

PRIDEJA MAGAZINE

Issue 6

Celebrating



years of advocacy and activism



Thank You!

We did it Jamaica! 20 years of resilient advocacy and activism.

Over the past 20 years, J-FLAG has achieved what the founding members could have only imagined. While we are grateful for all that has been done, it is imperative that we recognize that the organization's success could not have happened was it not for the tremendous support of the LGBT community, partners both silent and active and allies in Jamaica.

We have increased visibility, civic and media engagement, volunteerism, and became vocal and confident in an effort to reclaim our identity as Jamaicans. We acknowledge the energy and resilience of our young people who have fueled the last 10 years of the movement with the guidance of our elders.

We hope, all the great strides that have been made have fueled the community to continue pressing for progress as we create a Jamaica where LGBT people can live, work, enjoy culture, participate and thrive for this generation and the next.

Thank you,

#TeamEquality



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
OF ADVOCACY

PRIDEJA MAGAZINE

Issue 6



J-FLAG

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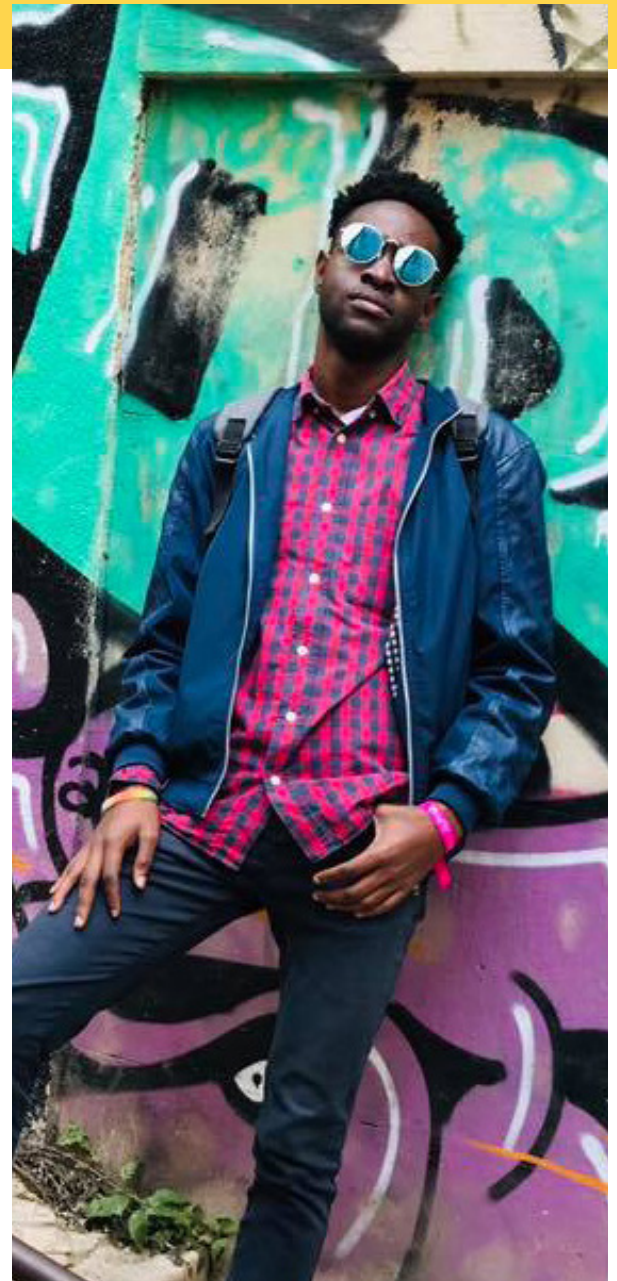
Contents

P. 2	THANK YOU	P. 22–23	J-FLAG AT 20: WHAT NEXT?
P. 6	MESSAGES <i>Equality Youth Jamaica</i>	P. 24–25	ANNIVERSARY SHOUTOUTS
P. 7	MONEY MATTERS <i>It's time to start thinking about Mortgage</i>	P. 26–27	YOUTH ON A SOCIAL JUSTICE MISSION
P. 8–11	MESSAGES <i>Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition</i> <i>Jamaica AIDS Support for Life</i> <i>TransWave</i> <i>Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network</i>	P. 28–29	A FRESH APPROACH TO POLICY & ADVOCACY
P. 12–15	ANNIVERSARY SHOUTOUTS	P. 30–32	A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS
P. 16–17	MESSAGES <i>WE-Change</i> <i>Jamaicans for Justice</i>	P. 33–37	FALL FASHION
P. 18–19	ANNIVERSARY SHOUTOUTS	P. 38	MESSAGES <i>Jamaican Network of Seropositives</i>
P. 20–21	FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR SKIN	P. 39–41	DUDEJA <i>Tourist Safe Spaces in Jamdung with a twist</i>
		P. 42–57	30 PILLARS OF J-FLAG

A message from **Equality Youth Jamaica**

Challenging the status quo is often never a popular move but often there will be those brave enough to answer the call and challenge unfair systems, institutions and mindsets. The brave men and women who have over the years contributed to the growth of J-FLAG have answered the call, not only challenge the status quo but advocate for recognition of our common human value and worth. J-FLAG over the past 20 years is a manifestation of the commitment all Jamaicans make in our national pledge ‘To advance the welfare of the whole human race’, a commitment that is as relevant today as it was first written as the guiding philosophy. The organization has achieved a lot, achievements that have and continue to benefit LGBT community. Equality Youth, the youth affiliate of JLAG, would like to send its warmest congratulations on a spectacular 20 years of service to the LGBT movement in Jamaica.

Keystone Martin
YOUTH PROJECT COORDINATOR
EQUALITY YOUTH JAMAICA



It's time to start thinking about **Mortgage**

by Kerrian Forrester



Purchasing property is the largest investment one will ever make. Before calling a real estate agent or browsing websites, one should first determine what they can afford. This will save the prospective buyer- time and money. It will also prevent disappointment by looking at properties he/she cannot afford but instead within one's price bracket.

Pre-qualification is easy and may be completed in less than 24 hours. For pre-qualification, all that is needed is your last payslip, taxpayer registration number (TRN) and government issued ID and a list of your monthly loan and credit card obligations.

During the pre-qualification stage, the prospective buyer should obtain an estimate of all the fees relating to the transaction. Reason being, even with an approved mortgage the transaction will be stalled if the required fees are not paid.

When looking to purchase property, a reasonable budget of 20 – 25 % should be on hand. A deposit of 10% is normally required and bank fees and closing costs must be taken into consideration.

Once you are pre-approved for the mortgage, your personal banker or mortgage officer will provide you with a list of documents that are required. One such document is a valuation. Each institution has a list of approved valuers. This list will vary from institution to institution so it is vital to pay close attention to this list so as not to engage someone who is not approved by your institution of choice.

Now that you're pre-qualified, it is time to find a property. When looking for a property the most important factor is location. Location is important because while the condition of the property can change the location never will. The location of your property

directly impacts your property value and how quickly it appreciates. Some things to take into consideration with location include safety & security, location to work and school among other factors.

When deciding on a property, take your time to determine if it is the right one for you. There is rarely the 'perfect' property, so little compromises may be needed along the way. Thinking long-term is essential because life and situations change over time.

Don't be afraid to walk away if it doesn't seem like the right deal for you. Remember it's a financial transaction and your terms matter. Don't be afraid to negotiate. The search might take longer than expected but in the end you will be happy you waited.

Happy House Hunting!

A message from **Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition**



The Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition - CVC congratulates J-FLAG on the milestone of its 20th Anniversary. Over the two decades, J-FLAG has been a beacon for the Jamaican LGBT community, working tirelessly to protect and advance the rights of some of the country's most marginalized. J-FLAG has consistently demonstrated an extremely high level of organizational and community resilience which has contributed to its growth and success over these many years.

From its fledgeling start in 1998, the organization has through strong partnerships, been able to impact the lives of many members of the community and the hearts and minds of well-thinking Jamaicans.

Though there is still some way to go; through the advocacy and social mobilization efforts of J-FLAG, Jamaica has come a far way in terms of being a livable place for members of the LGBT community. This undoubtedly is a testament to the organization's hard work. It has been CVC's pleasure to have supported the programmes and advocacy of J-FLAG which have helped to make the lives of countless Jamaicans better.

As a longstanding partner in both HIV and Human Rights work in Jamaica, we look forward to the continued partnership with J-FLAG and wish the organization many more years of stellar work.

