UNDERSTANDING THE STATE OF GLOBAL LGBTQI+ PERSECUTION
I think we can all agree that 2021 was a remarkable and challenging year. We continued to navigate the impact of COVID-19, and at the same time were confronted with multiple global challenges that impacted the movement for advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons both at home and abroad. These challenges were also reflected in our work.

Most consequently, requests for help more than doubled from 2020, with 8,506 individuals reaching out to Rainbow Railroad reaching out for assistance. That is due in part that we’ve witnessed first-hand how global geopolitical crises disproportionately impact LGBTQI+ persons. In August 2021, the Taliban took over Kabul after the withdrawal of the Allied forces, and the scope of our work changed. Since then, we have received over 4500 requests for help from Afghanistan. Each request lays bare how LGBTQI+ people are being targeted, persecuted and forced to flee in impossible circumstances.

This new reality means:

1) We need to increase our capacity to respond to thousands of people waiting in our queue for assistance.
2) We need more tools and pathways to help get people to safety. So we continue to call on governments for collaborative, proactive responses to crises that impact LGBTQI+ people. We witnessed in Ukraine the fastest mass migration of people in modern history - with many reaching out for help. We have to be ready to respond.

Through this, the number of individuals we are able to support continues to grow. We provided support to 1,812 people in 2021 - the highest number of people we have helped of any year to date. The global state of LGBTQI+ persecution can feel hopeless, and our work daunting but, as you read this report, please hold onto the impact we have created together.

This year’s annual report is the second time we aim to provide you with a deeper understanding of the issues that affect the people who reach out to Rainbow Railroad for help. We hope it is a resource to understanding the state of LGBTQI+ persecution globally today.

And this work could not be possible without incredible colleagues who give everything to this work, a strong and collaborative board of directors, and especially those who continuously support this work. When times seem bleak, the enduring strength we have demonstrated as a community should give us all confidence to continue the fight for LGBTQI+ equality. It helps us keep going.

Thank you,
Kimahli Powell, L.L.D (Hons) - Executive Director
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CAR  Caribbean
CDC  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
EE  Eastern Europe
ETS  Emergency Travel Support
HRD  Human Rights Defender
IDP  Internally Displaced Person
LA  Latin America
LGBTQI+  Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Plus
MENA  Middle East and North Africa
SCA  South-Central Asia
SOGIESC  Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
SSA  Sub-Saharan Africa
UNHCR  United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO  World Health Organization
IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE COLLECT OUR DATA. WE TRACK OUR REQUESTS FOR HELP IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE TO MORE PEOPLE AND IMPROVE HOW WE WORK. WE HOPE SHARING THIS INFORMATION WILL PROVIDE MORE INSIGHT INTO THE STATE OF LGBTQI+ PERSECUTION GLOBALLY – SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF THOSE WHO SEEK TO FLEE.

Our data is subject to a few specific limitations:

1: Much of the data presented here comes from assessments of the people who reach out to us. Typically, more concerns are uncovered as we work with a person over time. Because we have limited resources, we cannot always assist each person who reaches out to us, meaning some people are likely experiencing more safety or health and wellness concerns than we capture. This means that any trends we identify in this report from our data are likely understated.

2: Rainbow Railroad receives requests for help from people around the world. However, requests for help aren’t equally distributed across regions and genders. Our data is impacted by issues of accessibility and reflects how intersecting forces of marginalization result in our services being most accessible to cisgender gay men. To mitigate the overrepresentation of certain demographics in the data, we have broken our data down by region, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

3: Rainbow Railroad’s work is, by nature, limited in scope, both in terms of whom we interact with and where they are located. Additionally, factors such as what people feel they can safely disclose to us, perceptions about whom Rainbow Railroad helps, and who has the ability to access our services cannot be fully accounted for in our data.

4: The analysis of the health and welfare and safety concerns provided in this report is based only on the individuals who requested help, even if other LGBTQI+ members of their families have also faced persecution and subsequently received our support. Therefore, the number of LGBTQI+ individuals we serve in the course of our work is actually higher than we have captured here.

Despite these limitations, given the lack of available data on LGBTQI+ forced displacement, we hope our analysis offers an important window into the unique experiences of this particularly vulnerable population. Our goal is that our data contributes to addressing the broader gap in international forced displacement and LGBTQI+ rights research.

If you are interested in accessing the anonymized data that was used to produce this report, you can submit a request to info@rainbowrailroad.org.
OUR WORK

Our core program is Emergency Travel Support (ETS). This program provides lifesaving advice, resources and travel support needed for persecuted LGBTQI+ individuals to access a pathway to safety in another country, including through exercising the right to claim asylum.

Since 2006, through ETS, we have supported over 1,200 people from over 30 countries in their journeys to find safety. Our ETS program provides direct financial support to individuals from the time we contact them through to their arrival in a safer country. This financial support covers basic expenses such as accommodation, medical care, access to essential medicines, documentation requirements, legal fees, and other basic needs.

Last year, we helped individuals move to the following safer states: South Africa, Turkey, United States, Egypt, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Poland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Austria, and Spain.

IN 2021, WE EVACUATED 206 PEOPLE THROUGH EMERGENCY TRAVEL SUPPORT.

While our work through Emergency Travel Support has a great impact, the reality is that as the number of requests increase, it is increasingly challenging to move all of the LGBTQI+ people who reach out to us to a safer country. This is why we also provide complementary programs for individuals facing state-sponsored violence and SOGIESC persecution. To address this, we scaled up our work to complement the ETS program as part of our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan.

PROGRAM ONE: LIFESAVING SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

Support from this program includes direct financial assistance, provision of accommodation, and support through access to medical care, essential medicines and in-country relocation.

There are times when there are no routes to a safer country because of passport mobility restrictions placed on citizens from certain countries. Program one support is especially useful in these situations. We utilize this program only when there is no civil society organization that we can partner with on the ground to provide direct assistance to those at risk.

WE PROVIDED 186 INDIVIDUALS WITH SUPPORT THROUGH PROGRAM ONE IN 2021.

One individual from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) was attacked by members of his community and church when they found out about his sexual orientation. Through our direct support, he was able to move to a different city. Although it was within the same country, he was unknown in the new city and was able to escape the imminent persecution he was facing. When there is no way out, this program is a lifesaving resource to individuals in danger.

RAINBOW RAILROAD’S WORK IN 2021

8,506 PEOPLE ASKED US FOR HELP IN 2021.

These numbers alone show how many people from around the world continue to face discrimination, persecution. The statistics also reflect how many LGBTQI+ people impacted in conflicts, crises, and disasters causing displacement. This spike means we need to think carefully about how we assess vulnerability, given the volume of requests.

