



Free Block 13 Week of Action - 4/7 to 4/13

[French, Portuguese, & Spanish version of this toolkit](#)

Hashtags:

#SolidarityKakumaLGBTQ, #FreeBlock13, #Kakuma, #freeblock13kakuma,
#InSolidarityWithBlock13

Demands:

1. The UNHCR must evacuate the LGBTQ+ Block 13 Group at risk from Kakuma to Nairobi and expedite their resettlement as they are survivors of intensive and unending homophobic attacks.
2. The Kenyan government and all its institutions have a duty to protect everyone within their borders regardless of their citizenship status. Protecting refugees is the primary responsibility of the State.
3. We call on all our allies and partners, human rights organizations and defenders to be in unequivocal solidarity with the community in Block 13.

Contents:

1. Schedule of Events
2. Social Media Toolkit
 - a. Includes graphics & messages that can be used during the Week of Action.
3. Resources

Schedule:

DATE	TIME	CALL TO ACTION	ACTION
TUESDAY, 6 APRIL <i>(Pre-week of action)</i>	11:30a EST/5:30 pm South Africa Time	Tune in: https://www.facebook.com/thevictormukasashow	<u>Announcing the Week of Action</u> <i>On the Victor Mukasa Show</i>
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7	All Day	<p>Share the videos far and wide along with the Statement to UNHCR. Umar's Video - https://youtu.be/wZc1UwmStjc</p> <p>Kato's Video - https://youtu.be/HAdU7AqeEQM</p> <p>Claire's Video - https://youtu.be/FnqoKRqIwU</p> <p>Shrifa's Video - https://youtu.be/tN9bJOH8vEo</p> <p>Kevin's Video - https://youtu.be/meylH8Fg9yE</p> <p>Sign this petition calling on the UNHCR to relocate Block 13 LGBTQ+ refugees to safety</p> <p>Donate to the burn victims' fund - email Shanice@triangle.org.za</p> <p><i>(See below for messages and</i></p>	<p><u>Uplifting Block 13</u></p> <p><i>Focus:</i> Videos featuring members of Block 13 at Kakuma Refugee Camp sharing their stories.</p> <p><i>Additional Context:</i> April 7 is an international day to memorialize victims of the Rwandan genocide.</p>

		<i>sample social media posts.)</i>	
THURSDAY, APRIL 8	All Day	<p>Tweet @FilippoGrandi and @FathiaAbdalla of the UNHCR, and UN Special Rapporteurs: @MaryLawlorhrds @victor_madrigal @DubravkaSRVAW</p> <p><i>(See below for messages and sample social media posts.)</i></p>	<p><u>Tweet/FB-Storm</u></p> <p><i>Focus:</i> targeting UNHCR and UN bodies -</p> <p>1) Fathiaa Abdalla, UNHCR Kenya and Fillipo Grandi, UNHCR's High Commissioner 2) Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders 3) Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity 4) Dubravka Šimonovic (Croatia), United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women</p>
Friday, April 9	All Day	<p>Share the graphics on social media and tag UNHCR.</p> <p><i>(See below for messages and sample social media posts.)</i></p>	<p><u>Messaging Campaign</u></p> <p><i>Focus:</i></p> <p>1) 5-7 graphics featuring international coalition members and quotes 2) Info-graphic about level of violence</p>
Monday, April 12	All Day	<p>Share the statement (http://bit.ly/MedevacNow) OR twitter thread + graphic and tag the following organizations on Twitter:</p> <p>@Refugees @FrontLineHRD @amnesty @OutRightIntl @Oxfam @ILGAWORLD @COCNederland @hrw @HRC</p>	<p><u>Tweet/FB-Storm & Statement Release</u></p> <p><i>Focus:</i> Calling on UNHCR and international organizations to push for the medical evacuation of Trinidad to a safe third country for emergency life saving care.</p>
Tuesday, April 13	TBD	Tune in:	<u>Online Forum/Panel</u>

		https://www.facebook.com/thevictormukasashow	<p><i>On the Victor Mukasa Show</i> <i>Topic: Criminalizing Black QT Refugees - a global conversation & way forward/demands incl meeting with UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Remembering Aneste Mweru: LGBTQ+ refugee, Human Rights Defender, and Kakuma resident who died by suicide at the UNHCR compound in Kenya.</i></p>
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Social Media Toolkit: Graphics & messages that can be used during the Week of Action

