




**“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.

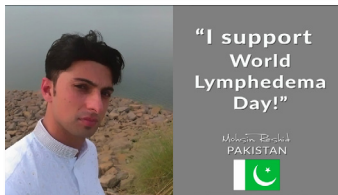
**We must make finding a cure a global priority.**

**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](http://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](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 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