There are 69 countries that criminalize same-sex intimacy, and 37 countries in which trans identity or expression is criminalized. In 11 of these countries, individuals can be put to death for expressing themselves freely or living authentically.

This report will analyze crucial insights we have uncovered over the course of the previous year in doing our work, and share how we continue to move forward in the fight against global LGBTQI+ persecution and in support of the over 100 million people currently displaced globally.¹

WE SUPPORTED 1 IN 4 LGBTQI+ PERSONS ASKING FOR HELP² IN 2021, IN SPITE OF EXPONENTIALLY SCALING REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

2 Based on the verified LGBTI+ status of 7,100 individuals.
PROGRAM FIVE: PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES
Private sponsorship programs include direct work with governments and communities in-country to provide circles of support for newcomers.

This includes continuing our sponsorship program through the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership in Canada and pursuing other complementary pathways around the world. We are also actively involved in supporting other countries, including the United States, to build private sponsorship opportunities for LGBTQI+ refugees.

Rainbow Railroad, in partnership with a community sponsorship team of dedicated individuals, supported an individual to relocate out of Kenya (originally from Afghanistan) through our Private Sponsorship Program. This individual, who identifies as a lesbian woman, experienced significant persecution and hardship because of her sexual orientation in both Afghanistan and in Kenya. She is now safe in Canada with her permanent resident status.

WE SUBMITTED 10 PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP APPLICATIONS WITH COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT PARTNERS IN CANADA IN 2021.

Rainbow Railroad provided funding to a local advocacy organization based in Kenya to support the safe transit and integration of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers in the Kakuma refugee camp:

- Supporting the safe transit of asylum seekers from the entry border point to the transit house and to their final destination;
- Providing police sensitization at the first major border entry point for asylum seekers from Uganda and other West African countries, which opened up a clear path of entry for those seeking asylum;
- Developing a relationship with key stakeholders for asylum seekers – ensuring 85% of the refugees who transitioned through the safehouse were successfully integrated into the camp.

For the individuals we serve, connecting with Rainbow Railroad means more than a lifeline:

"Thank you so much for being there always for me, honestly I really appreciate that. And I know at least now I have a family, I have someone I can trust and feel safe with. Thank you and I thank all members of our family. I know one day we shall meet and I will sleep that day without fear. I always want to stay strong but there is a point where I reach and feel like I can no longer even exist where I live no way out. With your support, I know I can manage." - LGBTQI+ individual who received Program 4 Support.
UPDATE ON THE STATE OF GLOBAL LGBTQI+ PERSECUTION

RAINBOW RAILROAD’s work sits at the direct intersection of the issues of LGBTQI+ persecution and forced displacement. This vantage point gives us unique insights into the state of LGBTQI+ rights globally.

Persecuted in both their countries of origin and in transit countries, LGBTQI+ refugees and asylum seekers face life-threatening danger in many regions around the world. In 2021 alone, we received 4,361 requests from individuals in countries that impose the death penalty on LGBTQI+ persons. In the same period, requests for help increased from individuals from 116 different countries.

These statistics point to concerning trends in the state of LGBTQI+ rights globally that require our attention. By presenting the data in this report we hope to shed light on emerging trends and highlight the importance of a renewed global effort to protect the most vulnerable LGBTQI+ persons experiencing, or at heightened risk of, forced displacement.

IN 2021, WE RECEIVED 4,361 REQUESTS FROM NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES WHERE LGBTQI+ PEOPLE FACE THE DEATH PENALTY.

Many of these nationals are displaced and have fled to neighboring countries that also criminalize same-sex intimacy to varying degrees.

Countries that legally prescribe the death penalty for consensual same-sex sexual intimacy: Brunei, Iran, Mauritania, Nigeria (12 Northern states only), Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Countries that can impose the death penalty: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Somalia (including Somaliland) and the United Arab Emirates.
COVID-19 continues to disproportionately impact LGBTQI+ individuals globally. Some key LGBTQI+-specific effects of the pandemic were detailed in our report The Impact of COVID-19 on Displaced LGBTQI+ Persons.

Since the pandemic began, reactionary policies, including border restrictions and outright closures, continue to pose substantial barriers to our work. COVID-19 led to reduced community social support and family separations, increases in complex medical or mental health conditions, lower levels of linguistic, cultural, and health literacy, and inadequate access to reliable transportation and healthcare infrastructure. The confluence of these consequences has left already vulnerable refugee populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.1 These challenges are compounded by access to reliable transportation and healthcare infrastructure. The confluence of these consequences has left already complex medical or mental health conditions, lower levels of linguistic, cultural, and health literacy, and inadequate since the pandemic began, reactionary policies, including border restrictions and outright closures, continue to pose substantial barriers to our work. COVID-19 led to reduced community social support and family separations, increases in complex medical or mental health conditions, lower levels of linguistic, cultural, and health literacy, and inadequate access to reliable transportation and healthcare infrastructure. The confluence of these consequences has left already vulnerable refugee populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.1 These challenges are compounded by access to reliable transportation and healthcare infrastructure. The confluence of these consequences has left already complex medical or mental health conditions, lower levels of linguistic, cultural, and health literacy, and inadequate 

COVID-19 MEASURES WERE USED BY STATES TO AVOID ASYLUM OBLIGATIONS.

Despite a lack of evidence proving their effectiveness, some governments closed their borders entirely, while many prohibited the entry of foreign residents. By April 21st, 2020, an estimated 167 countries fully or partially closed their borders, and at least 57 made no exception for people seeking asylum. Some countries even used COVID-19 as an excuse not to receive or resettle refugees, making these populations more vulnerable to the virus itself.10

In the United States, the public health order Title 42, a sweeping set of border restrictions, was implemented at the start of the pandemic to limit asylum seekers from entering over ‘health concerns.’ Title 42 led to asylum seekers facing higher risks of gang violence, persecution, and hate crimes. Some of the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) own doctors argued that the decision to stop the asylum process was not based on public wellness or safety.11

Many of these restrictions persist and, in countries around the world, refugee processing backlogs have resulted in delays for LGBTQI+ refugees who do not have the luxury to wait.

COVID-19 BORDER CLOSURES CREATED INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIERS FOR LGBTQI+ REFUGEES SEEKING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION.