- [Change your social media banner in solidarity](#)
- [Graphics & memes can be found here.](#)

Twitter Posts

- *The 2nd victim of the fire attack at #Kakuma, Jordan, is also in danger of further complications if he is not evacuated to a more sterile and specialized environment. @FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madrigal, @DubravkaSRVAW #FreeBlock13 #EvacuateJordan*
- *We call on #humanrights and #humanitarianNGOs @Refugees @amnesty @OutRightIntl @Oxfam @ILGAWORLD @COCNederland @hrw to organize the immediate medical evacuation of Jordan to a safe country for necessary specialized medical care to save his life #FreeBlock13 #EvacuateJordan*
- *We call upon these organizations to advocate for the relocation of remaining Block 13 members to a safe place and expedite their resettlement as they are survivors of intensive and unending homophobic attacks. @hrw @amnesty @OutRightIntl @Oxfam @ILGAWORLD @COCNederland*
- *The homophobia and transphobia has grown more violent with more and more LGBTQ+ refugees coming into Kakuma camp. @FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR,*

@MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madriral, @DubravkaSRVAW what are you going to do about it? #FreeBlock13 #Kakuma

- *@FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, why do you insist on upholding policies that clearly endanger LGBTQ+ refugees at Kakuma? #FreeBlock13, #Kakuma*
- *@FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, Why are you forcibly returning to Kakuma LGBTQ+ refugees who fled the refugee camp out of fear in the first place? #FreeBlock13, #Kakuma*
- *LGBTQ+ refugees at Kakuma are openly exposed to attacks and continue to feel a sense of hopelessness and fear. @FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madriral, @DubravkaSRVAW it's imperative that something be done now. #FreeBlock13*
- *@FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madriral, @DubravkaSRVAW We demand you stop this unchecked ill treatment and attacks, discrimination, harassment and death of LGBTQ+ persons in Kakuma. #SolidarityKakumaLGBTIQ.*
- *We call on @FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madriral, @DubravkaSRVAW to respond to the calls for safety and protection of LGBTQ+ refugees at Block 13 in Kakuma camp. Because Kakuma camp is highly homophobic and transphobic and is a highly hostile environment for LGBTQ refugees to live. #FreeBlock13, #Kakuma*
- *#InSolidarityWithBlock13. I believe that the freedom of the LGBTQ refugees in Kakuma camp speaks directly to my freedom. @FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madriral, @DubravkaSRVAW*

- *@FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madrigal, @DubravkaSRVAW, LGBTQ+ refugees in Kakuma are not second class or third class citizens. They are human beings deserving of dignity and safety. #FreeBlock13, #Kakuma*
- *@FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madrigal, @DubravkaSRVAW, When we say safety, we are not talking about militarization and policing that is going to render LGBTQ+ refugees in even further dangers. We want safety and protection strategies to be discussed with Block 13. #InSolidarityWithBlock13*
- *@FathiaAbdalla, @FilippoGrandi, @UNHCR, @MaryLawlorhrds, @victor_madrigal, @DubravkaSRVAW, We are calling on the UN as an institution and international body to member states and to the Kenyan government to find a solution to save us from yet another crisis that is unfolding before them. #InSolidarityWithBlock13*
- *@FrontLineHRD @amnesty @OutRightIntl @Oxfam @ILGAWORLD @COCNederland @hrw @HRC why is remaining silent and protecting your organizations more important than saving the lives of LGBTQ+ refugees at Kakuma? #SolidarityKakumaLGBTIQ, #FreeBlock13*

Facebook Posts

- *#InSolidarityWithBlock13. "I have been talking about what I witnessed on the 15th of March, 2021 [in Kakuma Refugee Camp]. I heard screaming and I ran out of the shelter. I saw Trinidad burning like a piece of wood. Women and Children were running out of shelters. Kids were screaming in the confusion. I thought we were all going to die. I sat motionless until the fire injured and Trinidad were put off. Every day I relive this horrible experience that I have." – from Shifra, Human Rights Defender, Block 13 member and resident at Kakuma.*
- *#InSolidarityWithBlock13. "In the wee hours of March 15th 2021 a petrol bomb was thrown onto LGBTQ+ refugees [at Kakuma camp] as they slept in the open air at Block 13 in Kakuma refugee camp. We say open air because many of the refugees at Block 13 do not have houses. They actually sleep in the yard in the middle of that semi desert. Outside, in the open air, the bomb exploded, causing a fire. Two gay men were set on fire*

by this homophobic attack and were severely band across large areas of their bodies.” -- Victor Mukasa, Human Rights Defender, Host of The Victor Mukasa Show.

