

# Promoting Respect for Diversity

Annual Report  
2013

J-FLAG



PO Box 1152, Kingston 8, Jamaica  
 Tel: (876) 754-2130 | (876) 631-8654  
 Fax: (876) 754-2113

[www.jflag.org](http://www.jflag.org) | [admin@jflag.org](mailto:admin@jflag.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/jflagcommunity](http://www.facebook.com/jflagcommunity)

Twitter: [@equality\\_JA](https://twitter.com/equality_JA)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/equalityJA](http://www.youtube.com/equalityJA)

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# Message from the Executive Director

Jamaica has a rich history of human rights advocacy for the LGBT community. The movement began in the 1970s with the Gay Freedom Movement, spearheaded by Larry Chang who also later cofounded J-FLAG with several others. In those days, more pockets of tolerance and gay social spaces existed. There were even visible gay clubs in the 1980s. However, by the 1990s virulent homophobia became a more common experience for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people. The community became imprisoned by fear. This has instigated much of our advocacy over the last decade.

Regrettably, the diversity of Jamaica's LGBT community has been masked by the advocacy and media narratives that have focused on victimhood, crime and violence, sex and HIV. These themes however, are not identity-affirming and might have helped to side-track the human rights discourse and prevent LGBT Jamaicans from being seen as human beings first. It has also shifted focus to gay men and transgender people, leaving lesbian and bisexual issues in the shadows.

We recognised we needed to create spaces that allow us to highlight the diverse experiences of LGBT people and talk about how identity and space are negotiated. We also acknowledged the urgent need to create opportunities for gay and straight Jamaicans to come together to find ways to work together and make Jamaica a more hospitable place for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Critical to this initiative was to take J-FLAG 'out of the closet.' Since 2004, when Brian Williamson

was murdered J-FLAG was faceless until January 17, 2013 when I headlined the We Are Jamaicans human rights video campaign. This was my first public appearance in Jamaica as the head of the organisation. Our activities were also held in secrecy; one that prevented us from reaching and engaging a wider cross section of people.

Throughout the year we embarked on a number of new initiatives and enhanced existing ones as well as revived programmes such as the LGBT Speaker's Bureau, a comprehensive sensitisation training for public health workers, sensitisation training on sexual violence against lesbian and bisexual women, and outreach activities. These endeavours saw us engaging and training more community members, government entities and collaborating with government and other NGOs.

Despite the challenges we continue to face, we made substantial progress throughout the year, especially through our projects and media campaigns, and I must thank all our donors, allies and LGBT people, especially those who have supported us over the years and continue to add their voice not just publicly but in their own sphere of influence.

As J-FLAG continues to work towards engendering a more inclusive culture and carving out a viable space for LGBT Jamaicans, I wish to challenge community members to continue their fight for full citizenship as we forge ahead in this difficult but penetrable struggle. J-FLAG will continue to support its stakeholders in this regard.

**Dane Lewis**

## ABOUT J-FLAG

J-FLAG is the foremost organisation in Jamaica advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

In an effort to build a Jamaican society that respects and protects the rights of everyone, J-FLAG is committed to promoting social change, empowering the LGBT community, and building tolerance for, and acceptance of, LGBT people.

Since 2012, the organisation has been operating under four broad objectives:

1. Increase public tolerance and understanding of LGBT peoples from 17% to 50%
2. Transform J-FLAG into an effective umbrella group to improve service to the LGBT community
3. Create the foundation for legal reform
4. Increase organisational sustainability

In pursuit of these objectives, the following strategic approaches have been employed:

1. Create a powerful J-FLAG brand whose promise is that of a caring, value-driven organisation dedicated to promoting inherent human dignity and the freedom and right of all of us to be.
2. Strong, proactive leadership of the LGBT Community.
3. Collaborate with other human rights groups and stakeholders in pursuit of incremental gains against all forms of discrimination.
4. Create a culture of excellence that attracts creative, high-calibre personnel who will develop efficient operating systems and a buoyant stream of donors.