Kaneal Gayle

COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

CARIBBEAN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

A message from Jamaica AIDS Support for Life

20 years ago LGBT activism was considered dangerous and not an easy feat. The circumstances were challenging but J-FLAG emerged with a resolve to affirm and advocate for the rights of the LGBT community. The organisation's ability to survive and meet the needs of its constituents is truly remarkable and must be celebrated. Even more outstanding is the fact that this organization, through its 20 years, have been able to impact the human rights landscape in a way that

Jamaica had never seen. J-FLAG's work and worth is unchallenged as despite the loud voice of all the naysayers, this organization continues to challenge the inequities in the system and champion the rights and equality for all members of the LGBT community. JASL is proud to be associated with J-FLAG and as the organization celebrates its first 20 years, we say cheers for the next 20 years to come. With all that has been achieved, we know that there is more work to do. Hence, we look forward to the next phase of strident activism and continued success to ensure that members of the LGBT community can achieve the 2030 vision and aspire to Jamaica becoming the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

Happy Birthday!!!

Kandasi Levermore

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JAMAICA AIDS SUPPORT FOR LIFE



A message from TransWave

Congratulations are in order to J-FLAG for 20 years of creating a legacy of courage and justice for LGBTQ Jamaica. J-FLAG has much to celebrate and the team at TransWave Jamaica is most grateful for the unwavering support of the organization that has took us under it's wings and taught us just how to soar.

J-FLAG has much to be proud of over the past 20 years, from bold and pioneering leadership, creative and visionary advocacy, a vibrant social media presence, engaging and robust community activities to an unshakeable presence locally, regionally and internationally.

As the organization's trans affiliate, we are pleased with the diversity of J-FLAG's staff which reflects their commitment to equal opportunities and diversity. J-FLAG's commitment to employing young people, trans individuals and women reflects the organization's understanding of the needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities. We also commend the organization for creating safe spaces for the trans community to participate



in a multitude of events and showcase their diverse talents and creativity. The meaningful engagement of trans people is the hallmark of great outreach.

We are thankful for the support that J-FLAG has extended to us in our three years of advocacy. Your guidance and technical support has been invaluable. We wish the J-FLAG team another 20 plus years of success and landmark achievement. We pledge our continued support and partnership in the pursuit of freedom for all LGBT Jamaicans. Let our resilience continue to shine through!

Happy Anniversary!

Neish McLean
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TRANSWAVE JAMAICA



A message from Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network

Happy 20th Anniversary J-FLAG!

This year marks 20 years of courage, 20 years of strength, 20 years of inclusivity. We salute your work as a champion of the rights of the LGBT community and laud your continued efforts to ensure that Jamaica is a more tolerant and inclusive place for all.

We look forward to you breaking more barriers, and passionately advocating for LGBT rights. The JYAN team emphatically wishes you a Happy 20th Anniversary!

Shantay Foster

PROJECT OFFICER

JAMAICA YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK

Congratulations to you for completing 20 years of successful service to the LGBTQI Community. You have achieved tremendous growth and have built eminent goodwill within the community. With your commitment and sincerity, you have, over time, proven your worth and have gained much-deserved recognition. Your contribution has inspired me to accept myself and live my truth. I have learnt so much about advocacy and activism from interacting with you and your affiliates and I look forward to many more successes and achievements in the future. My desire for you, J-FLAG is that you will continue to strive for equality in Jamaica. Continue to represent those who cannot do so for themselves. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. You are appreciated!

With love,

TIANA



**ANNIVERSARY
SHOUT**

Fetish Secretz wants to extend our hearty congratulations for our LGBT Jamaicans. Our society needs to recognize the unstoppable momentum toward unequivocal civil equality for every gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizen of this country, our openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start.

Congrats to 20 years!!!!

FETISH SECRETZ

ANNIVERSARY
TOUTS



KEEP SHINING 'J-FLAG' THE WORLD IS WATCHING. Wow! Social media didn't exist when you were born. I am so proud of how far you have come and I wish you all the very best going forward. BIG UP UNUH SELF and enjoy your 20s. I am here for you in anyway I can be.

Gratitude,
DIANA KING

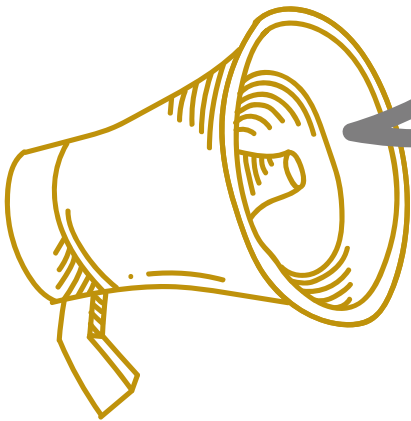


More
**ANNIVE
SHOU**

ANNIVERSARY TOUTS

It is a great honour and privilege for me to mark the 20th Anniversary of J-FLAG. Who knew when a few people met in Robert Cork's living room on Millsborough Crescent that the seed we planted would grow into the Caribbean's leading LGBTQI rights organization that plays such a critical role in so many people's lives? Congratulations and deep appreciation to all, especially those no longer with us, for the essential and courageous roles you have played. Kudos to the current generation of leaders and activists. Long live J-FLAG. More strength, power and influence to you.

LARRY CHANG



A message from **WE-Change**

Marking 20-years milestone, characterized by robust advocacy and activism is by no means a small feat for any entity, and J-FLAG being a stalwart for LGBT activism over this period speaks to the dedication, mettle and strategic manoeuvrings of the collective teams in getting the movement thus far. The organization stepped into a well-needed human rights advocacy niche and has since, carved out spaces for discourse, fostered partnerships, and lobbied stakeholders in the pursuit of fair and equal treatment for all LGBT Jamaicans.

Having tracked the trajectory of the improving living conditions of LGBT people in Jamaica, there is

an evidently large contribution to be attributed to the work of your organization through the delivery of its mandates. It is heartening to see and experience the improved climate in a country that was much more bereft of the opportunity to advance and promote LGBT rights in earlier decades.

Our own birth is credited to your agency - the technical guidance offered in the early stages of our formation has undoubtedly helped to ground our work and shape the advocacy that WE do for LBT and ally women in Jamaica. That support has helped us to survive the usual pitfalls of small organizations, through the establishment of a sustainable framework from which to extend our women's rights leadership.

WE look forward to seeing an even more emboldened era of advocacy from J-FLAG and similarly look towards the continued partnership between WE-Change and J-FLAG.

On behalf of the entire team at WE-Change - congratulations once more.



Nicolette Bryan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WE-CHANGE



A message from **Jamaicans for Justice**

Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ) congratulates J-FLAG on its 20th anniversary. Since its establishment, J-FLAG's work has evolved to address diverse and emerging issues affecting Jamaica's LGBT community. We look forward to another 20 years of keeping the community central to its growth and development.

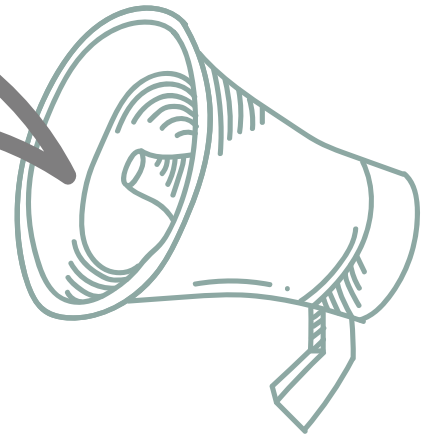
Congrats!

Rodjé Malcolm

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JAMAICANS FOR JUSTICE

LGBT Jamaican citizens, congratulations for making the bold step of celebrating your humanity and love for life through PRIDE week of celebrations. Each activity promotes the emancipation and independence of LGBT citizens and is a reminder that Jamaica is your place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

KARLENE
TEMPLE
ANDERSON



More

**ANNIVERSARY
SHOUT**

20 years is a milestone for anything, especially for LGBT activism. I want to congratulate J-FLAG for making it to 20 years, for having this foundation in a homophobic country. On behalf of the Ugly Six and other promoters, I'd like to say thank you! In 2017 you sponsored and supported some of our events and these would not be possible if it was not for J-FLAG. I hope that the work you're doing continues!

LATOYA "THUGZ"
BROWN

J-FLAG continues to do stellar work in and for the Jamaican LGBT community. Over the years we have been able to enjoy increased visibility. Though we have a long way to go in this fight, it is notable that we no longer have to hide from the public in order to revel in the company of our fellow queer brothers and sisters and we now exist in a less openly judgmental society. They have certainly had a personal and profound impact on my own journey and visibility and I just want to say thanks and express a hearty congratulations to the team at J-FLAG for their continued dedication to LGBT advocacy and activism in Jamaica.

