



Rooted in Rights: LGBTIQ Communities and the Future of Democracy

Malta statement delivered by Ms Deborah Borg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, Thursday 14th May 2026.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

It is an honour to be present here today as we commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Intersexphobia and Biphobia.

Malta reaffirms the importance of democratic governance; however, we recognise that having rights today does not ensure they will be protected tomorrow.

For this reason, as we have heard from the expert panel this morning, the protection of LGBTIQ rights cannot be seen as separate from the protection of democracy. A democracy that excludes, silences, or marginalises part of its population, is not a genuine democracy.

Malta recognizes that LGBTIQ communities have consistently stood at the forefront of defending democratic values.

In many parts of the world, they have mobilized not only for their own rights, but for broader principles of equality, participation, and accountability. Their advocacy reflects the very ideals that democratic systems are meant to uphold.



As a proud member of this core group, Malta firmly advocates for meaningful inclusion and participation of LGBTI communities as rights-holders and agents of change in democratic systems.

This year's IDAHOT comes at a critical juncture, when pushback against gender equality is intensifying and LGBTI communities bear the brunt of a growing political backlash. It is more important than ever to renew our commitments to stand by values that define democracy: equality, participation, and respect for all.

This aligns with Malta's national commitment to, equality as a constitutional principle, and to upholding the dignity of every individual, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

As we leave this discussion, let us remember that rights endure only when we stand up for them.

Thank you.