

# Holiday Greetings

## FROM THE AUS DIVERSITY COUNCIL

### A Note from the Chair Sue Byers

Happy December!! As we near the end of the quarter we want to recognize this month: Universal Human Rights Month, World AIDS Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, International Human Rights Day, International Human Solidarity Day as well as highlight many other efforts and events addressing equity, anti-racism, diversity, inclusion and social justice. We want to raise the awareness of these days of distinction as well as provide the opportunity to learn more about the intent as well as how to get involved and take action.

As you begin your December break and the holidays, please recharge, enjoy time with those you care about and come back with a renewed commitment of purpose! In the words of former President Barack Obama -

*"Hope is that thing inside us that insists, despite all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it, and to work for it, and to fight for it. Hope is the belief that destiny will not be written for us, but by us, by the men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be."*

## AUS ANTIRACIST VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that confronting and combating racism is life-long work for all members of the Antioch University Seattle community. As a university community, we must be vigilant in our learning, listening, and action to advance change. We pledge to measure our progress as we act on our values of becoming an anti-racist, intersectional and equitable culture on our campus where every member of the community, regardless of race, religion, gender, disability status or socio-economic status, can thrive. This work belongs to everyone - University Provost, Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students. (Antioch University Seattle, May, 2022)

**Join us on Zoom for the next Diversity Council Meeting January 17th, 3 - 4 p.m**

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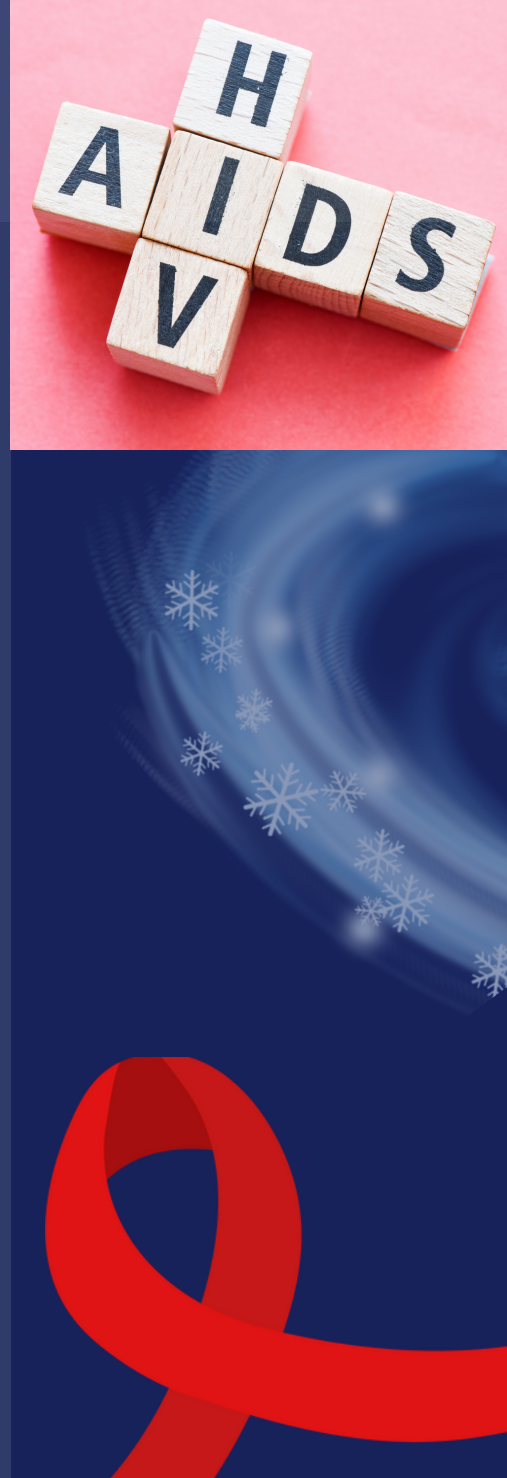
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01 DECEMBER 2022

# World Aids Day

by Darcy Greene



On December 1, 2022, the World Health Organization honors World Aids Day. Started in 1988, World Aids Day was created to highlight the efforts of organizations across the globe working to prevent the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV, support those living with HIV, and honor the millions who have lost their lives (HIV.gov, 2022).

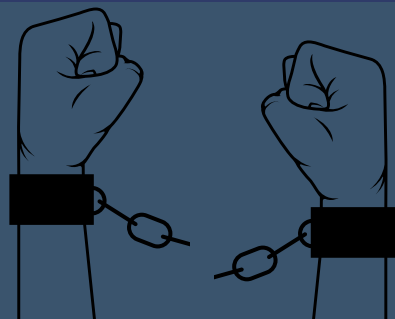
Many of us know that HIV is a virus that attacks the cells in the body that fight infection, making the person susceptible to illness and disease (HIV.gov, 2022). If left untreated, HIV can lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS. A treatment called Antiretroviral therapy (ART) was developed and has extended the lives of many but due to the lack of access to treatment, HIV continues to devastate communities around the world (World Health Organization (WHO), 2022). As of 2021, 1.7 children had tested positive for HIV, and only 52% had access to life saving treatment (WHO, 2022). Furthermore, 650,000 people died from HIV-related causes and 1.5 million people contracted HIV in 2021 (WHO, 2022).