COVID-19 lockdown orders resulted in documented abuses, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as general mistreatment, persecution and violence toward LGBTQI+ persons in the public sphere. Still, countries like Canada stopped allowing asylum seekers arriving through unauthorized points of entry, and along with UNHCR, suspended the resettlement process for overseas refugees.12,13

The resettlement of privately sponsored refugees (PSR) also slowed significantly in Canada. Previously, privately sponsored refugees faced wait times of up to four months to arrive in Canada following their application approval, and the suspension of resettlement programs has resulted in extreme delays. These individuals risk facing violence and persecution every day they await transit, despite being approved to resettle to Canada.14

Xenophobic politicians and their supporters often blame refugees for the spread of infections to host communities. There are also reports of false accusations that LGBTQI+ people are vectors of the virus, resulting in state-sponsored violence and persecution in the form of anti-LGBTQI+ crackdowns.15 Religious and political leaders from at least 12 different countries blamed the pandemic on the existence of LGBTQI+ persons and their allies.16 In some countries, police used COVID-19 directives to target LGBTQI+ organizations.17

2. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. RAINBOW RAILROAD’S ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE EVACUATION OF \THE CONTINUED IMPACT OF COVID-19\n
DURING THE PANDEMIC, BLANKET TRAVEL BANS DISPROPORTIONATELY RESTRICTED MOBILITY AND CREATED INSTITUTIONAL DELAYS AND DISRUPTIONS, CHALLENGING RAINBOW RAILROAD’S ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE EVACUATION OF INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING HELP TO SAFETY.
When analyzing our 8,506 requests for help from 2021, it is crucial to understand what is driving individuals to seek assistance from Rainbow Railroad.

### WHO WE HELP

**RAINBOW RAILROAD’S GLOBAL REACH**

We categorize our requests for help into the following regions: South-Central Asia (SCA), Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Caribbean (CAR), Latin America (LA), Eastern Europe (EE), and Other.21

Our top request locations in 2021 were in South-Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean. In 2021, nearly half of all requests came from SCA. Notably, requests from SCA increased from 564 requests for help in 2020 to 4,187 in 2021, which was more than the total requests we received for all of 2020 globally. We attribute much of this spike to the crisis in Afghanistan, when the Taliban seized control of the country in August 2021.

Approximately 1 in 5 persons requesting help came from the MENA region, and 1 in 5 came from SSA as well. Notably, although total requests from the Caribbean actually increased in 2021, proportionally they decreased from 11% (2020) to 6% of all requests received.

20 Inclusive of countries across Asia and the Pacific, however the overwhelming majority of requests are coming from South-Central Asia.

21 We code requests emerging from countries in Western Europe and North America as “Other,” but a significant increase in requests from states in these regions has made clear that moving forward, more specificity in coding may be necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Requests for Help</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South-Central Asia</td>
<td>4,187</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>1,673</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>1,601</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IN 2021 8,506 PEOPLE REQUESTED OUR HELP.**

**Requests for Help by Region of Nationality**
In terms of country breakdown, while we received requests for help from all over the globe, at the beginning of 2021, the majority of our requests were still concentrated in Jamaica. Jamaica has always produced a high number of requests—second only to the United States. Afghanistan also firmly established its reputation in the region given our history of work with Jamaican nationals. As the crisis in Afghanistan unfolded and quickly dominated our requests for help, Afghanistan led our requests for help by nationality in 2021.

**TOP 10 COUNTRIES REQUESTING HELP**

1. AFGHANISTAN
2. IRAQ
3. JAMAICA
4. CARIBBEAN
5. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
6. IRAQ
7. NIGERIA
8. LEBANON
9. EGYPT
10. PAKISTAN

RAINBOW RAILROAD SUPPORTS INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE GENDER SPECTRUM

We disaggregate (or break down) our data and capture the following gender identities: Cis-Male, Cis-Female, Transgender Female, Transgender Male, Gender non-conforming, Gender fluid, Agender, Intersex, Intergender, and Aliagender. In 2021, the top three gender identities requesting help were cisgender men, cisgender women, and transgender women. Over 60% of all requests came from cisgender men, down from 70% in 2020. Cisgender and transgender women formed the second and third most requests at 13% and 7% respectively.

Requests from transgender men, gender non-conforming, gender fluid, agender, intersex, intergender, and aliagender individuals all increased as well. Requests from trans women and trans men remained relatively stable, while requests from non-binary individuals increased significantly this year. The proportion of requests coming from persons within each of the following identities all more than doubled from 2020 to 2021: gender non-conforming, gender fluid, agender, intersex, intergender, and aliagender.

**WHERE DISAGGREGATED PROGRAMMING DATA IS AVAILABLE WE KNOW THAT CISGENDER MEN, CISGENDER WOMEN, AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN WERE THE TOP THREE GENDER IDENTITIES SERVED, WITH CISGENDER MEN COMPOSING 51% OF ALL INDIVIDUALS SERVED. FURTHER, DESPITE ONLY COMPOSING 13% OF OVERALL REQUESTS FOR HELP, CISGENDER WOMEN REPRESENTED 21% OF THE INDIVIDUALS WE SUPPORTED LAST YEAR. NOTABLY, TRANS AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE COMPOSED 29% OF INDIVIDUALS WE SUPPORTED LAST YEAR.**

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**SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS.**

We also break down our data by sexual orientation as well as sex characteristics and capture the following sexual identities: Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Queer, Straight, Heterosexual, Pansexual, Asexual, and Intersex.

The top three sexual identities requesting help were individuals identifying as gay, bisexual, and lesbian. Both in 2020 and 2021, more than half of all requests came from people who identified as gay.22 Notably, bisexual individuals were only the fifth most commonly reported sexual orientation in 2020, and moved up to second, representing 12% of all requests for help last year. 1 in 10 of our requests for help in 2021 came from lesbians.

We continue to see sociocultural and geopolitical barriers that impact RAINBOW RAILROAD’s ability to provide direct assistance to individuals from across the SOGIESC spectrum.

**The majority of individuals served in 2021 identified as gay, queer, or lesbian. Gay people comprised 50% of the individuals we supported last year. Of those we supported additionally, 22% were queer, and 19% were lesbian. Notably, through our vulnerability assessment model we ensured that, although lesbians comprised just 10% of our requests for help in 2021, they made up 19% of the individuals we supported.**

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22 In our case work, we often find that individuals may come to use different language and terminology over time as they become more equipped to describe their most authentic selves.
MORE YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES ARE REQUESTING OUR HELP THAN EVER BEFORE

In 2021, we received 41 requests from minors, and an overwhelming 88% of our total requests came from individuals between the ages of 18 and 35.

