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Thomson Reuters Foundation COO Antonio Zappulla named as LGBT+ leader in prestigious global FT Index

London (26 October 2017) – Antonio Zappulla, Chief Operating Officer of the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), is today named as a leading executive in a global ranking of LGBT role models, in recognition of his efforts in driving diversity and inclusion.

Antonio came fourth in this year's [Top 10 OUTstanding Leading LGBT+ Public Sector/Third Sector Executives List](#), an annual index compiled by LGBT+ professional membership organisation OUTstanding, and presented by the Financial Times.

Alongside his work leading the Communications, Development and Monitoring & Evaluation teams at the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Antonio has become one of the most visible LGBT+ leaders at Thomson Reuters. He is the European Co-chair of Pride at Work, the Thomson Reuters LGBT network, where he created and launched a global LGBT mentorship programme which allows LGBT employees to connect and mentor each other.

Earlier this year, he became a One Young World Counsellor and a World Economic Forum agenda contributor, writing and speaking about the business case for LGBT inclusion. Antonio is also a Board member of International LGBT NGO *All Out*, where he chairs the Communications and Development Committee.

An Out&Equal Champion Award Finalist, and a member of the Stonewall Programme Alumni, Antonio also sits on the Advisory Board of Out in Business at the London Business School, and is an active supporter of Open for Business and Wake Up Italia.

"To appear on the list among the top five is a terrific vote of confidence and a true honour," said Antonio Zappulla. *"I grew up in Italy, where there were literally no LGBT role models. There was no one officially out at school, on TV, in Parliament, in town. Do I identify myself only by my sexual orientation? Of course not. I want to live in a world where sexual orientation is as irrelevant as the colour of someone's eyes. But we are a long way from that. 62% of LGBT graduates go back into the closet after starting their first job. So I believe it's important to speak up and lead the way",* he added.

"Diversity is key to what we do", said Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa. *"If you want an A-team you need people who bring different experiences and views to the table. At the Thomson Reuters Foundation we celebrate that. Our team of 85 represents 26 nationalities, and speaks 33 languages. Antonio embodies this diversity in full: Italian, LGBT but a great defender of women's rights and a remarkable professional who helps me drive the Foundation on a daily basis".*

The Public/Third Sector Executives ranking is part of the 2017 OUTstanding Leading LGBT+ & Ally Executives and LGBT+ Future Leaders List, an annual initiative naming outstanding LGBT+ role models, future leaders and Ally Executives.



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Topping the Public/Third Sector list was Dinesh Bhugra, President of the World Psychiatric Association, for his global advocacy around policy change for LGBT inclusion; Qantas CEO Alan Joyce came first in the LGBT+ Executive list in recognition of his passionate support of the Marriage Equality Campaign in Australia. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Unilever CEO Paul Polman feature in the Ally Executive List.

"These lists exist to challenge the assumption you cannot be out and successful in business, and to highlight the importance of role models in inspiring the next generation of business leaders," says Suki Sandhu, Founder & CEO of OUTstanding. "By recognising and celebrating those who are leading the charge, the lists demonstrate how far the quest for workplace equality has come. But there is always more to be done. Big business and the public sector have the power and influence to promote LGBT+ inclusion more widely, paving the way for real societal change around the world."

All the 2017 leading role models were nominated by peers and colleagues. To be considered, they had to be visibly out or a vocal ally, actively working to create an environment where LGBT+ can bring their authentic selves to work over and above their day job. LGBT+ Public Sector Executives nominees work in non-LGBT+ focused organisations, and advocate for diversity and inclusion both in and out of the workplace. Their seniority and influence was taken into consideration.

Nominations were then reviewed by Outstanding's judging panel comprising: Lord Browne, Executive Chairman, L1 Energy, and former CEO, BP; Dawn Airey, CEO, Getty Images; Ashok Vaswani, CEO, Barclays UK; Harriet Green, General Manager of Watson Internet of Things, Commerce and Education IBM; Vicki Culpin, Faculty member, Ashridge Executive Education; Suki Sandhu, Founder & CEO, OUTstanding; and Josh Spero, Deputy Editor of Special Reports, Financial Times.

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](#).

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