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## **THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 'OPENLY', GLOBAL LGBT+ NEWS PLATFORM**

### ***Digital platform fills critical gap in current news landscape***

**(London - September 18, 2018)** The Thomson Reuters Foundation – the charitable arm of the world’s largest news and information provider – announces today the expansion of its under-reported human rights news coverage with the launch of a dedicated LGBT+ digital news platform.

Launching on September 27, **Openly** (<http://www.openlynews.com/>) will serve a global audience looking for authoritative, impartial and trustworthy news reporting on the many issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the world.

**Openly** will cover topics ranging from crucial legislative change, to health-related matters, business and economics. The digital platform will also shed light on the personal accounts of those discriminated against or attacked because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and will give visibility to the work of those people, businesses and institutions advancing LGBT+ rights.

Edited by Hugo Greenhalgh – previously editor of the Financial Times’ Wealth Magazine – **Openly’s** original news content will be sourced by the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s global editorial team, supported by a network of more than 250 freelancers spanning all continents.

Original news content from **Openly** will additionally be distributed via the Reuters wire service, reaching a daily audience of one billion readers worldwide. News will also be available on a dedicated section of the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s news site: [news.trust.org/lgbt](https://news.trust.org/lgbt), through Apple News, Google News and Facebook Instant News.

“LGBT+ rights are human rights,” said Monique Villa, CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “This initiative recognises the importance of shedding light on the many issues affecting LGBT+ people around the world with impartial and accurate news. **Openly** is about trusted news, and is not an advocacy platform.”

“Openly aims to be the ultimate source of information for everyone with an interest in LGBT+ issues,” said Antonio Zappulla, COO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “When it comes to LGBT+ content, the current news landscape is often fragmented, insular and lacks credibility. **Openly’s** authoritative and trusted LGBT+ news will cater for the LGBT+ community and beyond.”

In line with the aim of becoming a ‘one-stop-shop’ for anyone seeking trusted LGBT+ content, **Openly** will also aggregate news and information from third-party sources, including articles, news reports, research and upcoming events from around the world.



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To mark the launch of **Openly**, the Thomson Reuters Foundation will be hosting an evening event at its New York offices at 3 Times Square on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Held in partnership with the United Nations LGBTI Core Group and the UN Free & Equal campaign of the UN Human Rights Office, the launch will include a panel discussion examining how the media reports on LGBT+ issues. The discussion will be moderated by Don Lemon, host of CNN Tonight. Panellists will include Kasha Nabagesera, Executive Director of Freedom & Roam Uganda, Amir Ashour, Founder and Executive Director of IraQueer, Landon Wilson, a transgender US Navy Veteran, Maria Fontenelle, of the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality, and Lyosha Gorshkov, Co-President of RUSA LGBT.

The launch event will be livestreamed at 7:00 pm EST (00:00 am BST) on the [Openly website](#), as well as the [Openly](#), [Thomson Reuters Foundation News](#), and [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) Facebook pages.

**Openly** is a Thomson Reuters Foundation service, with support from Barilla. In-kind pro bono support has been provided by Omnicom agencies FleishmanHillard and TBWA\London in developing the **Openly** brand identity and launch campaign.

Displayed in Times Square, New York, and in Canary Wharf, London, the **Openly** launch campaign features real headlines previously used by the media in reporting on LGBT+ people, and calls for impartial and fair reporting.

**Openly** goes live on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm BST, 7:00 am EST. <http://www.openlynews.com/>

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### **About the Thomson Reuters Foundation**

The Thomson Reuters Foundation acts to promote the highest standards in journalism and spread the practice of legal pro bono worldwide. The organisation runs initiatives that inform, connect and empower people around the world: access to free legal assistance, editorial coverage of the world's under-reported news, media development and training, and the Trust Conference.

### **About the United Nations LGBTI Core Group**

The United Nations LGBTI Core Group is an informal cross regional group of United Nations Member States established in 2008. The group is co-chaired by Argentina and The Netherlands, and includes Albania, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and the European Union as well as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the non-governmental organizations Human Rights Watch and Outright Action International.



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