60+ 0.4% 46-59 2% 36-45 8%
26-35 43% 18-25 45% Under 18 1%

We also noticed a significant spike in requests for help from LGBTQI+ families. In 2021, we received 313 cases of individuals requesting help for themselves and five or more family members - the majority of these cases came from Afghan refugees. In 2020, we received 8 such cases.

CASES BROKEN DOWN BY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING HELP AT ONE TIME

1 = 4,045 | 74%  
2 = 722 | 14%  
3 = 152 | 3%  
4 = 108 | 2%  
5 = 109 | 2%  
6 = 54 | 1%  
7 = 57 | 1%  
8 = 27 | 1%  
9 = 15 | 1%  
10 = 51 | 1%

OUR IMPACT INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY

In 2021, we helped 1,812 individuals through our Emergency Travel Support (ETS) and our five Complementary Programs, more than tripling the number of LGBTQI+ persons we helped in 2021 as compared to 2020 (503).

503 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED IN 2020

1,812 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED IN 2021

Forces of Displacement

Rainbow Railroad tracks the specific threats to safety, health and welfare that people reaching out to us face with as much detail and rigor as possible. We do so under two main headings: Health and Welfare Concerns and Safety Concerns.

Health and Welfare Concerns are underlying factors relating to physical and mental wellbeing that also put people at risk. In 2021, we tracked 11 health and welfare concerns impacting the day-to-day lives of the individuals we serve.

Safety Concerns are direct threats the individual faces stemming from their family, community or the state. In 2021, we tracked 27 Safety Concerns LGBTQI+ people faced around the world simply for being who they are or loving who they love.

This allows us to understand the nature of the persecution faced by the people we serve, and we use this information to develop our programming priorities.

We capture 11 health and welfare concerns:
- Chronic Disease
- Disability
- HIV Positive
- Homeless
- Lack of Basic Needs
- Lack of income due to COVID-19
- Low Literacy
- Mental Health Concerns
- Poor Physical Health (incl. STI)
- Pregnant Woman
- Risk of Suicide

We also capture 27 safety concerns:
- Acid attack
- Active Arrest Warrant
- Arson on home/business
- Beat up/Shoot at/Chopped
- Blackmailing
- Conversion therapy
- Date baiting
- Detained multiple times
- Detained once
- Ethnic persecution
- Exorcism
- Family-based rejection (non-violent)
- Family-based violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Human trafficking
- In hiding due to credible threat
- Intimate partner violence
- Marriage under duress
- Police brutality
- Publicly outed/humiliated
- Religious persecution
- Sexual violence/crime
- Stoning/Lashing (punishment)
- Violence related to sex work
- Was denied medical care
- Whistleblower
- Xenophobic violence

In the following sections we outline the top health and welfare and safety concerns our clients identified in 2021.

Total Health and Welfare Concerns Reported Among Those Requesting Help: 1,504

Total Safety Concerns Reported Among Those Requesting Help: 2,695

For various reasons including safety and unwillingness to report, our data is only as complete as people communicate to us. For these reasons, data captured here will not align with the total number of individuals who requested our help last year. Individuals requesting our help are in crisis and are in the middle of the most harrowing experiences of their life.
Mental health and poverty were the top health and welfare concerns impacting LGBTQI+ persons seeking assistance from Rainbow Railroad.

In 2021, the risk of suicide was the number one health and welfare concern impacting the LGBTQI+ people reaching out to Rainbow Railroad for help. Risk of suicide was self-reported by 45% of these individuals.\textsuperscript{24}

Socio-economic concerns arising due to a lack of basic needs, lack of income due to COVID-19 and homelessness were notable concerns as well, with 1 in 2 people reporting at least one of these concern types. Risk of suicide and a lack of basic needs were in the top 5 health and welfare concerns for every region and gender identity.\textsuperscript{25}

Here, we highlight the regions, genders, or sexual orientations and identities that showed top health and welfare concerns which differed from the overall top 5 concerns.

### HEALTH & WELFARE CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Lack of Basic Needs</th>
<th>Homeless</th>
<th>Risk of Suicide</th>
<th>HIV Positive</th>
<th>Lack of income due to COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carribean</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HEALTH & WELFARE CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Risk of Suicide</th>
<th>Lack of Basic Needs</th>
<th>Lack of income due to COVID-19</th>
<th>Homeless</th>
<th>HIV Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIS-Male</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GenderFluid</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HEALTH & WELFARE CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Orientation and Sex Characteristics</th>
<th>Risk of Suicide</th>
<th>Mental Health Concerns</th>
<th>Lack of Basic Needs</th>
<th>Homeless</th>
<th>Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queer</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 MOST REPORTED HEALTH AND WELFARE CONCERNS\textsuperscript{26}

- **Risk of Suicide**: 45% (of total concerns)
- **Lack of Basic Needs**: 33% (of total concerns)
- **Homeless**: 27% (of total concerns)
- **Mental Health Concerns**: 20% (of total concerns)
- **Lack of Income Due to COVID-19**: 27% (of total concerns)
SAFETY CONCERNS

HOME AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTS ARE DANGEROUS PLACES FOR LGBTQI+ PERSONS.

LGBTQI+ persons continue to face epidemic levels of discrimination around the world – including both at home and in their communities. Family-based rejection was the top safety concern reported to Rainbow Railroad, affecting over half of the individuals. When family-based rejection is combined with family-based violence, nearly 2 in 3 persons reported facing this issue.

LGBTQI+ people also continue to face serious and credible threats to their safety. In fact, the second most reported safety concern from individuals seeking our assistance was life-threatening violence.

5 MOST REPORTED SAFETY CONCERNS

FAMILY-BASED REJECTION

56% (OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

BEAT UP/SHOT AT/CHOPPED

39% (OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE/CRIME

15% (OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

IN HIDDING DUE TO CREDIBLE THREAT

13% (OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

FAMILY-BASED VIOLENCE

30% (OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

FOR A FULL LIST OF SAFETY DATA DISAGGREGATED BY REGION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND SEXUALITY PLEASE REFER TO ANNEX XX.

** For a full list of safety data disaggregated by region, gender identity, and sexuality please refer to Annex XX.
TRANS PEOPLE ARE PARTICULARLY AT RISK.
75% of transgender men experience family-based rejection (non-violent), 59% of transgender men requesting help experience a risk of suicide, 75% of transgender women requesting help experience a risk of suicide. Transgender women and genderfluid individuals both have higher reports of being publicly outed or humiliated in their top safety concerns.

In the following graphs, we highlight the regions, genders, or sexual orientations and identities that showed safety concerns which were different from the overall trends in our data outlined above.