### Mission

To promote social change by empowering the Jamaican LGBT community and build tolerance for, and acceptance of the LGBT community by the wider Jamaican society

### Vision

The creation of a Jamaican society that respects and protects the human rights and inherent dignity of all individuals irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity: A Jamaica where there is the freedom to be, for all people.

### Values

J-FLAG promotes the values of all-inclusivity, diversity, equality, fairness, and love. These values are at the heart of all we do, as we seek to become effective agents of social change.

# Celebrating Progress: Jamaica's LGBT History (1974-2013)



**JAMAICAN LGBT HISTORY 1974-2013**  
WE SHALL OVERCOME

**1974 -** Gay Freedom Movement established

**1977 - 1984** Jamaica Gaily News published

**1980 -** Gay Freedom Movement co-hosted a public discussion on "Homosexuality in Jamaica" along with the Jamaica Psychological Association. This was the first open discussion on the subject in Jamaica.

**1980 -** Larry Chang appears on JBC Television programme as an openly gay man.

**1984 -** Gay Freedom Movement ends

**1988 -** J-FLAG established to give voice to the marginalized Jamaican LGBT community.

**1991 -** JASL established.

**1998 -** Head of Epidemiology in the Ministry of Health, Peter Figueroa, calls for repeal of anti-buggery law for public health reasons.

**1999 -** A pair of Jamaican Transgenders (Macey and Rodd) made their television debut as guests on TVJ's popular late-night talk-show "Man Talk".

**1999 -** Women for Women was established to mobilize the community of lesbian and bisexual women in Jamaica.

**2001 -** J-FLAG makes first-ever written submission to Joint Select Committee of Parliament concerning the absence of rights for LGBT Jamaicans in the Jamaican Constitution.

**2004 -** Stop Murder Music Campaign is launched

**2007 -** Reggae Artistes sign the Reggae Compassionate Act

**2007 -** International reggae recording artiste, Tanya Stephens records Jamaica's first pro-gay song: "Do You Still Care"

**2007 -** Red Stripe takes a stand against glorifying violence

**2008 -** First LGBT-related public service announcement premiered on local television produced by Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL)

**2010 -** First LGBT-related public service announcement premiered on local television produced by Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL)

**2011 -** Portia Simpson-Miller, then leader of opposition, says sexual orientation or gender identity not a criteria for cabinet selection

**2011 -** First national survey on attitudes and perceptions of Jamaicans towards same-sex relationships

**2012 -** First LGBT-related strategic litigation heard before Jamaican Supreme Court concerning the refusal to air a gay tolerance ad produced by attorney-at-law Maurice Tomlinson for international NGO AIDS Free World

**2012 -** Police publishes diversity policy encouraging officers to respect the rights of all people, including LGBT

**2012 -** Minister of Education keynote speaker at anti-bullying forum hosted by J-FLAG

**2012 -** National Anti-Discrimination Association (NADA) established

**2012 -** First ever reggae artiste comes out as lesbian

**2012 -** First challenge to the buggery law

**2013 -** Quality of Citizenship JA established

# Celebrating Progress: Top 10 LGBT Accomplishments in 2013

There have been many highs and lows for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Jamaicans this year. Despite the challenges faced by LGBT people, including homelessness, mob attacks and the murder of 16-year-old Dwayne Jones, we have made strides to improve the lives of community members.

We take this opportunity to highlight some of the positive things that happened in 2013 that have made an impact on our sustained efforts to promote the rights of LGBT Jamaicans.

Here are the top ten achievements (in no particular order):

## 1. We Are Jamaicans

In January 2013, J-FLAG launched the **We Are Jamaicans** campaign (on YouTube) to allow LGBT Jamaicans and allies to talk about LGBT identity, community, and rights, as well as discrimination and violence.

For the first time in our history, there was a campaign with several LGBT Jamaicans openly sharing their personal experiences living in Jamaica and humanising what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Participants included Tiana Miller, Staceyann Chin, Cecile Burrows, Nicolette Bryan, Dr. Carolyn Gomes, Keriann Lee, Rev Garth Minott and Pat Wright. The campaign generated much excitement among a wide cross section of people and was a source of hope for the LGBT community, their families and friends.

