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## **STATEMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL FURNISHINGS AND DESIGN ASSOCIATION (IFDA)**

*In Response to North Carolina Legislature's Passing of Bill HB2*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**King of Prussia, PA, April 4, 2016:** For nearly 70 years, the International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA) has maintained its position as the only all-inclusive professional association whose members provide services and products to the vast furnishings and design industry. The organization's core values promote mutual respect, education, community service, open sharing, industry partnerships, and ethical practices.

With the recent North Carolina legislature's passing of the bill HB2, IFDA re-asserts its long standing policy: IFDA does not discriminate, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. In fact, as an organization that prides itself on inclusion, IFDA embraces all its members and industry partners and believes that the diversity in the furnishing and design industry is one of its greatest assets.

"We encourage all members of the industry to stand together in unity for the promotion of equality and diversity," stated Diane Nicolson, FIFDA, president of IFDA. "We are stronger together than when divided, let us unite people from all ends of the industry and celebrate each other's uniqueness."

Thus, as a leader in the furnishings and design industry, IFDA will not only continue to promote the diversity of its membership and that of the greater international design and furnishings communities, but also reflect that support in its programming, membership outreach, and all other activities.

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**About IFDA:** The International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA), founded in New York City in 1947 and now with 14 chapters worldwide, provides a professional forum for communication and interaction among its high-profile members. The IFDA, a non-profit volunteer-run association, also promotes career advancement and educational opportunities and is structured to increase public awareness of the furnishings and design industry through specialized programming, networking and service to the community.