**SAFETY CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY REGION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Family-based rejection</th>
<th>Beat up/Shot at/Chopped</th>
<th>Family-based violence</th>
<th>Publicly outed/humiliated</th>
<th>Sexual violence/crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - CARIBBEAN</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - EASTERN EUROPE</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - LATIN AMERICA</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - CIS-MALE</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - TRANSGENDER MALE</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - TRANSGENDER FEMALE</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - GENDERFLUID</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - LESBIAN</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Help - QUEER</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAFETY CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY GENDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Family-based rejection</th>
<th>Beat up/Shot at/Chopped</th>
<th>Family-based violence</th>
<th>Publicly outed/humiliated</th>
<th>Sexual violence/crime</th>
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<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS CONTINUE TO FACE POVERTY

LACK OF ACCESS TO BASIC NECESSITIES REMAINS A DEEPLY CONCERNING TREND FACED BY THE LGBTQI+ PEOPLE SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM RAINBOW RAILROAD.

At least 1 in 2 LGBTQI+ individuals who requested our help last year reported unmet basic needs, a lack of income due to COVID-19, or homelessness as top health and welfare concerns. Unmet basic needs was in the top five health and welfare concerns for every region and SOGIESC identity.

At the same time, over half of the individuals we serve face rejections from inside of their family, and nearly 2 in 3 persons we serve report violence from within their own families. Far too often, this leads individuals to flee their homes and face internal displacement within their countries or communities.

The lack of support experienced by LGBTQI+ people at the state, community, and family levels produce poverty and homelessness at rampant levels amongst the people who request assistance. Wider research reflects the fact that lack of basic needs remain a top priority amongst LGBTQI+ people and COVID-19 has only compounded this reality.\(^{28}\)

Income loss during the pandemic was another factor that exacerbated the vulnerability of LGBTQI+ refugees and was a compounding force of displacement. One global study showed that refugees were 60% more likely to lose jobs or income due to COVID-19 than the local population.\(^{29}\) Moreover, refugee women face a double disadvantage in the labor market, due to their gender and status as refugees.\(^{30}\) In total, we received 429 total requests reporting income loss due to COVID-19 during the 2020 and 2021 calendar years - with these numbers increasing year-over-year.

Over half of all individuals from the Caribbean reported experiencing homelessness - 3.5x higher than any other region. Compared to cisgender individuals requesting help, transgender and non-binary individuals had 1.7x the risk of income loss due to COVID-19, and 1.5x the risk of both experiencing homelessness, and lacking basic needs.

The persistence of poverty impacting LGBTQI+ people continues to drive displacement, and results in LGBTQI+ people facing significant vulnerabilities within the context of our work.

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2. SO-CALLED ‘CONVERSION THERAPY’ REMAINS PREVALENT

RAINBOW RAILROAD CONTINUES TO ASSIST PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD SUBJECTED TO SO-CALLED CONVERSION THERAPY. ADVOCATING FOR POLICIES THAT PROTECT LGBTQI+ PEOPLE FROM THIS PRACTICE REMAINS CRITICAL.

In December 2021, Canada passed a ban on so-called ‘conversion therapy’. However, this is only one small piece of the fight to end these practices globally.

Conversion therapy is one example in which family and community violence converge in an attempt to change or ‘correct’ an individual’s gender identity or sexual orientation. The practice varies widely in scope and severity; in all cases it is harmful and in the worst cases, it involves torture or cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment. Although the practice is associated with severe long-term mental health implications, most often associated with faith-based institutions, one global report indicated that ‘medical and mental health providers’ constituted the key perpetrators nearly 50% of the time.

While instances of conversion therapy were reported in every region in 2021, in Latin America, it ranked in the top five safety concerns. 14% of Latin American individuals reported having been subject to the practice, which was significantly higher than other regions.

While nearly all genders we serve identified conversion therapy as a key safety concern, gender non-conforming individuals showed a significantly higher report rate at 13%. Existing research on conversion therapy tends to focus heavily on cisgender men, overlooking the impacts on women and gender diverse minorities. When broken down by sexual orientation, bisexual and pansexual individuals showed the highest prevalence of experiencing conversion therapy at 5% and 4% respectively, with 3% of lesbian and queer people also reporting experiencing conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy is just one facet of a wider scope of violence related to attempts to change a person’s sexuality or gender identity. These change efforts can manifest in the most extreme forms of violence. Relatedly, forced marriage is a human rights abuse whereby family members employ emotional, physical, and financial abuse tactics to coerce individuals into a marriage against their consent.

While most often associated with faith-based practices, which was significantly higher than the top five safety concerns. 14% of Latin American individuals reported having been subject to the practice, which was significantly higher than other regions.

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As in the case of so-called ‘conversion therapy,’ the practice of so-called ‘corrective rape’ is a form of sexual violence reported by numerous individuals seeking RAINBOW RAILROAD’s assistance.

‘Corrective rape’ often targets lesbian, bisexual, and queer women, as well as gender minorities. The practice is routinely used against queer men as well. Such crimes may be arranged and perpetrated by a victim’s family, occur in street attacks at the hands of neighbors in the community, or be executed by state and police forces.

In situations of mass-displacement, instances of sexual violence rise sharply, especially against LGBTQI+ people. In far too many of these instances, law enforcement and protective agencies turn a blind eye in camps and holding facility settings.

3. SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS KEY TACTIC OF PERSECUTION

SEXUAL VIOLENCE OCCURS IN EVERY REGION ACROSS EVERY GENDER IDENTITY.

Experiences of physical and sexual violence was the fourth most reported safety concern of all the individuals we served in 2021. Notably, 15% of individuals who reported any safety concerns also reported sexual violence. 24% of the total individuals helped by Rainbow Railroad were survivors of sexual violence.

Amongst the top six gender identities we received requests from, sexual violence was in the top five safety concerns for every identity except cisgender men. Notably, gender non-conforming individuals, transgender women, and cisgender women reported the highest prevalence of experiencing sexual violence, at 24% of gender non-conforming individuals, 23% of transgender women and 18% of cisgender women. This trend has continued from our 2020 analysis, which found that women and gender diverse individuals remain at severe risk for sexual violence.