The campaign was expanded in August to include LGBT people and allies in Canada and the USA. Over 40 videos have been uploaded and they have been viewed over 130,000 times on YouTube. The *Huffington Post* named the campaign as one of the ten best LGBT moments in the week of January 13

to 20. It was also featured in *Caribbean Beat*, the in-flight magazine for Caribbean Airlines.

## 2. Constitutional Challenge to the Buggery Law

In an unprecedented move, AIDS-Free World filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the buggery law on behalf of Javed Jaghai in June, 2013. Javed, who is a well known and celebrated human rights activist, is also an alumnus of the prestigious Dartmouth College and is currently a PhD candidate at Yale University. He was working with J-FLAG as Education & Outreach Officer at the time of filing the challenge.

The case has garnered a lot of support from scores of Jamaicans and a number of civil society organisations. In addition to J-FLAG being joined as a co-claimant on September 3, Caribbean Dawn, a women's rights organisation, was joined as an interested party in October. Regrettably, the application from Jamaicans for Justice to similarly join as interested party was denied but we continue to share their full support for this initiative as well as that of the broader civil society coalition. Chris Beyrer, Professor at John Hopkins University, was added as an expert witness for the claimant. Case management and other administrative activities will be ongoing throughout the next twelve months and trial is set to begin in November 2014.

## 3. Government Takes A Stand Against Hate Music/Speech

In August, the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture expressed regret in its response to an unfortunate event involving an artiste's use of the Independence Grand Gala to make anti-gay statements.

The Ministry declared that: "...the comments by the artiste were inappropriate in the setting of a national, state-funded event with more than

20,000 persons, including children, who were in the National Stadium and thousands more watching on television and online."

There was also a commitment to review the system of contractual engagement of artistes and suppliers for national events as well as improving quality control to ensure there is no recurrence.

## 4. Ministry of National Security Conducts Research among LGBT Jamaicans

As promised in 2012, the Ministry of National Security (MNS) expanded the 2013 Jamaica National Crime Victimization Survey (JNCVS) to include questions about crimes believed to result from assumptions or knowledge about the sexual orientation of persons.

Over 150 LGBT people from varying socioeconomic backgrounds from across the country were interviewed by the Ministry in partnership with J-FLAG.

## 5. Jamaicans Protest the Murder of Dwayne Jones

In July, the LGBT community and allies mobilized both locally and internationally to express their profound sadness and outrage about the murder of transgender teenager Dwayne Jones in the community of Irwin, St. James.

Parliamentarians and other leaders made encouraging statements showing solidarity with the position of J-FLAG and its allies and went even further by decrying the situation of especially vulnerable LGBT people in light of this unfortunate incident. Notably, Senator Mark Golding, Custos of Mandeville Sally Porteous, Professors Carolyn Cooper and Newton D. Duncan of the University of the West Indies, and journalists Emily Crooks and Dionne Jackson-Miller publicly condemned the killing and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

The incident also triggered new conversations in the Jamaican media about gender diversity and helped to initiate a refining of the media's lexicon

with respect to gender non-conformity, and for the first time expressions like 'transgender' replaced 'cross-dresser' in some major outlets.

Encouragingly, the police contacted J-FLAG to provide information about the murder and investigations. However, despite collecting several statements from alleged witnesses, an arrest has not yet been made.

## 6. J-FLAG Executive Director Takes A Bold Approach to Leadership

Dane Lewis, (who only started using his real name in July 2010 despite much anxiety from family, friends and staff) came out publicly in 2013 as J-FLAG's Executive Director. Dane joined J-FLAG in February 2008 as the Programme Manager and was known as Jason McFarlane until the organisation restructured in July 2010. After retiring the pseudonym, Dane showed his face for the first time in J-FLAG's "We Are Jamaicans" Campaign and went on to appear on local television without obscuring his face starting in May 2013.