KRISTI

RSARY
OUTS





Fall In
Love With
Your Skin

...and stay that way!

by
Tracey-Ann Mullings

@SKINBYTRACE

Ah, Fall!

It's that time of year again when Summer is definitely over and it's not quite Christmas time yet but we feel it coming in the air. For our neighbours to the North, the first snow has probably already appeared but here in Jamaica, the most we might get is a bit of rain and some windy and cooler evenings and mornings. Don't be fooled by the change in temperature though, Jamaicans in Jamaica still need to find and maintain that perfect balance in their skincare routine to keep their skin protected and hydrated throughout the season.

Jamaica's geographical location makes it some kind of summer all year round, but now that it's Fall in North America, we will definitely be experiencing some of their coolness. Based on this strange mix in the temperature of the air, all of us will definitely have to navigate between the heat of the days and the cool of the evening into night. A lot of us may choose to forego some of our skincare products, and in some cases, we can but it's important to use at least two products at all times. Here's why.

The temperature may not be as high as it was in summer but that doesn't mean we should stop paying attention to our skin. The most recent Summer article talked about the importance of using sunscreen, moisturizers and lip balms, and these products are just as important for the Fall season.

Fall comes with moisture in the air and can bring some moderate to harsh winds. That means it's still possible for your lips to get chapped so it's recommended that you keep using your lip balm to replenish the moisture that the wind might have taken. Sunscreen is also still recommended because the sun's rays can still be harsh on your skin.

However, instead of a thick sunscreen that gives a glow like what was recommended in the summer, go for a sunscreen with a lighter formula that provides moisture and absorbs into the skin quickly. It's also highly recommended that

oil-based body butters and balms be used during this time instead of regular water-based lotions. Colder temperatures reduce the amount of sweat we produce and also reduces the natural amount of moisture that our skin has. Using balms and butters help to seal in the moisture our skin produces so we can stay moisturized and supple.

It's also recommended that you switch out your deep cleaning or clarifying cleanser for one that adds moisture to the skin with every wash. Washing with cleansers that are too harsh or overwashing the skin can dry it out and do more harm than good, especially at this time of the year when the temperature changes so dramatically; and always remember to use your toner.

If you rock your natural tresses, the change in temperature can be a bit rough on your hair too, leaving your scalp irritated and your strands dry and frizzy. Protective styles such as braids, twists and coils can go a long way in shielding your hair from the change in temperature and helping it to grow during the Fall to Winter months. Pay attention to the porosity of your hair as well, as that can determine what products and styles are best for you.

Last but definitely not least, make sure you stay hydrated! The temperature is noticeably cooler now so there is no doubt that a lot of us will sweat less and produce less heat but our bodies still need water to function at its best. Water ensures our organs are in proper working order and helps us to combat thirst. Drinking the right amount of water also helps with your skincare routine by flushing your system of toxins that may clog pores and cause breakouts.

Follow @SkinByTrace on Instagram and Twitter for natural hair and skincare products as well as tips and tricks on how to keep it cute!

JFLAG at 20 what next?

by

Jaevion Nelson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
J-FLAG

We have a lot to celebrate this year - 20 years of J-FLAG and 40 years of LGBT advocacy and activism in Jamaica. The postal box at the Constant Spring Post Office, which was purchased in 1978, is evidence of the long history of work by women and men who through their tireless efforts, and their sacrifices and selflessness, in spite of all of the danger they faced, which could have paralyzed and silenced them, laid the foundation for the movement today.



In 1998, twenty years after the Gay Freedom Movement (GFM) was founded, when J-FLAG was launched on December 10, the country was abuzz with whispers of all sorts about the barefacedness of our founders who so daringly stood up with a resolve to take action to end homophobia and transphobia. They're coming together, was a result of urgency and necessity. They understood that the responsibility to protect their brothers and sisters who faced danger was theirs. They recognized that someone had to do it and so they've volunteered themselves to fight for justice, to promote peace and non-violence, and to create opportunities for every LGBT Jamaican who desire to live, work, worship, raise families, do business, and retire here. Their coming together was by itself revolutionary and we owe to them a huge debt of gratitude.

At the time, they were largely unknown to the public. The secrecy of their involvement with J-FLAG did not, however, limit their revolutionary and brave actions to create social change and engender tolerance and respect. Using pseudonyms, their creativity and intellect and their access to different spaces and people, they advocated fearlessly for the rights of the LGBT community. Among the many things they did was establish a helpline, document human rights violations perpetrated against LGBT Jamaicans, a pride celebration, conducted training programmes for different groups of people, letter writing campaigns, media interviews, social activities for the community and even a presentation on the Charter of Rights before the Parliament in 2001.

Twenty years later, J-FLAG has a lot to celebrate. We are the largest in the English speaking Caribbean and world-renowned. We have built strong partnerships across civil society, government and the private sector. We've hosted four successful consecutive pride celebrations since

2015. We have, since 2013, trained over 1000 healthcare workers across Jamaica in partnership with the Ministry of Health and National Family Planning Board. We have provided opportunities for LGBT Jamaicans to engage with parliamentarians and other key decision-makers and influencers. Our voice is respected in key policy and decision-making spaces around human rights and national development. We have also trained scores of LGBT Jamaicans who are desirous of becoming advocates and activists for social justice and facilitated the founding of three LGBT organizations since 2014 to help bolster the work to improve the human rights situation here.

J-FLAG is what it is today not simply because donors are more willing to give to the organization so we can undertake critical work. Or growth, successes and achievements are, in part, because of our founders, partners, allies and, importantly, the LGBT community. Our achievements would not be possible without the passion, dedication and contributions of everyone over the years. Special mention must be made of Dane Lewis, who lead the organisation for half of its history and grew the organisation from strength to strength.

Going forward, we will work tirelessly to secure a future for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Jamaica, to make Jamaica a place we can call home, a place where we can all live to our fullest potential, realize our dreams, and thrive as LGBT people. In so doing, we will we bring to the forefront the economic, social and cultural rights of LGBT Jamaicans and justice in this regard. Like the founders of the LGBT movement and J-FLAG, our work will be bold and disruptive, we will be fearless and strident. We want you to experience the revolution with us.

More

ANNIVERSARY SHOUTOUTS

Twenty years ago, I witnessed J-FLAG set down its roots. Before the Movement, J-FLAG took up the fight for LGBTQ people in Jamaica. As a young gay man at the time, I knew all too well that they were facing abusive law enforcement, and media that turned up the volume. At the time, the climate for our community was hostile and deadly. Until J-FLAG, safety in Jamaica. And even that was far from foolproof.

To see the people who founded J-FLAG stand up to fight for our rights, I know that they were putting their lives on the line. It was a risk, but they did it anyway, challenging the rampant homophobia that was tearing Jamaica apart. I was honoured, not only to bear witness, but to stand alongside a true leader.

Over the last 20 years, I have been proud to see this organization grow in Jamaica. J-FLAG's tireless work has led to great progress—ending Buggery Law, the fight for the inclusion of sexual orientation in safe spaces, resources and events they have provided for the community. LGBTQ Jamaicans receive, the celebration of Pride Week and more.

Of course, this work has not come without risk or tragedy. We have lost people killed for their identities and their activism. We worry for those who still stand to continue the work. But I am incredibly proud to see J-FLAG continue to keep its doors open and do this revolutionary work.

I am hopeful that in the next decade, as J-FLAG pushes forward, we will see a better Jamaica. One where the community is no longer abused by our fellow citizens, or forced into silence. A Jamaica where love wins.

Happy 20th

GARETH

J-FLAG is to be commended for exercising courage in human rights leadership. Every Jamaican citizen is entitled to the indivisible rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and every voice must off necessity be protected. Congratulations J-FLAG, I vow to continue to advocate for equality under the law for all Jamaicans.

FATHER SEAN



uilding on the legacy and spirit of the former Gay Freedom
Jamaica. It was like watching a rose grow from concrete. As
ere not planting in fertile soil. Between anti-gay legislations,
e on the intense hate and violence toward LGBTQ Jamaicans,
then, silence and secrecy had been the only hope we had for

r the LGBTQ community's right to life and freedom was to
isk—an invitation for threats, hate, and violence. They stood
rrorizing our community and advocating for a more inclusive
nd beside them in the fight, first as a volunteer, and later as a

ation make headway against the discrimination and violence
—the advocacy to change the oppressive and discriminatory
on under the Constitution's non-discrimination clause, the
community, the work to improve the health and social services
d a publicly hosted pride parade.

e have all mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters who were
ose who still face hatred and violence for standing up in their
that J-FLAG have not been deterred. Despite losses and pain,
onary work.

ward with the fight for LGBTQ rights and freedoms, that we
nger criminalized by the law, excluded from the constitution,
ca where freedom outweighs fear, inclusion is the norm, and

Anniversary

HENRY





Youth on a Social Justice Mission

Equality Youth Jamaica (EYJ) is a youth-led and focused social justice organization that seeks to promote the inclusion of diverse voices in national and youth development. EYJ focuses on creating safe spaces for young LGBT youth, Allies and other marginalized youth to exist and feel a part of a safe community.