Our data also points to a particularly concerning cross-regional trend, with high instances of reported sexual violence in the Caribbean, South-Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF LGBTQI+
ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE INCREASING

Mental health was the fifth most reported health and welfare concern overall by those seeking help from us. Although our requests for help more than doubled between the 2020-2021 calendar years, those reporting this concern type increased dramatically throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.45

Multiple studies found that the pandemic disproportionately increased the rates of depression, stress, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorders in a variety of refugee populations.46 This is compounded for LGBTQI+ refugees as they are already significantly more likely to report depression, anxiety, and substance use and a reduced level of social and family support compared to the general population.47

Transgender and non-binary people are disproportionately affected by structural barriers to quality healthcare, and experience increased risk of mental health challenges, and economic hardship. In countries where gender-specific healthcare services are available, gender-affirming care was consistently deemed “non-essential”. Moreover, with the possible loss of jobs and income, financial access to available gender-affirming care can be threatened. This threat is heightened within refugee populations who are also more likely to be uninsured.48

Therefore, transgender and non-binary people may be subject to severe mental and physical health threats exacerbated by COVID-19 and the subsequent deferral of care. Compared to cisgender individuals, trans and non-binary individuals requesting help from us were 1.6x more likely to report feeling at risk of suicide, and were over twice as likely to report experiencing general mental and welfare concerns to Rainbow Railroad, 59% of transgender men and 75% of transgender women also reported a risk of suicide.

TAKING ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH

From 2020 to 2021, the increase of LGBTQI+ persons reporting mental health concerns was significant enough that we determined it necessary to take immediate action to provide the individuals requesting help from around the world with support. We have begun a pilot study by onboarding mental health case workers to provide LGBTQI+ persons with immediate crisis de-escalation support for those reporting suicidality as an area of concern, while also providing ongoing support to LGBTQI+ individuals in transit.

For many LGBTQI+ people fleeing violence, the simple act of seeking safety requires an inordinate level of courage and bravery. Our mental health case workers will also provide support to those in transit, ensuring they are adequately and appropriately prepared for the difficult journey that lies ahead of them.

5. HIV/AIDS IS STILL A KEY CONCERN
FOR LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

The COVID-19 pandemic affected HIV-positive individuals through the implementation of regressive ‘public health protection’ legislation that disproportionately impacted the LGBTQ+ community.

For cisgender men and genderfluid individuals, HIV-positive status49 ranked in the top five health concerns. For bisexual and queer individuals, living with poor physical health and disabilities were in the top five reported safety concerns.

Regressive public health policies as a result of COVID-19 included increasing penalties for HIV exposure and exacerbating stigma against persons living with HIV.50 For instance, Jordan routinely deploys foreign nationals, migrant workers, and refugees who are HIV-positive, while denying them access to necessary antiretroviral medication.

A 18 fold increase must be contextualized, as the voluntary ‘Mental Health Concerns’ pick-list is something Rainbow Railroad recently started tracking. Understandably, we cannot experience increased risk of mental health challenges, and economic hardship. In countries where gender-specific healthcare services are available, gender-affirming care was consistently deemed “non-essential”. Moreover, with the possible loss of jobs and income, financial access to available gender-affirming care can be threatened. This threat is heightened within refugee populations who are also more likely to be uninsured.48

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6. BARRIERS TO SAFE ASYLUM CLAIMS RESULT IN EVACUATION FAILURES

SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION HAS RESULTED IN AN ASYLUM SYSTEM THAT FAILS FAR TOO OFTEN – UNIQUELY MARGINALIZING LGBTQI+ COMMUNITIES.

Evacuation to safety remains RAINBOW RAILROAD’s most effective – and also most challenging – mechanism for providing support.

Three issues commonly resulted in our clients being denied boarding on flights to safer locations: racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination, literacy challenges, and emotional capacity. An individual’s transgender identity might also result in denial of travel.

Scrutiny at airports is notably higher for individuals of color, as outlined in our data. People of color supported by RAINBOW RAILROAD often encounter doubt and suspicion about their travel intentions from state officials and airline agents. It is also common in MENA and South Asian countries to be denied access to board a plane due to religious discrimination. Cisgender or gender non-conforming men are more likely to report this specific form of discrimination to Rainbow Railroad.

By contrast, we observe fewer trips failing due to racial or religious discrimination for individuals from Eastern Europe.

In addition, many of the individuals we support are people who have not had access to education or who may only speak one language. These factors severely limit their ability to navigate a complex international travel system. Far too often, the individuals we seek to help are unable to communicate with airline personnel, the police or immigration officers, resulting in being denied boarding.

For individuals seeking assistance from Rainbow Railroad, the simple act of navigating through the travel process can further exacerbate the emotional trauma the individual is experiencing, or create new trauma as a result of confronting hostile authorities in a bureaucratic system.

Prior to traveling, individuals must go through a rigorous process of preparation to ensure they have all of the information they need to safely navigate the complex systems necessary to seek safety. Individuals must also be emotionally prepared for the inherent risk associated with making this journey. This represents a significant barrier to the success of travel in far too many cases.

CASE STUDY: WHY IS THIS BEING LEFT TO AIRLINES?

Airlines have been used to outsource border control for years. Airline staff are permitted to decide in minutes whether someone is properly documented to board a plane or if they seem suspicious of claiming asylum during the trip. Airlines who do not follow this protocol can incur fines of up to €5,000 and the cost of the passenger’s return trip.52 53 Established by the EU directive Carrier Sanctions Directive 2001/51/EC,54 European states introduced these fines in the 1980’s, followed by the US and Canada. According to Amnesty International, “carrier liability laws are being applied in a manner which obstructs people at risk of serious human rights violations from fleeing to safety.”55

Our own data suggests large airlines are using thorough screening procedures to deny passengers boarding, claiming they need a visa to transit through certain countries (even when visa-free travel is actually legal), that the country is not open for tourism (even though it is open and other passengers are being allowed to board as tourists), or that they called the transit country (usually in Europe) and confirmed the passenger should be denied boarding.

The privatization of border control through airline staff has made it harder to establish new travel routes to safety.

The vast majority of individuals who experience a case of failed travel in their first attempt will succeed in subsequent attempts. Whenever possible, we will mobilize resources to re-attempt travel and ensure that individuals are able to reach safety.

RUSSIA
21% CASES FAILED.

TUNISIA
18% CASES FAILED.

JAMAICA
17% CASES FAILED.

OTHER COUNTRIES WITH TRAVEL FAILURES:
EGYPT, UGANDA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, INDIA, KENYA

53 These amounts are based on estimates as both airlines and government bodies are reluctant to release this information.