The last known public face for the organisation was Brian Williamson who died in 2004.

## 7. J-FLAG partners with Government to train Public Health Workers

Discrimination perpetrated by healthcare providers hinder the access of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) to HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

Between September and November, J-FLAG in partnership with the National HIV Programme (of the National Family Planning Board (NFBP)) used a ten-module training manual to build the capacity of sixty public health workers to provide HIV services to gay, bisexual and other MSM.

A survey conducted among participants found that 65% of them had never been trained about MSM-related health issues and 93% had never been trained to offer counseling about anal sex. A third of the participants (37%) said the training inspired them to change their thinking about LGBT people

and 63% felt that they were already tolerant; some at the stage of acceptance while others are working on celebrating and promoting LGBT individuals. Overall, the vast majority of participants felt the workshop was useful to enhance their work and that they were now more exposed to the unique issues faced by LGBT people and would make an effort to use the information they learned.

## 8. Public Education & Awareness Raising

LGBT activists and allies continued to create and make use of opportunities for Jamaicans to learn about human rights, gender and sexuality. There were a number of public education and awareness raising initiatives in 2013 such as:

- Four “stands for equality” organised by AIDS-Free World (AFW) and Quality of Citizenship Jamaica
- A walk for tolerance convened by National Anti-Discrimination Association (NADA)
- Two symposia on homelessness and citizenship hosted by J-FLAG
- The relaunch of the LGBT Speaker’s Bureau, outreach at LGBT parties
- A number of sensitisation sessions with key stakeholders such as the police, the association of guidance counselors, the media, and the LGBT community itself, most notably in rural communities in Clarendon, Manchester, Westmoreland, St. Ann, and Portland

In addition, while there have been a number of problematic outputs, the media continued to give space for constructive discussion/debate about human rights generally and the rights of LGBT persons specifically. Both major newspapers reaffirmed the rights of LGBT persons.

One newspaper has made public calls for the need to revise or repeal the “buggery law”. Media practitioners also participated in sensitisation trainings organised by Panos Caribbean and J-FLAG.

## 9. New LGBT Organisations Established

LGBT rights activism was enriched by the establishment of new organisations like Quality of Citizenship Jamaica (QCJ), which works toward improving the lives of lesbian, bisexual (LB), and other women who have sex with women (WSW) through research into health issues, matters on sexuality, sexual violence, and sexual and reproductive health issues; Jamaica Association of Gays and Lesbians Abroad (JAGLA), which works toward raising awareness about the realities of LGBT Jamaicans and lobbies the international community to promote respect for human rights in Jamaica; and Dwayne’s House, an organisation working to build support for a shelter for homeless LGBT youth.

## 10. Improved Relationship with the Police

J-FLAG continued to benefit from an improved working relationship with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), including and especially with the Office of the Police Commissioner, Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences & Child Abuse (CISOCA), and officers at the Half Way Tree Police Station and the New Kingston Police Post.

LGBT people have also developed and increased degree of trust for the police and in every division at least one ally can be identified that is willing and able to deal with matters concerning sexual and gender minorities. As a result, there has been an increase of incidents of LGBT victimization reported to the police, which have been documented by J-FLAG.

Notably, we have seen where the police have served and protected LGBT people from baying mobs at times, even placing themselves in harm’s way to ensure the safety of these citizens, despite the direct conflict with prevailing cultural sentiments.

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# programme review

J-FLAG is committed to ensuring that sexual orientation and gender identity do not determine how people treat us.

Last year, in an effort to ensure that no Jamaican will feel inferior, powerless and invisible because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, the organisation created opportunities for Jamaicans—gay, straight and transgender—to learn from each other. Some of these learning opportunities included:

- The Inaugural Larry Chang Human Rights Symposium on May 17 observed as the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) to pay homage to one of the organisation’s founders
- The launch of the **We Are Jamaicans Campaign**, which provided a platform for LGBT Jamaicans and allies to talk about their experiences, training of public health workers in the HIV and AIDS response, launch of the community grant, and becoming a joint party in the landmark constitutional challenge to the buggery law

Here’s some information from on a few of the initiatives/projects.

