



Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality

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ECADE Celebrates Alliances on International day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

(Castries, May 17, 2018) It is a particularly poignant time in the Caribbean to mark the International day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia on 17 May. The IDAHOTB global theme, "Alliances for Solidarity" is particularly resonant as this is the very foundation of the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE).

"The IDAHOTB theme is a timely reminder of our shared destinies and indeed our shared histories", says ECADE Executive Director, Kenita Placide. She notes, "The intersectional approach that we take in our work reflects the intersectionality that is a reality of our individual lives. Just as our lives cannot be lived in isolation, our movement does not survive in isolation. Support of and from allies is not only a necessary but a welcomed part of our advocacy."

The laws that criminalise LGBTQI people effectively encourages discrimination and violence, and restricts access to services and facilities that is the right of every citizen to enjoy. ECADE recognises that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex community needs alliances to counter discrimination in education, health services, employment and even the justice system.

IDAHOTB 2018 is an opportunity for the Caribbean community at the individual, organisational and state level to acknowledge and support LGBTQI+ friends, family and colleagues. ECADE recognises that the human rights principles underpinning our advocacy as a collective of LGBTQI+ organisations, are the same the fuel many movements for equality and justice within the Caribbean. This shared ideological foundation is the basis of advocacy that thrives on building alliances across movements.

The April 2018 Jones v Trinidad and Tobago ruling that buggery and gross indecency laws are unconstitutional, that continues to ripple across the region, also highlights the need for collaboration across the physical borders of our islands. This is just one more clarion call by and for the LGBTQI+ communities to end their relative silence.

Nothing for us without us, has been the traditional cry of marginalised communities around the world, but as ECADE supports the activities of member organisations across the eastern Caribbean on this day, we recognise that there can be no movement for change for us, without the support of our families, civil society and state partners.

As we join the world in recognising IDAHOTB, ECADE celebrates the partners that continue to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities of the Caribbean. We further reaffirm our commitment, through our member organisations in nine (9) countries across the eastern Caribbean, to advocate for a society where no person's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or their sex characteristics is considered a valid reason to exclude them from the full slate of rights that every human being should enjoy.

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INTERVIEWS: Individual interviews can be arranged on the phone, in person or online.

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The Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality Inc. (ECADE) is a network of organisations working across the eastern Caribbean. Drawing on The Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law", ECADE works to increase the competence of activists and conscientise the people of the eastern Caribbean for the advancement of LGBTQI and marginalised populations in the region. Learn more at www.ecequality.org or email info@ecequality.org