Our main objectives are to:

1. Build and maintain relationships

with youth groups and youth-focused organisations.

2. Mobilize and create safe spaces for LGBT youth (youth in rural and marginalized communities).
3. Increase LGBT youth participation in the national discourse.
4. Foster organizational sustainability.

Vision: EYJ is the preeminent youth voice on national development issues affecting LGBT

youth in Jamaica.

Some of the major achievements of the Equality Youth project over the past three years.

1. Directly trained and impact 87 young people between the ages 18-26.
2. The youth project has also reached over 700 young people across the country through sensitization sessions on human rights, stigma and discrimination, mental health and inclusive development.
3. Engaged over 39 policy makers and duty bearers in discussions around human rights and the experiences of LGBT youth in Jamaica.
4. Published over 100 letters and editorials in local newspapers.
5. Held 3 successful National youth symposium between 2015-2018.
6. Participated in the creation of J-FLAG Gay agenda 2018.

The Equality Youth Project through its work over three years designed projects and initiatives to engage LGBT youth and their allies in advocacy, community building and volunteerism. Some of the major highlights of the project include affording youth participants the opportunity to interact with policy and decision makers at the highest level, participating in the review of key legislation such as the review of the sexual offences act, sharing their stories through our building bridges activities and other critical activities.

The Youth Project has been able to extend its work beyond Kingston and St Andrew to reach communities in other parishes across the country. Building on the lessons learnt over the years, as the project enters its fourth year, its objective will be to deepen its impact within youth spaces, to provide development support for young participants to engage in social justice advocacy and support building public tolerance and respect for LGBT people.



A fresh approach to Policy and Advocacy

Advocating for shifts in law and policy which would better protect the Jamaican LGBT community has been at the heart of J-FLAG's work since its inception. In 2001, the toddler-organization boldly sought inclusion in the Jamaican Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, by advocating for the constitutional prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Fast forward to 2018 where though many of the original legal and policy goals have yet to be achieved, we remain optimistic about the opportunities that have been, are being and that will be created to promote greater inclusion and protection of LGBT Jamaicans.

We have seen the National HIV/AIDS Policy as well as the National Youth Policy create avenues for more meaningful engagement of J-FLAG and the wider LGBT community. This means that it is quite possible to engage our Government around issues affecting the community and, through consistent agitation and dialogue, see the necessary changes. Therefore, the future of Jamaica's legal and policy landscape is whatever we commit to make of it.

The legal research, the policy briefs and the Gay Agenda have all led us to this jumping-off point where our options for advocacy extend beyond the repeal of anti-sodomy laws and constitutional inclusion. We stand in full recognition of the need to consider broadly law and policy reform in education, employment, healthcare, youth development, women's rights, law enforcement and justice alongside reforms such as decriminalization of same-sex intimacy, equal protection of same-sex relationships, protection from all forms of sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination and recognition of transgender identities.

This means we will continue to engage parliamentarians and policymakers and work with them to understand why they should and how they can do more for the LGBT community. We will continue to sensitize the community about different laws and legal processes so that they can better navigate public and private spaces. We will more actively engage the community in framing and prioritizing our advocacy goals. And, we will extend our reach and partnerships within the private, public and third sector.

TO cy



Over the last 20 years, J-FLAG has risen as the foremost voice of the Jamaican LGBT community, and over the next 20 years, we commit to maintaining and augmenting the current social capital of the organization and broadening the space it occupies, We commit to ensuring that our advocacy represents the LGBT community as interested in and working towards a united, inclusive and prosperous Jamaica. We commit to improving our advocacy to better address the intersectional needs of the community; whether the result of poverty, social class, sex, gender, race, age, disability or place of origin. We welcome participation and constructive criticism from the community so that we can work together to achieve the best results for all.

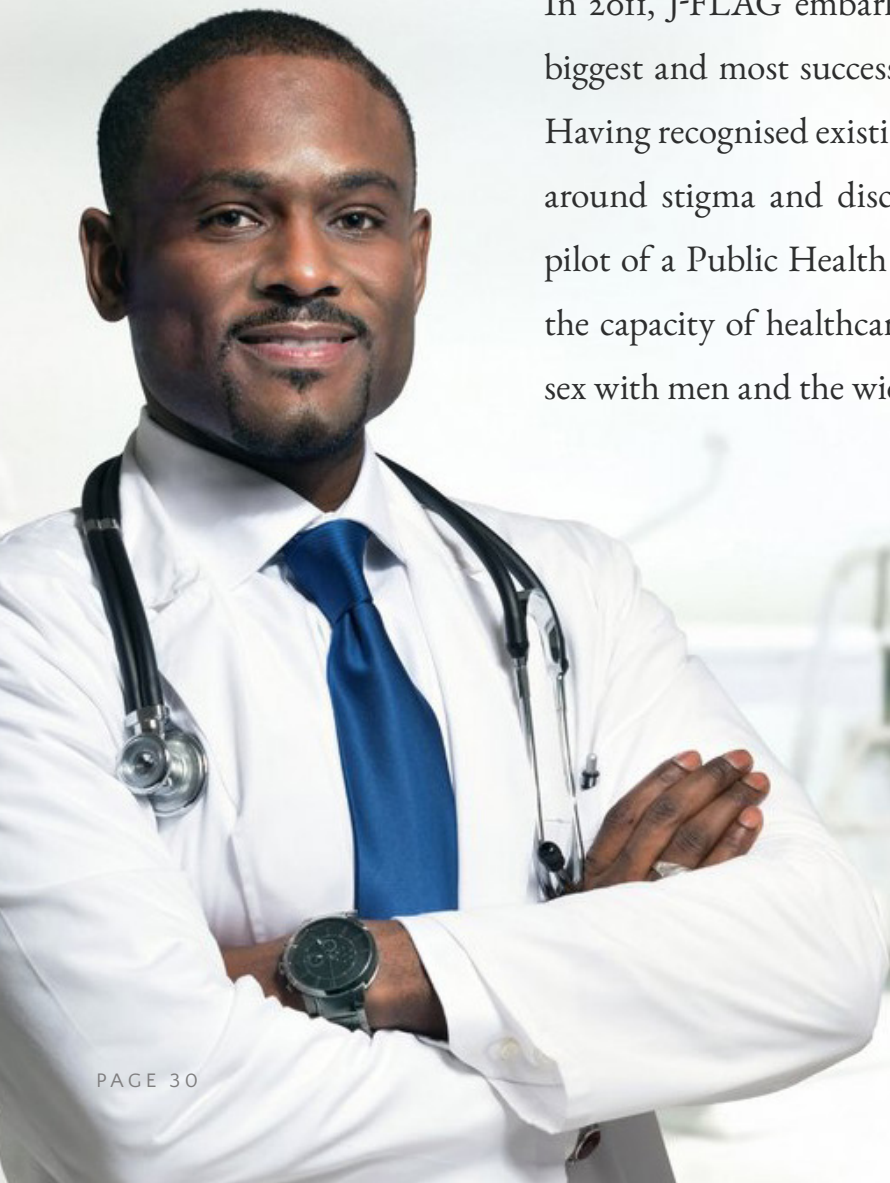
A different approach to Health and Wellness

by

Karen Lloyd

HEALTH COORDINATOR/PROJECT MANAGER
J-FLAG

In 2011, J-FLAG embarked on what would become one of its biggest and most successful programmatic endeavours to date. Having recognised existing gaps within the public health system around stigma and discrimination, J-FLAG implemented the pilot of a Public Health Worker Training Programme to build the capacity of healthcare workers to treat with men who have sex with men and the wider LGBT population.



The programme was implemented in partnership with the National HIV/STI Programme of the Ministry of Health and the National Family Planning Board (NFPB), and has now been implemented for six consecutive years. J-FLAG developed a ten-module training manual that covers areas such as Gender & Sexual Diversity, MSM Sexual Health, Values Clarification and Motivational Interviewing.