In 2021, there was a 57% increase in requests from Nigerians compared to 2020. One of the reasons there are very limited opportunities for LGBTQI+ Nigerian asylum seekers is because Nigerian nationals are unable to travel through many countries in Europe without a visa. Through targeted funding in 2021, we invested in 3 Nigerian organizations, providing an alternative mechanism for safety - directly impacting the lives of 42 LGBTQI+ people in the country. These organizations are:

- **Mobile Foundation for Health Security & Rehabilitation (MHSR)** is a youth-led Initiative that focuses on Mobile Health Services, Sexual Health Education, Research, and Development. Our funding supported their safehouse for young LGBTQI+ people.
- **International Centre for Advocacy on Right to Health (CARH)** is an independent initiative contributing to policy issues affecting the rights of LGBTQI+ persons through targeted advocacy. Our funding helped provide emergency shelter and basic needs support for LGBTQI+ individuals.
- **Equality Triangle for Health and Peoples Development Initiative (Equality Triangle)** is a human rights and health advocacy organization for LGBTQI+ Nigerians. Our funding supported a safehouse and relocation expenses for LGBTQI+ persons feeling violence and persecution.

Where limited options for evacuation exist, we use one of its other five primary mechanisms of support to provide life-saving and supplementary assistance - while we continue to advocate for better pathways for LGBTQI+ migrants.

These include the countries of nationality and countries of origin which have the highest number of individuals who reached out for help and to whom, in the vast majority of cases, we were unable to provide Emergency Travel Support (ETS) due to legal restrictions or lack of routes to safety around the world.

In instances where individuals face failures to evacuate, systemic racial discrimination and ethnic profiling have resulted in countries where individuals experiencing persecution. In addition, many of these countries lack broad institutional presence from bodies such as the UNHCR, making refugee processing difficult.

For example, in 2021, Pakistan alone composed 47% of the requests for help which case workers identified had very limited options for travel. In addition, refugees from Syria, Iran and Iraq continue to await resettlement in Turkey, which has become increasingly hostile towards LGBTQI+ persons. When examined against our requests all-time, the top 10 countries with the highest disparities between the number of requests received from individuals with that nationality, and the number of individuals we have been able to provide evacuation assistance to are:

1. **ALGERIA**
2. **INDIA**
3. **SAUDI ARABIA**
4. **SOMALIA**
5. **LEBANON**
6. **PAKISTAN**
7. **NIGERIA**
8. **SYRIA**
9. **MOROCCO**
10. **TURKEY**
8. LGBTQI+ PERSONS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE BROADER FORCES OF DISPLACEMENT

LGBTQI+ PEOPLE ARE UNIQUELY VULNERABLE TO THE LARGER FORCES OF DISPLACEMENT AND REQUIRE STRENGTHENED ACCESS TO PROTECTION.

While targeted persecution continues to displace LGBTQI+ individuals, they are also disproportionately exposed to broader causes of displacement including generalized conflict, destabilization, and natural hazards. Research further suggests that LGBTQI+ individuals and communities are more significantly affected by climate change, in part because adverse weather events tend to most impact those who are already socially and economically marginalized. As geopolitical and environmental crises have accelerated over the past year, LGBTQI+ persons with pre-existing social and economic vulnerabilities have been forced to flee their homes at alarming rates. For too many, they are not able to cross borders to safety, and remain internally displaced with little access to support mechanisms or refugee protections. LGBTQI+ refugees fleeing armed or geopolitical conflict often face reduced access to protection, legal status, and pathways to safety provided by humanitarian organizations or institutions. This is in part because of harassment in waiting areas, prejudice among case workers, uninformed interpreters and asylum adjudicators, physical confinement by families, and a lack of resettlement opportunities. Geopolitical crises expose the tenacity of the protective networks available to LGBTQI+ people in these situations. Neutral, and even supportive relatives, or neighbors, or communities can become active agents of persecution as broader sociopolitical upheaval amplifies pre-existing prejudice and dismantles the social networks that provide LGBTQI+ people with vital protection in peacetime. In cases where people are displaced, the same factors that propel LGBTQI+ people to flee in the first place put them at continued risk of violence, exclusion, and exploitation. While most refugees rely on family support as a key self-protection mechanism, for LGBTQI+ refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), relatives and compatriots are often a significant source of abuse. This is exacerbated by the fact that LGBTQI+ people in camps or detention facilities frequently face stigmatization and violence by other displaced persons as a result of pre-existing prejudices.

Climate change and natural hazard-induced displacement produce severe consequences for LGBTQI+ people. In 2020, three times as many people were displaced by climate change-related events than by conflict or violence, with countries in the Global South bearing a significant burden of such displacement. In 2021, Afghanistan saw 50% of its food supply rendered insecure by a severe drought, while certain regions of Pakistan experienced extreme heatwaves. At the same time, flooding in South Sudan and Somalia displaced over 900,000 people. Evidence from the 2020 Haitian earthquake suggests that LGBTQI+ people were denied access to emergency shelter and disaster relief assistance, mirroring similar data from natural disasters elsewhere. LGBTQI+ people might even be directly blamed for natural disasters by religious and community leaders and deliberately excluded from humanitarian assistance. With climate change expected to displace 1.2 billion people globally by 2050, the effects will remain unevenly distributed, with Pakistan, Ethiopia, Iran, and Haiti expected to be most impacted. Given the fragility of LGBTQI+ rights in regions disproportionately impacted by conflict and climate change, enhancing basic access to humanitarian assistance and pathways to safety for the most at-risk LGBTQI+ persons in conflict or disaster-prone environments will remain critical priorities in the coming years. This phenomenon means that we will likely only see a further increase for our request for help, which will make vulnerability assessments more challenging.

CASE STUDY: AFGHANISTAN

The aftermath of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in the summer of 2021 is a striking example of the consequences of political destabilisation for at-risk LGBTQI+ persons, with RAINBOW RAILROAD receiving a staggering increase in requests for help from LGBTQI+ Afghans between the first and second halves of 2021. While Afghanistan’s 2018 Penal Code already criminalized same-sex intimacy, Rainbow Railroad and Human Rights Watch documented a significant uptick in anti-LGBTQI+ attacks, sexual assaults, and threats of violence following the regime change. LGBTQI+ Afghans from our caseload have also reported being targeted by family members, neighbors, and romantic partners who now support the Taliban or believed they had to take action against LGBTQI+ friends and family to ensure their own safety.

Afghan refugees who escaped to Pakistan, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and other surrounding countries face compounded risks of violence hiding in countries that criminalize same-sex intimacy to varying degrees. Nearly one in five requests for help from LGBTQI+ Afghans in the second half of 2021 came from those who had already left Afghanistan. Refugees supported by Rainbow Railroad in countries neighboring Afghanistan often remain confined to safe houses, unable to move freely without risking abuse, violence, or arrest by state and non-state actors.