## Media, Advocacy, Education & Awareness Raising

### We Are Jamaicans – Human Rights Participatory Video Campaign

The **We Are Jamaicans Campaign** was launched on January 17, 2013 to allow LGBT Jamaicans and allies to talk about LGBT identity, community, and rights, as well as discrimination and violence. This is one of the first human rights participatory video campaigns to be launched in Jamaica and the (English-speaking) Caribbean.

The campaign was designed following recommendations from consultations with LGBT persons, activists and allies to show the experiences of Jamaica’s LGBT community in a more diverse way and interrupt prevailing discourse on LGBT realities in Jamaica.

Over forty videos were uploaded to the campaign page on YouTube featuring several LGBT Jamaicans openly sharing their experiences. These videos have been watched over 130,000 times largely by persons in Jamaica, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago.

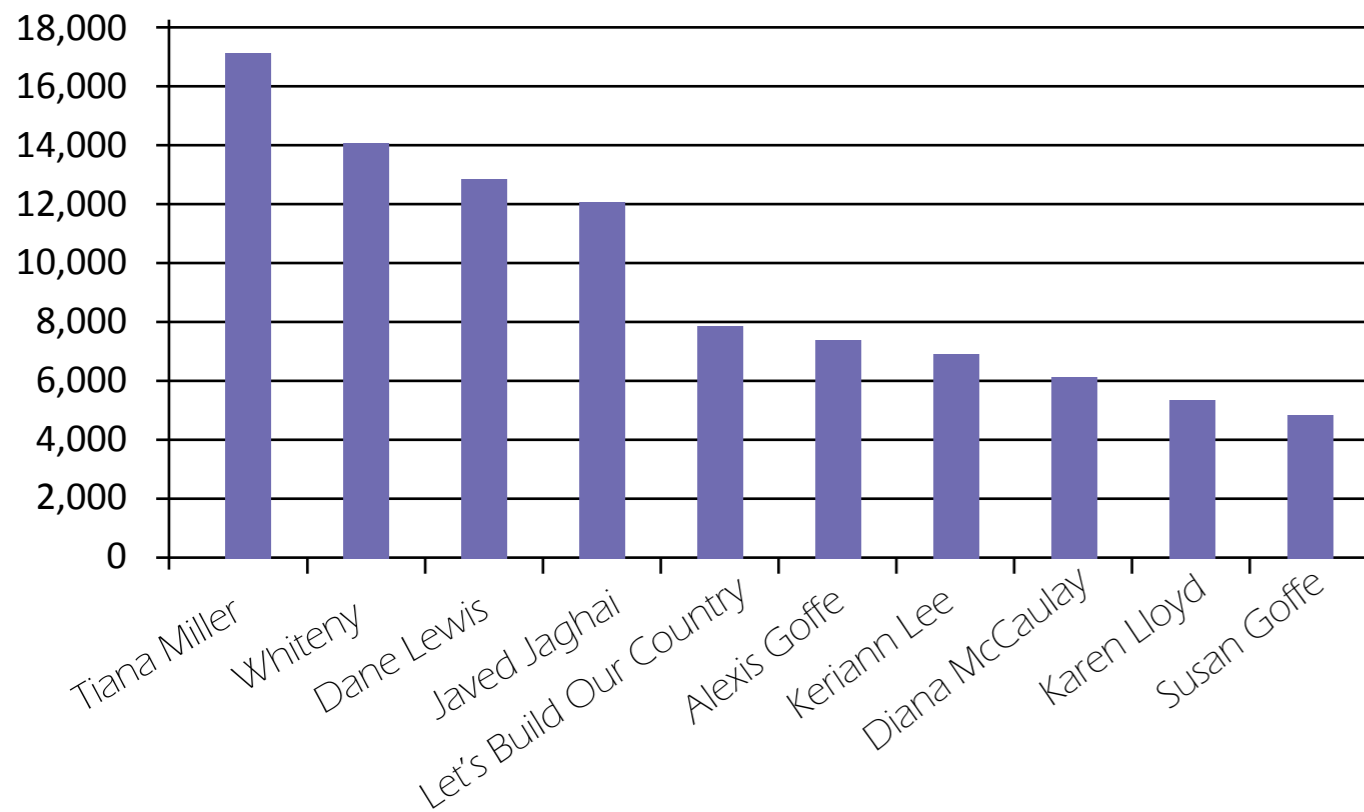
Notably, Huffington Post named the We Are Jamaicans Campaign as one of the ten best LGBT moments in the week of January 13 to 20. It was also featured in Caribbean Beat, the in-flight magazine for Caribbean Airlines.