In the first year of the training, sixty (60) public health workers and six (6) persons from NFPB were trained around providing health services for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. To date, we have trained over six-hundred (600) healthcare professionals who use the information and experience they receive through the training to improve service provision and combat stigma and discrimination in their facilities.

There has been significant growth in the project over the years, and J-FLAG continues to use evidence to support its programmatic work. After the second round of training, for instance, J-FLAG recognised that to a significant degree, frontline staff such as security guards and customer service personnel, among others, perpetuated a lot of stigma and discrimination but did not need such an extensive training as medical providers. We sought and received funding to do an abridged version of the training for frontline staff, and to date we have trained over two-hundred (200) of them across the island. Similarly, we began to sensitise service users as the evidence pointed to stigma and discrimination also happening with other clients who use the public health system and the need for interventions at various points. Over 1500 individuals across the country have been reached in this regard.

We have also ensured that the information we disseminate remains current. As such, we have updated the content of the training manual that we use to guide the programme.

One of the major changes we have made is the increase in content and depth of exploration on mental health and transgender issues.

Of course, in order to measure and understand the impact of the programme, J-FLAG undertakes monitoring and evaluation each year. Through this process participants are visited at their health facilities where an assessment is done to gauge if and/or how the training enhance their work. They are observed in their work environment and are asked a series of questions to measure how they felt about the training and its impact on their day-to-day duties. The facilities are also assessed based on their effectiveness, including mission statements, client charter, etc being visibly displayed. Interviews are also conducted with service users who are chosen randomly and asked questions about their experiences in the facilities and whether they witness any form of discrimination while accessing healthcare.

The M&E portion of the project is the most rewarding for the team as we get feedback on the positive ways in which the programme is impacting on the lives of the healthcare workers and their clients. Hearing the stories of how participants move from being intolerant to being more accepting of LGBT people and understanding their needs is a significant achievement for the LGBT movement, and human rights more broadly. Many participants also share that beyond their professional growth, the training has helped them in their personal lives to reignite or improve strained relationships with family members, friends, community members and colleagues who are members of the LGBT community.

Our successful implementation of the healthcare worker training programme has expanded beyond the shores of Jamaica. We have provided technical assistance to others in the region; helping to train healthcare workers and provide

assistance and expertise in organising for advocacy with members of the LGBT community. We have done this in Haiti and Dominica, where we have trained seventy-two (72) healthcare workers in total between 2017 and 2018. We are especially proud of the assistance we have been able to provide for our Caribbean neighbours as we are not only interested in the improvement of LGBT lives in Jamaica, but of our counterparts in the region and beyond.

Lessons Learned

Some of the lessons and best practices we have seen over the years include:

- The importance of the relationship and partnership we have built with successive ministers and technocrats at the Ministry of Health and its agencies.
- Provision of a non-judgemental and open space for healthcare workers to share their true feelings so they can begin the process of unlearning and relearning.

- A strong focus on monitoring and evaluation is significant to the success of the project.
- Evidence-based approaches to the development and implementation of programmes is critical.
- Sharing information with stakeholders so programmatic efforts across CSOs and government entities can be in sync.
- The importance of adapting and including new information in our trainings as the need arises.

The team at J-FLAG is confident in the continued success and impact of the health programme, and is assured of the ways in which our advocacy and programme development continue to positively change the human rights landscape, especially as it relates to the lived realities of LGBT Jamaicans. Moving forward we will be further strengthening our relationship with the government and CSOs in the sector to ensure that there is a strategic and cohesive effort to improve the access and provision of healthcare services to members of the LGBT community.





Fall Fashion

by Ashslay

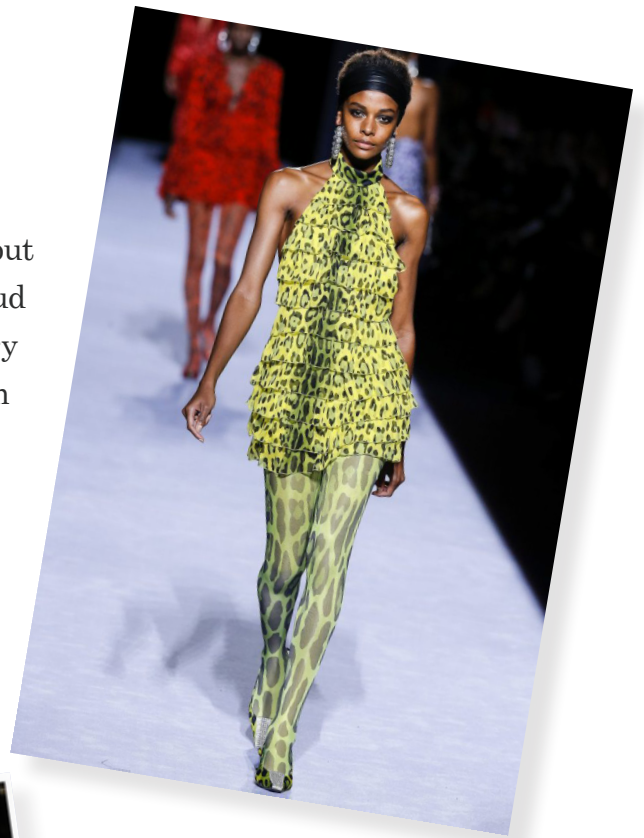
It's a no-brainer, Fall is my favourite season of fashion where we get dressed up for anything, even the opening of an envelope just for the sake of fashion. But I love Fall mainly because I get to play in my closet with pieces that I rarely wear throughout the year.

I will share the top fashion trends for the holiday festive season. Are you ready? Here we go!

Of course, they are a few reoccurring classic trends that we are used to when it comes to fall like winter all/whites, satin slip dresses, polka dots, trench coats and feathers. But these are the top trends that designers, celebs and style bloggers are all wearing all over the red carpet.

1. Animal Instincts: Python, Leopard, Zebra

We always treat leopard as a neutral, but why not opt for neon zebra instead? Get loud with technicolour animal prints cut in every silhouette, spotted at Tom Ford, Adam Selman and more.



2. Pink

We've seen millennial pink, but now the fuchsia hue is standing alone as the it-colour of the season. Wear it all-over this fall, just like the models did at Christian Siriano, Tory Burch and more.



3. Neon

A surefire way to stand out—either from the crowd or in a dangerous place—neon was all over the runways.

4. LogoMania

Logomania' continues to dominate the runways from Gucci to Versace and Louis Vuitton to Fendi, where the 'Double F' rules the roost. FEMAIL takes a look at the trend that just keeps giving and looks set to stay front and centre across the international style scene for seasons to come. Straight from the catwalks to the streets, the logo trend is being embraced by style icon such as Rihanna.

5. Plaid

Ugh, as if you'd wear anything but plaid this fall. This season, we're taking notes from Cher Horowitz by way of Versace, Michael Kors, Christian Dior, who leaned into pink, yellow, and orange check.



6. Sexy Suiting

Business meets pleasure on the runway of Dion Lee and Alexander Wang, where suiting was not safe for work. Asymmetrical necklines, super short hemlines, and underboob cutouts made the fall suit more suitable for a night out.

7. 80's Style

The most divisive style decade is making a comeback, and we're finally changing our tune on acid wash. You can thank Gucci's '80s prom dresses, Marc Jacobs' oversized suits, and Balenciaga's neon floral prints for this era's bitchin' return.



Happy Holidays To You & Your Family!

Thank you for checking out my Fall Fashion feature. Be sure to follow my blog page on Instagram @ashslayblog_ for the latest in fashion, style and beauty or visit the web page www.Ashslay.Blogspot.Com

A message from

Jamaican Network Of Seropositives

J-Flag has been a precious gift to our island in giving Jamaica twenty years of love and equality for all. On behalf of the Jamaican Network of Seropositives, I extend our heartiest congratulations to the organisation that has dared to stand up for LGBTQIA Jamaican through tough times and provided selfless service to some of the island's most marginalised.

With a brilliant team of dedicated advocates—a team that I have had the pleasure of being a part of—J-Flag can only produce greater results as it looks towards the next 20 years.

JN+ wishes you all the success for many more years to come.



Tourist Safe Spaces in Jamdung with a twist

DudeJa

For queer people at home and abroad, DudeJa Vacation Club is here to make sure that travellers can experience a Jamaica like anyone else.



Kingston Experience Tours is the premiere choice in Kingston Jamaica and its surroundings for exciting guided tours, vacation consultancy and temporary lodging logistics. In 2018, Kingston Tours started DudeJa Vacation, a members-only travellers club that seeks to promote and assist LGBT travellers explore and engage in Jamaica freely. Here's all you need to know about DudeJA to make your Jamaican experience one like no other!

