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## **Antonio Zappulla ranked #1 LGBT+ Public Sector Executive by Financial Times' OUTstanding list**

**London (25 October 2018)** – Antonio Zappulla, Chief Operating Officer of the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), is today named the number one public/third sector executive in a global ranking of LGBT+ role models, in recognition of his work to drive LGBT+ inclusion.

Antonio is up three places from last year's list, where he was ranked fourth in the [Top 10 OUTstanding Leading LGBT+ Public Sector/Third Sector Executives List](#), an annual global index compiled by LGBT+ professional membership organisation OUTstanding, and presented by the Financial Times.

Antonio was strongly commended for his role in spearheading and launching [Openly](#), a dedicated LGBT+ digital news and information platform, which was launched in September during United Nations General Assembly week in New York. The platform is powered by the journalism of the Thomson Reuters Foundation news team. Original content is additionally distributed via the Reuters newswire service, reaching a daily audience of one billion readers worldwide.

*"The role of the media is essential in shaping perceptions and attitudes towards LGBT+ people,"* said Antonio Zappulla. *"[Openly](#) fills a critical gap, delivering fair, accurate and impartial reporting on the many issues affecting LGBT+ people to the world, going beyond the traditional LGBT+ audience. LGBT+ rights are human rights and, as such, they are everybody's business. Today's recognition is yet another testament to the importance of positive LGBT+ role models in the media, in business, and across society,"* he added.

*"This is tremendous and well-deserved recognition for Antonio,"* said Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa. *"Diversity is key in all we do at the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which has one of the most diverse teams in London and globally. I am glad to see Antonio's leadership rewarded."*

Antonio is a [One Young World](#) Counsellor and a World Economic Forum agenda contributor. He is the President of the Board of International LGBT+ NGO [All Out](#) and a member of the Stonewall Programme Alumni. Antonio is also the European Co-chair of Pride at Work, the Thomson Reuters LGBT+ network; he 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.

The Public/Third Sector Executives ranking is part of the 2018 OUTstanding Leading LGBT+ & Ally Executives and LGBT+ Future Leaders List.

*"Our sixth OUTstanding lists are our most international and diverse ever. They feature executives representing 21 countries around the world – from Ghana to Germany and from India to Israel. We're so proud to see so many senior and future leaders recognised as role models for their work driving cultural change and creating environments where everyone can succeed. Everyone – regardless of gender,*



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*sexuality or ethnicity - benefits from a level playing field where people feel able to bring their whole selves to work,”* said Suki Sandhu, Founder & CEO of OUTstanding.

All the 2018 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+ people 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 diversion 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: Dawn Airey, Chief Executive, Getty Images; Lord Browne, Executive Chairman, L1 Energy, and former Chief Executive, BP; Vicki Culpin, Professor of Organisation Behavior, Ashridge Executive Education; Harriet Green, General Manager, Watson Internet of Things, Commerce and Education, IBM; Suki Sandhu, Founder and Chief Executive, OUTstanding; Josh Spero, Deputy Editor, Special Reports, Financial Times; Ashok Vaswani, Chief Executive, Barclays UK.

**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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