

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE GLBT CONFERENCE LIVE WITH PRIDE, CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE

My heartfelt congratulations on your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Supporters Conference! I ask that all of you who have gathered today please enjoy your dialogues and encourage one another to your hearts' content, so that you may move forward through building a network of human harmony.

As Nichiren Daishonin states, "Through the example of one person all living beings become equal" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 564), Buddhism upholds equality and expounds supreme humanism. All human beings have equal rights. There is no difference whatsoever in their inherent dignity. So no matter what you may face, please live with pride, confidence and courage.

To live with dignity, we must devote ourselves to chanting daimoku. Through our resolute prayer, we will be stronger, brighter and happier.

Please be true to yourself and live free, for you all embody the Mystic Law. Contribute to your communities and society out of your desire for the happiness of many others. In these efforts shines the splendid beauty of life.

I am praying from the bottom of my heart for your great happiness, peace and safety.

*March 8, 2001
Daisaku Ikeda*