Who is a Dude?

A “Dude” is you! Anyone regardless of their gender, race or social class who wants to participate in or support a growing community who believes that love, respect and true pride thrives in Jamaica

This club is open to LGBT travellers as well as friends, families and supporters of the LGBT community.

The club provides all-inclusive travel packages to Jamaica for varying classes of travellers with varying travel styles.

While utilizing a vast local network of Airbnb's, hostels and resorts for accommodation and reliable rental car agencies for transportation, touring and excursions. Dude Ja Vacation club can match any budget as well as to customize each itinerary specific to a member's preference or request. This service is not restricted to a particular geographical location in Jamaica. Island-wide Tours and experiences are custom designed and executed.

Main Services

» *Tour Guide:*

Dudes will benefit from useful information about sites, events, historical background and offered an opportunity to “live like a local”, visit and support local shops and vendors. Easily get to learn and appreciate key aspects to Jamaican culture and its people

» *Travel Buddy:*

Dudes will benefit by having an on-call representative while they visit for assistance with directions, translating, planning excursions as well as safety tips. This service can be provided via mobile (calls and instant messaging) as well as one on one. Dudes will get to venture out effortlessly and experience Jamaica authentically

» *Concierge:*

“Hassle Free island Spree” is the mantra we live by. We aim to make all coordination and logistics seamless. Dudes will never be in need. We will run errands, help out in case of an emergency and even make bookings and reservations.





Here are some DudeJA Vacation Travel tips for queer people in Jamaica home and abroad!

Keep an Open Mind:

Many of Jamaicans still have a genuine fear, discomfort and mistrust for people who are LGBT. No need to be in fear of this but being aware of your surroundings is key.

Escape the Ordinary

Jamaica boasts miles of rivers and beaches, mountains and waterfalls. She provides inspiration, healing and a welcoming feeling of home. Travel off the beaten track, discover historical attractions, nature parks and mineral baths with ease.

Be your brother's keeper

When you visit Jamaica as a queer person, protect yourself as well as your friends and family. Pay close attention to those you engage with. Hire a travel buddy or a tour guide to help you get around effortlessly. Get tips on how to travel through the streets and using public transportation. When meeting dates or love interests especially online be clear as to what your intentions are. Be truthful about your identity. Do not believe everything you see and hear. Meet up in public spaces and do not ignore your instincts.

Research Safe Spaces

Research recommendations and reviews for Airbnb's in major cities. There are many gay-friendly hosts available in Jamaica. All major tourist attractions generally provide a welcoming atmosphere to all travellers, take advantage of historical sites like The Blue Lagoon and 7-Mile beach; enjoy each moment.

The image features three classical columns supporting a structure against a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect. The columns are fluted and have decorative capitals. The sunburst is centered behind the middle column, creating a strong focal point. The overall composition is symmetrical and conveys a sense of stability and strength.

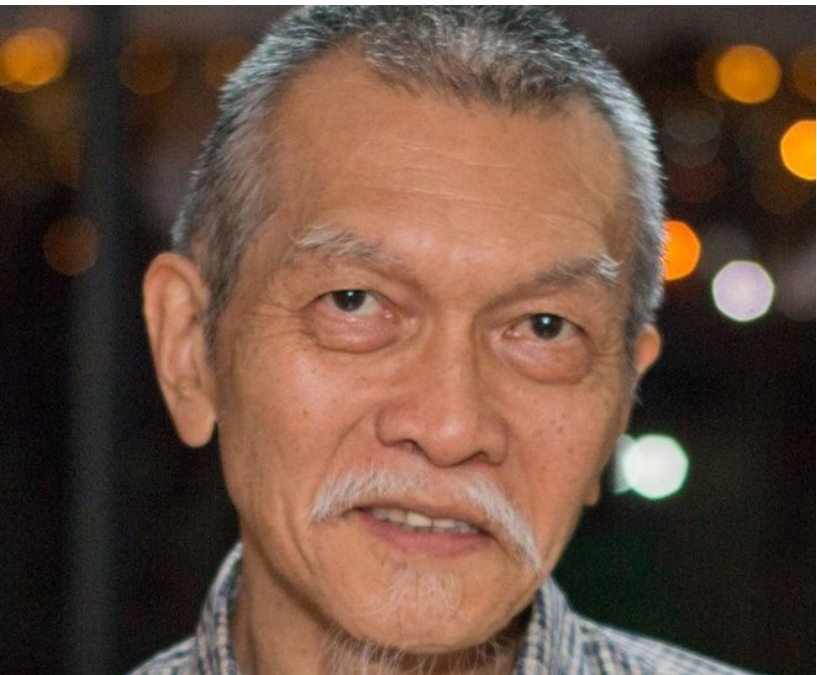
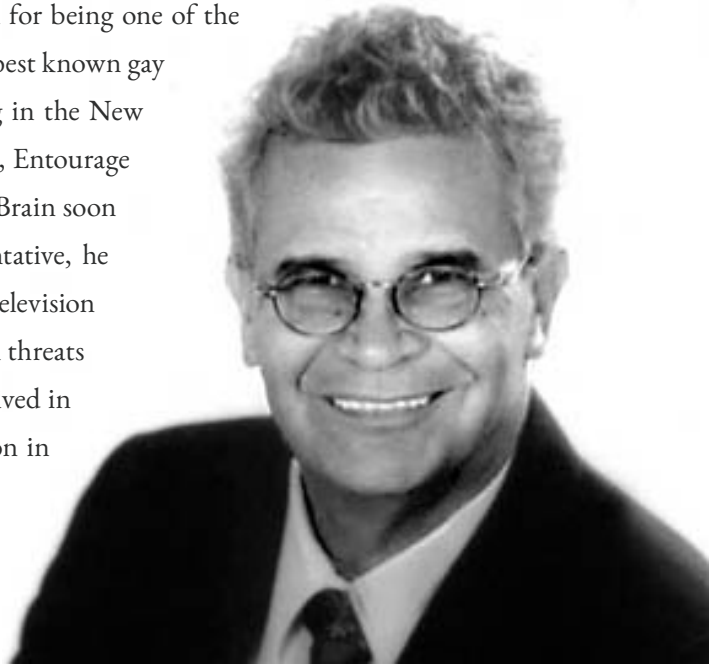
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Pillars of
JFLAG

Brian Williamson

Brain was one of the founders of J-FLAG in 1998. He was known for being one of the earliest openly gay men in Jamaican society and for being one of its best known gay rights activists. In the 1990s, he purchased an apartment building in the New Kingston area of Kingston, in which he established a gay nightclub, Entourage which remained open for two years despite opposition from police. Brain soon became the public face of the organisation. As J-FLAG's representative, he argued in favour of LGBT rights during appearances on Jamaican television and radio programs. With some of J-FLAG members receiving death threats and Brian surviving a knife attack, for a time he left Jamaica, and lived in Canada and England for several years, before returning to Kingston in 2002.

In June 2004, Williamson was murdered in his apartment by an acquaintance, Dwight Hayden who he had been assisting financially. Dwight was sentenced to live in prison.



Larry Chang

Larry Chang is a Chinese-Jamaican gay man, community organizer, spiritual counsellor and one of the founding members of the LGBT human rights movement in Jamaica who now reside in the United States. Larry Chang is one of the founders of J-FLAG and the Gay Freedom Movement (GFM), the first gay rights organization in Jamaica in 1974. He was also the publisher and Editor of GFM's newsletter, the Jamaica Gaily News.

Edward Atkinson

Edward Akintola is one of the founders of J-FLAG IN 1998. While at the organization he was the communications personnel who wrote press releases and other media-related documents. Akin Hubbard's scholarly interests are in pop culture, creative economies and ecologies, cultural entrepreneurship, creolization and creole expressive forms, gothic and carnivalesque aesthetics, gender and sexuality, cultural globalization, and the intersection of ethnographic and artistic practice. He holds a BA in Mass Communication from the University of the West Indies, an MA in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago, and a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University.

Edward now resides in the Netherlands and is an Assistant Professor of Arts and Society at Utrecht University.



Devon

Devon began working with J-FLAG since its inception, serving at the point person in Montego Bay. The role he played in the organization's work cannot be understated. He provided overwhelming support for LGBT people in the city who would often call on him whenever they needed help. Among some of the ways in which he extended his benevolence was by providing shelter LGBT people who were displaced because of their sexual orientation. In cases of violence, Devon would accompany victims to file police reports and subsequently followed up on those reports.

