



BLACK LGBTQIA + MIGRANT PROJECT

#FreeBlock13 Info Sheet

KAKUMA CAMP IN KENYA

#FREEBLOCK13

TWITCH FUNDRAISER

STREAMING DAILY MARCH 13TH- MARCH 20TH

Support the #FreeBlock13 Streaming Fundraiser for Black LGBTQIA+ refugees at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

As we continue to support the demands to #FreeBlock13, we ask you for additional support in providing funding for their basic needs.

Content Creators will be streaming daily from March 13th- March 20th to fundraise for Block 13. The streamers' will be on Youtube and Twitch and their fundraising goal is to raise \$15,000.

All proceeds will go directly to human rights defenders and refugees living in Block 13 of Kakuma Refugee Camp.

bit.ly/Block13StreamFundraiser

Text "Kakuma [\$Amount] [Your Name]" to 71777 to donate

BLMP Socials Handle: @officialBLMP

[Google Drive Link:](#)

[Kakuma Posts 1](#)

[Kakuma Posts 2](#)

[Kakuma Posts 3](#)

What is Block 13?

Block 13 is a community of LGBTQ+ refugees, their children, and supporters at the Kakuma Refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. Kakuma camp houses more than 180,000 refugees. The LGBTQ+ refugees there fled their home countries to escape violence and the homophobic, lesbophobic, and transphobic laws there only to find the same violence at Kakuma camp.



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For years the residents of Block 13 have been victims of violent bigoted attacks. Most recently on March 15th, 2021, petrol bombs were thrown into a group of LGBTQ+ refugees, allies, and their children who live in the Block. Ayesigye Jordan and Atuhwera Chrion received 2nd-degree burns over major areas of their bodies, with Chrion, unfortunately, succumbing to his injuries and passing away in April 2021.

In addition to facing constant abuse, residents of Block 13 have inadequate living conditions, little access to necessary resources, or medical care. It is through the fundraising efforts of members of Block 13 and their outside allies that many of their vital needs are met. The ultimate goal is to #FreeBlock13 by moving them to a safer place away from the harsh abusive conditions that they currently face in Kakuma camp. In the meantime, members of Block 13 deserve dignity, resources, and support.

What is BLMP (Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project)?

BLMP envisions a world where no one is forced to give up their homeland, where all Black LGBTQIA+ people are free and liberated. We build and center the power of Black LGBTQIA+ migrants to ensure the liberation of all Black people through community-building, political education, creating access to direct services, and organizing across borders. BLMP is an independent organization that is fiscally sponsored by Transgender Law Center.

Led by a directly impacted steering committee and staff and housed at the Transgender Law Center, we build power, community, and knowledge in the U.S. while challenging the role the U.S. plays globally in creating the conditions that force us to leave our homes.

Talking Points: Conditions at Kakuma

1. LGBTQ refugees and human rights defenders at Kakuma are facing brutal homophobic and transphobic mass attacks from fellow refugees and the locals, without any protection from UNHCR and the Kenyan Government.



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2. Their encampments have been set ablaze and many are struggling with the trauma from these attacks. They continue to experience sexual and physical assault, rape discrimination, sexual and physical harassment and the list goes on.
3. Some deaths have already been registered as a result of the deplorable conditions and many more will die unless actions are taken to address this worrying situation.
4. Even as of now these brutal attacks continue, UNHCR continues to show inaction and in their statements, they claim that they have intervened in the situation, but that is all not true. The situation on the ground in Kakuma is now a crisis with both children and adults facing certain death and deteriorating mental health as a result of these attacks.
5. Besides the violence from fellow refugees, LGBTQ+ refugees at Kakuma face discrimination as they try to access services in the camp, including healthcare. The police has also committed sexual harassment on gay men forcing them to have sexual intercourse for their (police) entertainment and in some cases they have issued death threats against the queer refugees.
6. The cases of human rights abuse and violations at the camp have been documented and shared with UNHCR as well as other human rights organizations. When UNHCR issued statements about the situation, they engaged in a campaign of misinformation aimed at discrediting the LGBTQ refugees at the camp. The UNHCR has even denied the existence of homophobia and transphobia at the camp.
7. The fact that the situation of homophobic and transphobic violence has played out many times before and yet UNHCR continues to bring LGBTQ+ people to Kakuma, demonstrates the gross negligence and apathy on the part of the agency.
8. LGBTQ refugees at Kakuma deserve to be evacuated to a safe place, to have their safety ensured and be granted equal access to basic essential services.
9. Most of LGBTQ+ refugees at Kakuma were forced to flee homophobic and transphobic countries across East Africa, into Kenya, for safety. These refugees ended up, either in urban areas, mainly in Nairobi, or in Kakuma Refugee Camp in North Western Kenya.
10. The homophobic and transphobic laws utilized by these African nations were grandfathered from penal codes that were established by Western colonial powers.



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With recent homophobic laws in Africa being inspired by leaders of the US religious right like Scott Lively who was instrumental in the creation of Uganda's 2014 "Kill the Gays" bill.

11. It is the responsibility of western countries like the US to accept and expedite refugee resettlement processes especially given their role in creating the refugee/migration crises in the first place.
12. We are fighting for a commitment to migration as a human right and the expansion of the social safety net for Black LGBTQ+ refugees who are forced to migrate by the attacks on our homelands by U.S. and western imperialism, which has led to exploitation of African countries as well as Black majority nations.
13. We are defending our community because migration is a human right.

Additional Resources:

[Out in the World: Death of gay Kakuma refugee spurs LGBTQ Africans' calls for evacuation | Bay Area Reporter](#)

[LGBTQ Voice from Kakuma | Amnesty International Kenya](#)

[Update: LGBTQ+ Refugees remain in Block 13 at Kakuma Camp, Kenya | Coalition of African Lesbians](#)

[LGBT+ refugees call on U.N. for safe space after Kenya camp attacks | Reuters](#)

[Where lesbians live in fear | UnHerd](#)

[Lesbians, gays live in fear of attacks in Kenyan refugee camp | NBC News](#)



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[LGBTQ+ Refugees at Block 13 Kakuma Camp Sleep Outside, NO SHELTERS | The Victor Mukasa Show](#)

[The Current Predicament of LGBTQ+ Refugees in Kakuma Refugee Camp | The Victor Mukasa Show](#)

[Meet the people behind the first Pride at a refugee camp in Kenya | Gay Star News](#)

[BLMP Website](#)