The WHO's theme for 2022 is EQUALITY, reflecting their findings that access to prevention, testing and treatment continues to be impeded (WHO, 2022). WHO calls for a renewed effort to raise visibility and to increase access to treatment. "We must ensure that everyone, everywhere has equal access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care. Health services should be adapted to reach and meet the needs of populations most at risk and affected, and this includes implementing a 'zero tolerance' policy to stigma and discrimination in all health services" (WHO, 2022, Key findings, para 2.).

In this video, Harold J. Phillips, Director of the White House Office of National Aids Policy (ONAP) speaks to this year's theme of equity.

**ONAP's Harold Phillips Discusses the Theme of World AIDS Day 2022 (hiv.gov).**

HIV. World Health Organization (n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2022, from <https://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/hiv-aids>



# International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

by Darcy Greene

02 DECEMBER 2022

On December 2, the United Nations (UN) marks the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. According to the UN (n.d.), an estimated 50 million people are enslaved. "Slavery has evolved and manifested itself in different ways throughout history. Today some traditional forms of slavery still persist in their earlier forms, while others have been transformed into new ones" (UN, n.d.). The UN includes forced labor, trafficking, sexual exploitation, child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict under the term global slavery (UN, n.d.).

As a social justice university, how can we take action with regard to the Abolition of Slavery? We can learn more about these issues and share information about them. We can check into the companies we buy from, particularly clothing, agriculture and home good manufacturers. Are we inadvertently supporting companies who use child or forced labor? Seattle is also an area where a significant amount of trafficking occurs.

To learn more, this summary of the Day provides additional explanation:

**[International Day for the Abolition of Slavery | United Nations](#)**

**[List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#)**

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# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

by Darcy Greene

03 DECEMBER 2022

December 3 is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. According to the UN, every seventh person lives with some form of disability (UN, n.d.). The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cites Disability inclusion as "an essential condition to upholding human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security" (UN, n.d., para 1). The theme for 2022 is on "innovation and transformative solutions" (UN, n.d., para 8, 9, 10).

To learn more

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities | United Nations International Day of People with Disabilities | Downloadable Content \(idpwd.org\)](#)

[How to talk about disability, disabled people : Life Kit : NPR AU Diversity Services](#)



# International Human Rights Day

by Sue Byers

10 DECEMBER 2022

Adoption of a special recognition of human rights was enacted in 1948. Since that time, we have seen the expansion of systems to support human rights protections for groups that include persons with disabilities, migrants and Indigenous peoples. While some systems have been established, it is also true that human rights have been under sustained attacks for many groups. It is important to remember the values and rights embedded in the Universal Day of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR, together with the 2 covenants - the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - make up the [International Bill of Rights](#).

**Universal and inalienable**

**All are entitled to our human rights**

**Indivisible and interdependent**

**One set of rights cannot be enjoyed fully without the other**

To learn more

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

Ways to Get Involved:

[Stand Up for Human Rights](#)

**Equal and non-discriminatory**

**Freedom from discrimination**

# International Day of *by Sue Byers* Solidarity

**20 DECEMBER 2022**








## To learn more

[United Nations Article  
On International  
Human Solidarity Day](#)



At AUS we frequently speak about standing in solidarity for the rights and equity with those who have been oppressed, ostracized and victims of violence. On the 20th of this month we honor International Human Solidarity Day. This day was established by the United Nations in 2005 identifying solidarity as “one of the fundamental and universal values that should underlie relations between peoples in the twenty-first century”, December 20th each year is acknowledged as day to:

-  Celebrate our unity in diversity
-  Remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements
-  Raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity
-  Encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication
-  As a day of action to encourage new initiatives for poverty eradication.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED? DIVERSITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

### SUBMIT CONTENT

Each month the AUS Diversity Council newsletter highlights work being done by the administration, faculty and students in support of our anti-racism and social justice mission. We provide information on special days in the month and community events where you can learn more or contribute. We welcome members to submit content about the efforts of you and your colleagues, personal reflections, and notable days you would like us to include.

### SIGN UP TODAY TO JOIN THE COUNCIL!

Joining our Diversity Council is a great way to participate in the AUS community. The Diversity Council enhances our institution's capacity to develop and implement effective diversity, equity, antiracism and justice work across the campus. The Council recommends strategic initiatives for achieving diversity and inclusion goals and works collaboratively across the campus to build and carry out the diversity plan. The Diversity Council works to ensure that diversity, expressed in various forms, remains integral to excellence at Antioch University Seattle. Composed of faculty, staff and students from across all academic and administrative units, the Council endeavors to inclusively and equitably approach diversity projects and initiatives.

[Join us on Zoom for the next Diversity Council Meeting January 17th, 3 - 4 p.m](#)