Outside of his valuable work with J-FLAG, Devon has over 30 years of experience working in HIV advocacy. He worked with the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life at different intervals between 1993 and 2012, where he served as supervisor, manager and project coordinator. Most recently he was a part of the 876 Project.

Ian McKnight



Ian McKnight has been a vital part of the human rights movement in Jamaica from the early 90s. He is the Co-founder of Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, and served as Executive Director from 1991 until 2002. Later he worked as Director of Targeted Interventions and Director for Social Marketing and Public Education with JASL and then to CVC as the Programmes Manager for three years. He became its Executive Director at CVC and held that position from 2009- 2013. He later served as the delegate for Latin America and the Caribbean on UNAIDS' Project Coordinating Board (PCB) 2009-2011. Today he works on the USAID COMET II Project as its Chief of Party.

McKnight has also been the Producer and Executive Producer of a number of documentaries on issues of social justice and human rights for marginalised communities in the Caribbean. These include "The Cost of Hate: How Homophobia Fuels HIV"-2011, "My Body My Business"-2010. "Complex Problems: Simple Solutions"2007, "Take a Stand: Jamaican Civil Society organises for Health"-2009, and "A Right to be: Sex Worker access to health care in the Caribbean"-2009. He received the Gleaner Company award for excellence in Health, for work with Jamaica AIDS Support for Life. He also won the Governor General's award for un-sung heroes for Kingston and St. Andrew in 2006.

Ian is one of the 10/12 persons who started J-FLAG in 1998 and was a part of the team that did different parliament presentations and created a foundation for us to build on. Ian still continues to support the organization however he can.

Linnett “Nurse” Blairy

Linnett Blairy, known to many as Nurse Blairy, was the point person for J-FLAG in Manchester. A dental nurse by profession, Nurse Blairy did not foresee that she would become what many described a saviour for LGBT people. Blairy was moved to action after a close friend of hers was diagnosed with HIV and who was subsequently abandoned by his peers because of his sexuality. The support she gave him did not go unnoticed. Many people in the LGBT community in Manchester started to reach out to her whenever they were in need and she would not hesitate to assist them. In fact, this is how she gained the attention of then J-FLAG head Ian McKnight and became involved with J-FLAG’s work.

During what Nurse Blairy described as a “serious time”, she realized that something must be done and sought to protect and assist as many gay men as she could. She believed that if anyone should come into contact with her, that their lives should be better. She started a group that would allow MSM to meet and discuss topics such as condom usage and HIV prevention. The space was also used to conduct the MCC church services when it first began in Jamaica. Eventually she started cooking food for displaced and homeless people in Christiana, Manchester.



Yvonne Artis Cuningham

Yvonne Artis Cuningham worked at J-FLAG from 2003 to about 2005/2006 as the crisis intervention officer. She would engage the LGBT and sex workers to ensure they had the necessary tools to survive and do their work in a safe manner. Items such as food, clothing, medication and other items were given to community members who were displaced.



Christine English

Christine English was intimately involved with the Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS) now Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) during the early years of the organization. This brought her front and centre with the issues faced by marginalized populations inclusive of the community. This was therefore a large part of the work she did. This included counselling and care services to those living with HIV, support, education and prevention services to the broader community. She became a staunch defender of the rights of members of these communities and publicly lobbied for and advocated for these rights to be respected. Her gender-based training allowed her to be able to understand and articulate the issues faced by lesbians whose issues could sometimes fade into the background.

She understood and the issues faced by LGBT members who were incarcerated, sex workers, living with HIV, in same sex relationships and in some instances and their family members. She was instrumental not only in conducting one- on-one counselling but also equipping others to be mentors, friends volunteers and support group facilitations. She conducted sensitization sessions for various groups inclusive of health care workers and civic groups.

Christine helped to strategize the separation of LGBT human rights issues from being seen as synonymous with HIV/AIDS issues. Although there existed some connections, it became important to separate them in order to stop the conflation of the two. J-FLAG was formed so as to facilitate that separation and allow for either entity to concentrate on their core mandate. Despite the separation, resources did not always allow for total independence and as a result JLFAG depended on and was allowed to benefit from the resources of JAS. Christine's expertise and involvement was one such resource.



Yvonne McCalla Sobers

Yvonne McCalla Sobers is a human rights activist, a teacher and a writer whose experience in LGBT activism spans almost 2 decades. Particularly in the early years, members of the LGBT community sought her intervention with official bodies because they felt at risk if they identified as gay. Since 1999 Yvonne has been a source of inspiration and hope for many at risk LGBT people. She is fearless and would often intervene to ensure that the community was protected. She often liaised on behalf of members of the LGBT community with agencies and organisations addressing concerns such as legal support, social, housing, justice, medical and job opportunities. A writer at heart, Yvonne would write to the media addressing some of the challenges faced by the community, she has published articles locally and internationally, including the Guardian and the Associated Press.

She chaired Dwayne's House (DH), an organization offering care and support to homeless LGBT youth, in particular those living in inhumane conditions. And now currently serve as a Director of the Larry Chang Foundation that succeeded and replaced DH.



Gareth Henry

Gareth Henry was the Director of J-FLAG between 2004 and 2008. After volunteering with the organization since its beginning, he rose to head the organization during a tumultuous period just months after the murder of prominent LGBT activist Brian Williamson. He describes as “dark and shady” time for LGBT Jamaicans because of the growing hostile environment in which the community had to navigate. He also experienced violent attacks. When he took hold of his new position, his vision was to bring the community closer together. Among some of his first tasks was building a stronger relationship with the women’s movement. Under his leadership, a partnership was formed with Women for Women which saw two of its members being a part of the board of J-FLAG.

An accomplishment that Gareth speaks highly of is the staging of one the first largest gathering of LGBT Jamaicans in 2006 when he hosted a one-day event called “Free to Be Me” which was held in Runaway Bay. It was an event that was intended to give the community a space where they could be themselves. Free to Be Me was attended by over 200 persons, which was a tremendous achievement given the hostile environment at the time. Around the same period, responding to growing discontent between the church and LGBT community and the community’s subsequent isolation, Henry partnered with the Florida based church the Sunshine Cathedral Church to form the locally based Sunshine Cathedral Jamaica (SCJ). On Sundays, people would gather at the SCJ for worship and to participate in other activities including the formation of a choir.

Gareth holds a bachelor’s degree in social work and Master’s Degree in Communication and Behavioural Change from the University of the West Indies. He currently lives in Canada.



Karlene Williams-Clarke

Karlene Williams-Clarke also known as Karlene Simple was involved with J-FLAG between 2002-2009. She was integral in the planning of the first pride event in 2005 under the theme: Free to Be Me and the first trans visibility programme for people of trans experience in Jamaica. Karlene was also a part of the 'Murder Music' advocacy coordination by J-FLAG to end the homophobic lyrics used in dancehall music.

Karlene now lives in Toronto where her work in human rights continue through the 519 organization in Toronto which does work around LGBT people, refugees, family support, and other community support services. Karlene still supports the work of the organization however she can.



Dane Lewis

Dane Lewis is a pillar for the Jamaican LGBT community. Dane served as the Executive Director of Jamaica’s premier human rights and social justice advocacy organisation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons from 2010 -2017. His involvement with J-FLAG dates back to 1998, when the organisation was founded, as one of the first set of volunteers. In February 2008, Dane gave up his successful media career to become the organisation’s Programme Manager and later became its first Executive Director in 2010.

Dane’s unbridled love for service and advocacy was borne out of his experience as a victim of a homophobic attack in 1996 which impressed upon him the need to play an active role in fighting for equality. Through his efforts, J-FLAG has become one of the most successful non- governmental organisations in Jamaica and the largest LGBT-rights organisation in the English speaking Caribbean. Among his many achievements are developing the organisation’s first Strategic Plan, increasing its visibility, changing/improving the image of J-FLAG and LGBT community nationally, expanding the staff complement from a team of two to fourteen, increasing its income and diversifying the programme to better cater to the needs of LGBT people and allies.

Dane has a BA in Media and Communication from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus and Diploma in Record Engineering and Production from the Institute of Audio Research.



Father Sean

The Very Rev. Sean Major-Campbell is an Anglican Priest, Rector of Christ Church, Vineyard Town, and Rural Dean of Kingston. He has unapologetically been a devout advocate for LGBT rights and has worked to use religion as a source of unity in a space where it is often used to divide people. The importance of his contribution to activism in Jamaica has not gone unnoticed. In 2017 Father Sean received the Ally of the Year Award for Advancing the Protection of LGBT Persons across the World, in Washington DC.

