have made historic appointments of LGBTQI+ individuals to the highest levels of our Government. We continue to implement my Executive orders to advance equality and equity. And I continue to urge Congress to pass the Equality Act, which would confirm critical civil rights protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity for all Americans.

Everyone is entitled to dignity and equality, no matter who they are, whom they love, or how they identify, and we will continue to engage with allies and partners to advance the human rights of LGBTQI+ people here at home and in all corners of the world.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 5.

Categories: Statements by the President : International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.

Names: Biden, Jill T.

Subjects: Civil rights : Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, equality; Civil rights : Racial equality; Diseases : Coronavirus, domestic prevention efforts; Holidays and special observances : Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, International Day Against; World Health Organization.

DCPD Number: DCPD202100415.