

UNAIDS observed the Zero Discrimination Day

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Zero Discrimination Day is annually celebrated by the UN and other international organizations on March 1st. It is celebrated to promote and celebrate everyone's right regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin color etc. The day aims to voice the right to live life with dignity, despite one's choices, beliefs, profession, education, disability or even illness.

The symbol of the Zero Discrimination Day is 'the butterfly' and it is widely used by people to share their stories and photos as a way to end discrimination and work towards positive transformation.

About UNAIDS

- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) is the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- The mission of UNAIDS is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS that includes preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support to those already living with the virus, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.
- UNAIDS seeks to prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic from becoming a severe pandemic.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, where it

shares some site facilities with the World Health Organization. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

- Currently, Winnie Byanyima leads UNAIDS as Executive Director. Former Executive Directors are Peter Piot (1995-2008) and Michel Sidibé (2009-2019).
- The agency promotes the GIPA principle (greater involvement of people living with HIV) formulated in 1994, and endorsed by the United Nations in 2001 and 2006.

SOURCE:*India Today, Wikipedia*