Ashley Gordon

Ashley is a trans woman who has increased the visibility of trans women in Jamaican mainstream fashion and social spaces. Appearing in photos with fashion influencers like Novia McDonald at fashion week, Ashley has been able to make a name for her own in the fashion industry. Her visibility advocacy continues to curate spaces for other people of trans experience to occupy and thrive and understand about their lived experiences.





Javed Jaghai

Javed started researching LGBT life in Kingston in the summer of 2011 and is now in his final year of a PhD program in Sociology at Yale University. Javed is known particularly for being a visible and outspoken advocate for the community. He was the Public Education and Outreach Officer for J-FLAG from 2012 - 2013. One of his core duties was to represent the organization in television and radio interviews. Many of them are still available online. LGBT activism in Jamaica was seen as dangerous work and very few people were willing to represent the organization in public. Those who did so spoke as concerned advocates but did not confirm their own sexuality even if it was implicit.

Other times people would ask to have their voices distorted or their faces blurred. It was a big deal to go on TV to say “My name is Javed. I am gay. I am here representing J-FLAG and the LGBT

community.” He worked alongside Jaevion which was a revolutionary moment. Together, they shattered the old way of doing advocacy and vowed to put a human face to our experiences. Javed joined a supreme court challenge to the anti-buggery laws which was one of the biggest stories in the press during 2013. There’s a CVM documentary called “Battle Lines: Javed vs the State” which summed up the atmosphere at the time. Javed says, “Now that I’m thinking about it - the thing that I am most proud of is this - we succeeded at putting a voice and a face and a fire to J-FLAG’s agenda. We announced that the organization wasn’t in hiding anymore and forced journalists to raise the level of discourse because the new generation of J-FLAG activists were smart, self-confident and sassy.”

For his dissertation Javed interviewed Jamaican LGBT asylees and refugees in the US and Canada—many of whom he has been following for seven years. They talk about their childhood, their coming out and their journeys from Jamaica to their new homes abroad. Javed hopes to write a chapter of Jamaican history that would be accessible to future generations who will want to know what it was like to be LGBT in Jamaica from 1950 to 2020.



Dexter Pottinger

Dexter Pottinger was a Jamaican fashion icon, creative director and film producer. Working with some of the biggest dancehall artists, Dexter lived his truth out loud and curated spaces for other members of the community to participate. He was the face of Pride in 2016 and actively supported the week of activities. Dexter was never shy of being gay and using his own form of activism to promote human rights in his own spaces.

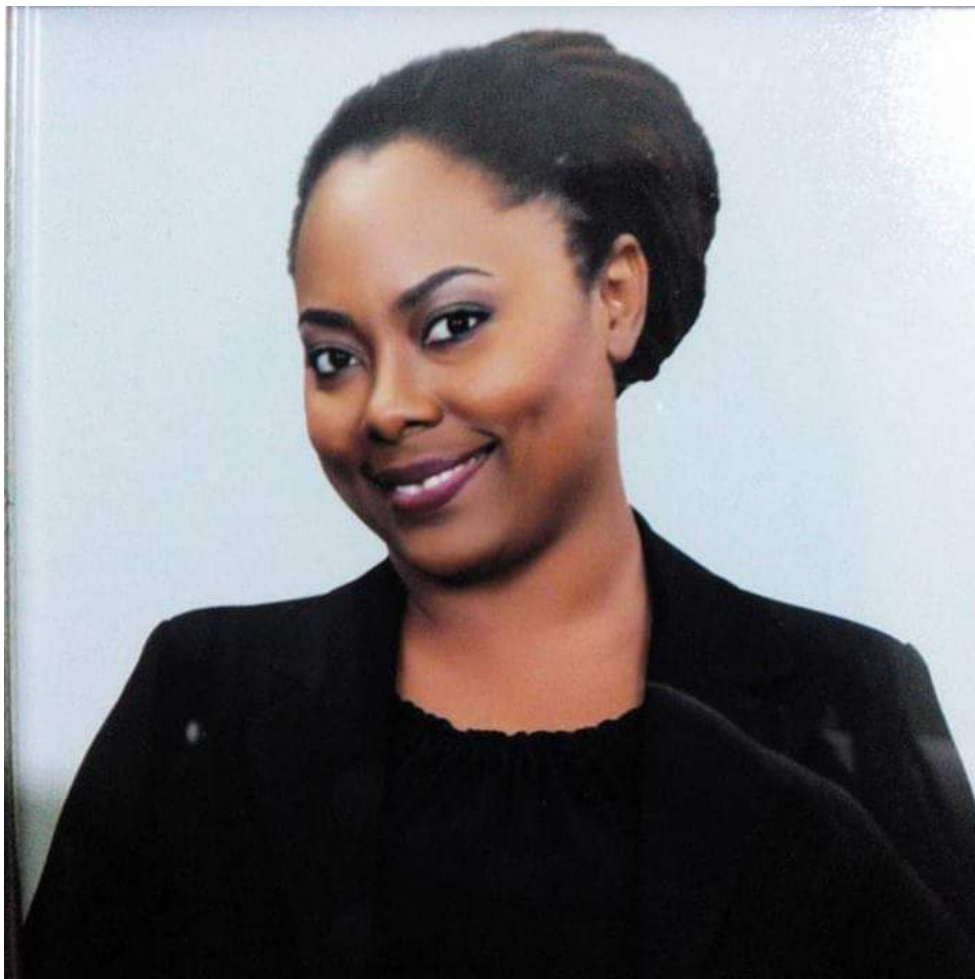


Latoya ‘Thugz’ Brown

Latoya Brown or Thugz as she is known by many in the community has been a prominent player in the area of entertainment. A party promotor for almost 10 years, Thugs has created for herself a reputation for hosting amazing parties and providing spaces for LGBT people to socialize while ‘bubbling’ to the rhythms of Dancehall. Before turning to party promotion, Latoya began working with the community through the Underlined Response working to support homeless LGBT Jamaicans. She also a part of the team which planned Pride Fest, the first Pride event in Kingston. However, Thugs found her passion in events planning. In 2011 Latoya held her first event called Bubble Gyal and a few months later had her second event, Lust, which has been held every year since then. An entrepreneur at heart, Latoya was one of three to start Hybrid Entertainment Jamaica company in 2012. Since then, Hybrid Entertainment has successfully executed over 20 events and has sponsored many that benefit LGBT Jamaicans.

Tracey Ann Thomas

Tracey Ann Thomas was a devout actor in the women's movement in Jamaica. In 2010, she chaired the women's group Women for Women, which was an organization dedicated to representing and advancing the rights of lesbian and bisexual women. While with the organization, Tracey was motivated to provide spaces for women to socialize and network. These spaces also served an educational purpose, they held sessions to educate women about their rights, capacity building and career development workshops, sessions on home ownership and also importantly, spiritual growth. To combat increasing occurrences of displacement, she provided shelter for victims of homophobic abuse. Her activities did not go unnoticed. In 2010, she was approached by J-FLAG to be a member of the board during a period when the organization sought to further extend their reach with women. Since then, Tracey has had an ongoing relationship with the organization and is currently the Senior Procurement Officer.



Stacy Ann Jarrett



Stacy Ann Jarrett was a significant player in the LGBT movement during the early 2000s. She was one of the few female activists working to advance the rights of the queer community in Jamaica. Over 15 years, she was instrumental in the organization

of a number of important activities. From 2009 to 2011 Jarrett opened and managed the Oasis Lounge which was a space where LGBT people to come together and showcase their talents through the arts, have discussions about things that mattered to them and on Friday nights partied to their heart's content. In 2009, she turned the Constant Spring Golf Club into a mecca of love, acceptance and diversity for the first ever Pride event staging in Kingston Jamaica, much of the activities have been used to organize the recent PrideJa events by J-FLAG.

Jarrett was passionate about changing the advocacy landscape to focus on the development of the individual. Guided by the tenets of by Rhonda Byrne's *The Secret* which focuses on welling through positive behavioural change, Stacy began working to provide better psychological and other forms of support for LGBT people. She started the Underlined Response which was intended to support the reintegration of LGBT young people back into schools. Also under the Global Fund she began working to provide shelter displaced people in the community. However financial restrictions limited the lifespan of that project.

Although her much of her work was with the community, Jarrett's work also included working in the HIV response. She worked with the ministry of health through the Global Fund and later started working with the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life. She has since retired from active advocacy.



J-FLAG

20 CELEBRATING
YEARS

OF ADVOCACY & ACTIVISM