



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NAACP DC RECOGNIZES DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The NAACP DC Branch congratulates the Center of Black Equity in organizing the **31st Annual DC Black Pride Celebration** held May 27th through May 30th. The NAACP stands in support of our LGBTQIA community, while celebrating the rich contributions of this community in advancing equity and social justice in the District of Columbia.

The NAACP has championed the fight for racial justice and equity as the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, since 1909. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic empowerment of African-Americans and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Equity demands we address public safety, housing, human rights, domestic partner violence, education equity and workforce development for Black LGBTQIA+ persons. Crimes against Black LGBTQIA+ individuals are underreported and many individuals are marginalized creating an increased need for advocacy, policy and support services. Anti-LGBTQ crimes and race-based hate crimes make up more than two-thirds of all hate crimes reported in the District of Columbia. Women of color, especially women of color who identify as LGBTQ, are most frequently targeted by hate crime offenders. Black transgender women experience the highest levels of violent crimes within the LGBTQ community, and are less likely to trust the police for help for fear of revictimization by law enforcement.

This year, we take time to remember Brittney Griner who is being unjustly held captive by the Russian government, and we urge the US Government to utilize all options to get Brittney Griner back to her family, friends, teammates and fans safely without delay.

***Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, "Equity demands we fight discrimination and advocate for economic, housing and health justice through LGBTQ affirming lens, where we celebrate identities. The NAACP advocates for the inclusion of Black and Brown LGBTQIA+ people in a safe, non-judgmental space in the fight against discrimination and racial injustice."***

The NAACP continues to be a fierce, advocate for transformative solutions to ensure Black lives are safe, healthy, thriving and valued in all spaces. The NAACP LGBTQIA+ Committee welcomes individuals interested in joining our LGBTQIA Committee, to contact [LGBTQIA.NAACPDC@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQIA.NAACPDC@gmail.com).

**For more information, please email [LGBTQIA.NAACPDC@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQIA.NAACPDC@gmail.com).**

### **ABOUT NAACP:**

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.