



“I support  
World  
Lymphedema  
Day.”

*Kathy Bates*

UNITED STATES



## What is World Lymphedema Day?

In 2016, the **Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN)** petitioned the U.S. Senate and governments around the world for long overdue recognition of lymphedema (LE) and lymphatic diseases. In response, the US Senate unanimously passed a bill establishing March 6 as **World Lymphedema Day (WLD)**. Governments and organizations worldwide followed suit and celebrated WLD.

Now, together with global lymphedema advocates, we are asking the World Health Organization (WHO) make “Lymphedema: Awareness & Cures” the focus of **WORLD HEALTH DAY 2018**.

Our goal is to make lymphedema (LE) and lymphatic diseases a global priority, to engage governments and researchers around the world to dedicate themselves to finding advanced treatments and cures, and to address the incredible psycho-social burden of those with LE who have felt themselves marginalized, are unable to find treatment, and whose quality of life has been negatively transformed by this disease.

**FACT:**

NIH estimates that primary LE could affect as many as 1 in 300 live births.

**FACT:**

WHO estimates that over 150 million people worldwide have secondary LE.

**FACT:**

WHO estimates that over 120 million are infected with lymphatic filariasis (LF), leaving 40 million disfigured and incapacitated.

**FACT:**

Lymphedema (LE) affects an estimated 15% of all cancer survivors and up to 30% of all those treated for breast cancer.

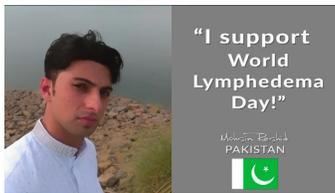
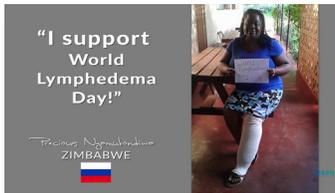
**We must make finding a cure a global priority.**

**Miracles await if we dedicate ourselves to finding them.**



World Lymphedema Day  
March 6

See other side ►



# How to celebrate World Lymphedema Day

- 1. Sign the petition at [Change.org](https://www.change.org).** This year, we are asking the World Health Organization (WHO) to make "Lymphedema: Awareness & Cures" its 2018 World Health Day campaign. We must demand that lymphedema become a global health priority.
- 2. Share the petition widely via social media and email.** It is by raising awareness in our own communities that we build a global movement.
- 3. Update your social media profile with the World Lymphedema Day social media badge.** Get the badge at [www.twibbon.com/Support/world-lymphedema-day](http://www.twibbon.com/Support/world-lymphedema-day).
- 4. Look for lymphedema organizations or groups in your country and get involved.** You can also join one of LE&RN's International Chapters, which will be celebrating the day. In the United States, LE&RN State Chapters are asking local governments to officially recognize March 6 as World Lymphedema Day.
- 5. Visit the World Lymphedema Day Facebook Event Page.** Tell the world that you are "going" to World Lymphedema Day on March 6. Leave a comment. Let us know how you'll be celebrating World Lymphedema Day.
- 6. Make a commitment for 2017.** Decide that you will attend a Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases. Sponsor a Walk team. Donate to a lymphedema organization or cause. Join with others who are determined to make a difference on issues ranging from insurance coverage to research. Look for media opportunities to spread the word.
- 7. Most importantly: Join the Fight!**

Find working links at [www.WorldLymphedemaDay.org](http://www.WorldLymphedemaDay.org).



Lymphatic Education & Research Network