



**“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 have asked the World Health Organization (WHO) to make “Lymphedema: Awareness & Cures” the focus of **WORLD HEALTH DAY 2018**.

Our goal is to make lymphedema (LE) and lymphatic diseases (LD) 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 and LD who have felt themselves marginalized, are unable to find treatment, and whose quality of life has been negatively transformed by this disease.

FACT:
WHO estimates that over 170 million people worldwide have secondary LE.

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

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

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

We must make finding a cure a global priority.

Miracles await if we dedicate ourselves to finding them.



World Lymphedema Day®
March 6

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How to observe World Lymphedema Day

1. **Post your 2018 WLD event at www.LymphaticNetwork.org/wld.** Join LE&RN's interactive map so that everyone local and around the world knows about your event celebrating World Lymphedema Day.
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.
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 observing 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 Event Page on LE&RN's Facebook 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 2018.** 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!**



Lymphatic Education & Research Network