- *#InSolidarityWithBlock13. “We are people who care. We are people who care and who love people who have been touched by what is happening in Block 13 at Kakuma. We are people who care because we do not want to fuel homo/transphobia and xenophobia. We want to build a Pan Africanist and an internationalism that recognizes that one oppression affects all other oppressions.” -- Phumi Mtetwa, Just Associates*
- *#InSolidarityWithBlock13. We don't want armies to be sent to us because we know what militarisation does to women. We know what policing does to LGBTQ+ people and we know what it does to black people. We do not want to create a situation where we are not finding a solution but opening up doors for further violation of Block 13's dignity and human rights.*

Video Launch Captions (Newsletter Options, FB)

Meet Claire, Kato, Kevin, Shrifa, and Umar as they tell you their stories, their struggles, and their demands living in Kakuma Camp, Block 13. Please listen and share the voices of our LGBTQ+ family living and resisting rampant violent trans/homophobic attacks in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

Today, we are asking you to Share, Sign, and Donate.

Share the graphics and videos,

Sign and share petition ([Change.org/LGBTRefugeesKenya](https://change.org/LGBTRefugeesKenya)),

and donate to attack victims at Shanice@triangle.org.za

You can also change your cover and profile photos to the #FreeBlock13 found in our toolkit.

For the launch of the #FreeBlock13 Week of Action, and also on this April 7th international day of remembrance of the Rwandan Genocide- We honor the brave trans and gender expansive community members residing at Kakuma refugee camp, who since 2014 have been organizing for their safety and dignity in spite of rampant violence and criminalization.

We celebrate the resilience and power of Block 13 LGBTQIA+ refugees who continue to contend with the unlivable realities of the camp and UNHCR's grossly inadequate response.

On this day, we call on the international community to stand in solidarity with Block 13 because lives hang in the balance. BLMP and our international comrades ask you to join us in solidarity with the survivors resisting and organizing to #FreeBlock13.

Ways you can help:

- participate in the international week of action (April 7th- April 13th)
- Head to bit.ly/WOABlock13 (link in bio) for day to day resources
- Take a photo with a sign saying “ I Believe We Can #FreeBlock13 “ and share with the #FreeBlock13 Hashtags

The demands are as follows:

1. The UNHCR must evacuate the LGBTQ+ Block 13 Group at risk from Kakuma to Nairobi and expedite their resettlement as they are survivors of intensive and unending homophobic attacks.
2. The Kenyan government and all its institutions have a duty to protect everyone within their borders regardless of their citizenship status. Protecting refugees is the primary responsibility of the State.
3. We call on all our allies and partners, human rights organizations and defenders to be in unequivocal solidarity with the community in Block 13.

*#SolidarityKakumaLGBTQ, #FreeBlock13, #Kakuma, #freeblock13kakuma,
#InSolidarityWithBlock13*

Resources:

The following linked documents contain details of these attacks.

- ❑ [March 23rd, Press Advisory](#)
- ❑ [Summary of Crisis and Demands](#)
- ❑ [Compilation of human rights violations](#)
- ❑ [Debunking UNHCR misinformation](#)
- ❑ [Timeline of attack since March 2020](#)
- ❑ [Counseling report from June 2020](#)
- ❑ Medical [report from July 2020](#)

☐ Photos and videos

- ☐ Interview and Block 13 protest following March 15th attack [\[video\]](#)
- ☐ Interview following a homophobic assault of three lesbians and a minor in Kakuma Refugee Camp [\[video\]](#)
- ☐ Call for Evacuation of LGBTQ+ Survivors from Block 13 Kakuma <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ5oGhe6wM8>
- ☐ Photos available upon request