



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NAACP DC URGES THE RELEASE OF BRITTNEY GRINER**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The NAACP DC Branch urges the release of Brittney Griner to the United States of America without harm. During Women’s History Month, the NAACP DC Branch has launched a social media campaign and sign-on letter as an act of allyship to protect Black women who are non-gender-conforming.

African Americans have a long history in both the arts and sports in Russia. Since the 1920’s African Americans have permanently relocated to Russia and have toured with music, dance, and played in sports teams as a tool of diplomacy for the United States government. Today, musical artists continue to tour and participate in cultural festivals and athletes continue to play on sports teams throughout the country.

Brittney Griner is a non-gender-conforming WNBA Star and American citizen detained by Russian authorities in February 2022 for alleged marijuana drug possession. Brittney, who played for UMMC Ekaterinburg basketball team during her off-season, was accused of traveling with vape cartridges inside her luggage when Russian authorities scanned her luggage in the airport. She was detained at the airport before being transferred to a Russian jail. Brittney’s last social media post was on February 5, 2022, yet, we are only alerted of her apprehension in March by news source, Adrienne Lawrence. There are rising fears that Russian authorities may have kidnapped Brittney as a political war tactic against the US.

***Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “Throughout history, Black women have been victimized, marginalized and subjected to both racism and sexism, but Brittney’s non-gender-conforming identity is a triple threat, underscoring the need for protection and action globally. Brittney is left in peril unless we see our collective purpose across intersectional dividers and unite.”***

For more information, please email Akosua Ali, at [akosua.ali@naacpdc.org](mailto:akosua.ali@naacpdc.org) or Rhonda Humphries at [LGBTQIA.NAACP@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQIA.NAACP@gmail.com), with any questions.

### **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.