The videos were viewed 138,148 times with over 77,000 of these views being by females. More than half of the views were among Jamaicans (54%), most of who were between 25 and 54 years (63%).

**Top Five Countries by Views**


	Views	13-17 years	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
<b>Jamaica</b>	75,126	4.5%	14%	17%	20%	26%	15%	3.1%
<b>United States</b>	37,207	2.3%	6.6%	15%	19%	37%	18%	2.6%
<b>Canada</b>	8,232	1.9%	7.2%	16%	18%	37%	17%	3.1%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	6,056	2.5%	5.2%	14%	19%	47%	13%	0%
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	1,132	0%	10%	17%	34%	38%	0%	0%

**Top Videos Watched**




I'm a Goldenruler. That's not a 'new-age' religion; it's old-fashioned commonsense. Treat other people the way you'd like to be treated! And that often means not thinking of them as 'other'. #iChooseLove

*Prof. Carolyn Cooper*



"Love never ends," words made famous by Paul of Tarsus. It is the unconditional gift of oneself to another. It is both a unifying and creative way to build each other in a united community. It is through love and respect that we build healthy communities, and healthy nations. I have made my choice. #iChooseLove




*Father Garth Minott*  
Anglican Priest

Jamaica can be the idyllic place to live, work, do business and raise families if we refrain from being so negative and judgemental about people. Let today be the day you look for the good in others and respect them. Where there is love, there is life. And #iChooseLove.



*Tiana Miller*  
Transgender Activist

I love because I am loving, that is a reflection of ME. Nobody needs to earn my love for me to respect them. I respect because I am respectful. This goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway... If I don't see every human as my equal then I CAN NEVER experience equality. #iChooseLove



*Tanya Stephens*  
Jamaican Reggae Artiste

**#iChooseLove Social Media Campaign**

We have published several memes done by members and allies of the LGBT community to encourage love and respect of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation. This has also increased activity and 'likes' on our Facebook page. The campaign has been supported by allies such as international recording artiste Tanya Stephens; Diana King, first Jamaican artiste to come out as gay; Susan Goffe, Chairperson of Jamaicans for Justice and Father Garth Minott.

**Larry Chang Human Rights Symposium (May 17, 2013)**

The Inaugural Larry Chang Human Rights Symposium was organized to commemorate the life and work of Larry Chang, one of the progenitors of the LGBT rights movement in Jamaica. the symposium was held in observance of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO).

The symposium focused on homelessness and forced migration in the LGBT community under the theme 'Homeless at Home: Displaced and in Search of A Safer Life'.

The theme was relevant because as Jamaicans, we are socialized to believe that gender and sexual minorities do not belong in our communities. Most of the discussions on displacement focus on the situation of a group of homeless gay men and transgender women in Kingston. However, the threat of displacement from family, community and sometimes country shapes the lived experiences of all LGBT people.

The symposium sought to broaden the conversation about displacement and victimization to include all LGBT Jamaicans and to demonstrate the relevance of advocacy and the need for sustainable programs to address critical needs.

The symposium featured a panel of five presenters, namely Javed Jaghai, the Education and Outreach

Officer; Larry Chang, one of the organisation's founders; Vivienne Williams Thompson, a Public Policy Consultant; Aaron C. Morris, Senior Staff Attorney, Immigration Equality (USA); and Kate Chappell, Communications Specialist and Journalist who also volunteers with J-FLAG.

The forum was attended by over 120 persons representing a wide range of organizations including representatives from the Diplomatic Corps (South African High Commission, Embassy of the United States, British High Commission, European Union), Amnesty International, the United Nations Country Team (UNDP and UNESCO), educational institutions (UTech and University of Michigan), government (Ministry of Health/National Family Planning Board), civil society leaders and members of the LGBT community and our allies.

The symposium was also streamed live to allow Larry Chang to participate from the offices of Advocates for Youth (in Washington DC) who partnered with the organisation. Technical difficulties hindered promotion of the url for the streaming. Forty-nine persons participated via streaming (Jamaica - 27; USA - 12; Belize - 2; Guyana - 2; Canada - 2; UK - 3 and Dominican Republic - 1).

The symposium was fully sponsored by the European Union. The symposium report has been disseminated to attendees along with a feature video which can be accessed here: <http://goo.gl/xQ0MU>

### Out of Many, One (Heterosexual?) People

The symposium focused primarily on issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) identities, citizenship and activism.

The symposium sought to present findings from studies done on the LGBT community and facilitate discourse in an attempt to address the issues that are faced by the LGBT community.

Some important issues were raised in the discussions, including the role of the media in its portrayal of LGBT peoples, social and sexual stigma as well as internalized homophobia. These issues

need to be addressed as they overlap within the different LGBT groups.



The symposium brought together four scholars, namely Javed Jaghai, Education and Outreach Officer, J-FLAG; Dr Anneka Marshall, Lecturer, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI Mona; Noelle Ingledew, Chairperson Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) Board of Directors; and Renà Blackwood-McIntosh, Lecturer, Department of Psychology, UTech Jamaica whose work discusses the cultural, historical, political and economic dimensions of (homo)sexual identity. The presentations facilitated dialogue about the contours of Jamaican (sexual) citizenship, the place of LGBT people in Jamaica today and the path to a more inclusive Jamaica.

The recommendations emanating from this symposium include the need for monolithic stories in the media to become more plural and to showcase the diversity of the LGBT population

Additionally, there is an urgent need for members of the community to shed the fear that leads to its complicity in the marginalization of LGBT people. There needs to be a concerted effort, through activism on the part of the community, to demand full citizenship and the acceptance of the diverse identities of LGBT people.

## Community Mobilisation And Empowerment

### Community Grants

In June, the organisation launched a call for proposals to provide funding for innovative community empowerment and mobilisation projects of up to \$100,000. Rural and women and transgender projects/organizations were strongly encouraged to apply. The projects that were successful were:

- LBWSW Empowerment & Defence Workshop by Quality of Citizenship Jamaica
- Walk Good Ja by SO((U))L

### Community Outreach

Over the course of the year, the organisation increased its presence in the LGBT community

across the island. A number of community empowerment meetings have been held in Clarendon, Westmoreland, St. James, and Kingston and St. Andrew. Specifically, the engagement in Clarendon and Westmoreland were used to, among other things, provide community members with psychosocial support while sharing the work and achievements of organisation.

This has also provided us with the opportunity to develop a community referral system, which is still in its embryonic stage. The aim is to identify point persons in several communities across rural Jamaica who will be able to network on our behalf and provide opportunities for additional outreach.

## Capacity Building

### Public Health Workers Training

Discrimination perpetrated by healthcare providers hinder the access of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) to HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

Between September and November, J-FLAG in partnership with the National HIV Programme (of the National Family Planning Board (NFBP)) used a ten-module training manual to build the capacity of sixty public health workers to provide HIV services to gay, bisexual and other MSM.

A survey conducted among participants found that 65% of them had never been trained about MSM-related health issues and 93% had never been trained to offer counseling about anal sex. A third of the participants (37%) said the training inspired

them to change their thinking about LGBT people and 63% felt that they were already tolerant; some at the stage of acceptance while others are working on celebrating and promoting LGBT individuals. Overall, the vast majority of participants felt the workshop was useful to enhance their work and that they were now more exposed to the unique issues faced by LGBT people and would make an effort to use the information they learned.

### NGO Capacity Building Workshop

An NGO capacity building workshop was held September 12 and 13 for organisations that work directly in the HIV response and with gay, bisexual and other MSM. The workshop was funded by J-FLAG and was a collaborative effort with the National HIV/STI Programme of the National Family Planning Board (NFPB).



Twenty five individuals from ten organisations benefited from this workshop, which focused on enhancing the capacity of social service agencies and human rights organisations that serve members of the LGBT community, to create

a welcoming environment for these individuals. Participants left with a clearer understanding of the importance and impact of an enabling environment on LGBT individuals who access their services.

## Crisis Intervention and Support

Many LGBT people continue to depend on the organisation for support. Nearly 300 persons, most of whom were males, were provided with a wide range of services.

(real or perceived) sexual orientation or gender identity.

Half of these incidents occurred in Kingston & St Andrew and St James, St Catherine, Clarendon and Manchester account for a significant portion of the remaining 50%.

### Summary of Human Rights Violations

In 2013, there were sixty-three reports of incidents of physical attack, threat and intimidation, blackmail, sexual violence, discrimination, displacement and murder perpetrated on the basis of an individual's

The following is a breakdown of the incidents reported:

TYPE OF INCIDENT				
	Male	Female	Trans.	Total
Physical Attack	13	3	0	16
Threat/Intimidation	7	3	0	10
Blackmail	3	0	0	3
Sexual Violence	1	7	0	8
Kidnapping	3	0	0	3
Discrimination	11	3	0	14
Displacement	8	0	0	8
Murder	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	46	16	1	63

Twenty-nine of the sixty-three incidents were reported to the police with eleven of them being from females.

### Services Offered

Anti-gay hostility continues to us, particularly hostility in some families and communities. Forced eviction, discrimination, and homelessness are among the factors which make many young gay men and other men who have sex with men vulnerable to physical and emotional trauma, which also contribute to a disproportionately high rate

of HIV infection among this population. J-FLAG's crisis intervention responses seek to go beyond the resolution of the immediate need to address the core issues which splinter families and communities. In keeping with this objective we have coordinated interventions with parents, care-givers and others whose attitudes toward LGBT people have led to fractured lives.

The table below shows the total number of persons served and some of the types of services.

	Males	Females	Total
Total Served	248	56	295
Referrals	34	11	45
Follow-Up	84	33	117
Counseling	81	30	111
Medical Assistance	4	9	13
Housing Assistance	13	1	14
HIV Prevention	57	17	73

## Constitutional Challenge to the Buggery Law

J-FLAG was joined as a co-claimant in the constitutional challenge filed by Javed Jaghai who served as Education and Outreach Officer. Caribbean

DAWN, one of the organisation's partners, was been added as an interested party for the claimant.

### Timetable for Constitutional Challenge

**November 29, 2013**

J-FLAG filed and served affidavit

**December 9, 2013**

Expert witness report to be filed and served

**January 31, 2014**

Defendant's response to claimant's affidavit to be filed and served

**February 28, 2014**

Interested parties' affidavits to be filed and served

**April 4, 2014**

Javed and J-FLAG responded to the affidavits of the defendant and interested parties

**April 30, 2014**

Statement of facts and issues as well as questionnaires to be filed and served by each party

**May 14, 2014**

Pre-trial review was held for three hours

**November 10, 2014 – November 21, 2014**

Substantive trial for 10 days

## Conclusion

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While the LGBT community continues to experience homophobia and homonegativity, we need to challenge ourselves as a movement to effect the social change we would like to see. J-FLAG remains committed in the face of adversity, and we are proud of the incremental progress we have been

witnessing to date. Our achievements in 2013 suggest that we are moving in the right direction and it is time for LGBT people, especially in rural Jamaica to play an active role in movement building and aid the transformation of a society from "exclusion and discrimination to inclusion and acceptance."