CASE STUDY: THE REALITY FOR LGBTQI+ AFGHANS - QUOTES FROM OUR REQUESTS FOR HELP

“When Taliban came over, I moved because people knew that I am gay, and many religious people knew about me, and I got scared that these people would tell (the) Taliban.”

“I am an Afghan gay man who recently came to Canada. In Afghanistan I could not study, work, be free, I can not dress as I like, because I am a gay man. The people do not accept (the LGBTQI+ community) and want to kill us. I was beaten twice by the Taliban because I act like a girl.”

“I was again at home and tortured for not working [like] normal people because for a person like me there is zero chances of employment in a conservative city like Peshawar. My family did not allow me to work in any other city.”

“The Taliban have some secret people in the village and school. They [asked] about me because people talk and they know about me. I live in a small village and people see me and make fun of me. They [tried to investigate] me but I was in hiding.”
In a time when there are more displaced people than ever before… LGBTQI+ people are uniquely vulnerable due to systemic, state-enabled homophobia and transphobia. These factors either displace them in their own country or prevent them from escaping harm.

As a result of Rainbow Railroad… More LGBTQI+ individuals will be able to access lives free from persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or self-expression. A key part of this involves providing multiple pathways to safety for LGBTQI+ migrants.
STORY #1: PROTECTING HER FAMILY - AMINA’S STORY:

Amina is a young, lesbian human rights defender from Kabul. Her name has been changed to protect her identity.

Since childhood, Amina had always wanted to dress in boys’ clothes and play with friends who were mostly boys. Hey neighbors, friends, relatives and even my parents couldn’t figure out what was wrong. When she sneaked out dressed as she wanted to, those who saw her called her “whore” and “infidel.” She was ostracized by school classmates, and when she could not follow the dress code imposed by the school, she was expelled. Her family also endured harsh treatment. Her parents were excluded from their extended families, and her father even lost his business because his business partner criticized how he raised his children.

When Amina was 16, she attempted suicide. When Amina’s parents found out, they tried to protect her - and expressed their unconditional love. Amina counts herself lucky. Many LGBTQI+ Afghans do not get to feel this way.

With their help, Amina got into university, and was one of the few girls who was admitted to the school of medicine. With their help, Amina got into university, and was one of the few girls who was admitted to the school of medicine. With their help, Amina got into university, and was one of the few girls who was admitted to the school of medicine.

Amina helped to organize social activities, games, and meet-ups, where the community discussed resilience, supported each other, and built friendships. For 4 years, Amina helped to build a strong network of support. But in August 2021, the Taliban took over.

Because of her leadership in LGBTQI+ groups at university, the Taliban hunted Amina. She had to hide in safe houses and, every few days, change location. That’s when she reached out to us for help.

We acted quickly to help rescue her and many of her friends. Amina fled Kabul, and hid in neighboring countries for over two months - all while being supported in safe houses by Rainbow Railroad.

With our assistance, Amina fled to the United Kingdom, where she and many of her friends now live freely - but they are also still together, sharing their new lives. We assessed both Mohammed and Omar’s cases and determined that both needed urgent intervention to get to safety. With our support, Mohammed and Omar, still unknown to each other, separately found shelter while they waited for border restrictions to lift.

There was one problem - the journey to safety was complicated and difficult, and Mohammed did not speak English. But Omar did.

Two months before they were scheduled to escape to safety, we paired Omar and Mohammed together to help ensure their journey was a success. The two agreed that they’d feel more comfortable if they weren’t traveling alone.

But what happened next was something we didn’t anticipate - on their journey to freedom, Mohammed and Omar found love. Thanks to this beautiful connection, not only did Mohammed and Omar escape to the safety of a Western European Country where they’re living freely, but they are also still together, sharing their new lives.

“We are so glad to have each other and glad that we have a new chance to live without fear,” said Omar.

“Afet I felt the pleasure of freedom, I no longer wanted anything from the world,” agreed Mohammed.

STORY #2: THE PLEASURE OF FREEDOM - MOHAMMED & OMAR’S STORY:

Mohammed and Omar are a bisexual and gay Egyptian couple. Their names have been changed to protect their identities.

When Omar and Mohammed first met, it was luck and convenience that brought them together.

Both from the Middle East and both raised in deeply religious families, Omar and Mohammed faced rejection from their families, and violence at the hands of the authorities in Egypt - leading them to reach out to us.

In Mohammed’s own words, describing his own family: “They did everything in their ability to destroy me. I was tied to a tree and whipped badly all over my body for days. They took all the money I made and kicked me out of the house and then they talked to a relative of ours who is a police officer who had me arrested. I was tortured in prison for 25 days.”

We assessed both Mohammed and Omar’s cases and determined that both needed urgent intervention to get to safety. With our support, Mohammed and Omar, still unknown to each other, separately found shelter while they waited for border restrictions to lift.

There was one problem - the journey to safety was complicated and difficult, and Mohammed did not speak English. But Omar did.

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But what happened next was something we didn’t anticipate - on their journey to freedom, Mohammed and Omar found love. Thanks to this beautiful connection, not only did Mohammed and Omar escape to the safety of a Western European Country where they’re living freely, but they are also still together, sharing their new lives.

“We are so glad to have each other and glad that we have a new chance to live without fear,” said Omar.

“Afet I felt the pleasure of freedom, I no longer wanted anything from the world,” agreed Mohammed.

STORY #3: “IN SPAIN, WE ARE FREE” - ALI & ISMA’S STORY

Ali and Isma are a gay Egyptian couple. Their names have been changed to protect their identities.

In Azerbaijan, LGBTI+ people report insults, beatings, and even raids at the hands of their communities, law enforcement and their families.

While same-sex intimacy is legal in Azerbaijan, social/cultural factors continue to drive discrimination and, far too often, persecution.

For Ali and Isma, evacuation was the only option.

“There are no laws protecting gay rights in our country,” says Ali, just 24 years old.

In Azerbaijan, Ali and Isma were evicted and lost their employment when their landlords and bosses discovered their sexual orientations and their relationship. They relied on the kindness of their friends, but had to move between homes, and sometimes slept outdoors, lacking access to basic amenities or the funds needed to keep them safe. Ali was even expelled from his university when he was outed.

In Azerbaijan, LGBTI+ people face discrimination and even unjust arrests at the hands of law enforcement. In situations where housing or employment are precarious, this kind of persecution is exacerbated.

“I always lived in fear that at any moment [the police] would come looking for me at my house because someone had betrayed me,” recalls Isma.

When Omar and Mohammed first met, it was luck and convenience that brought them together.

Both from the Middle East and both raised in deeply religious families, Omar and Mohammed faced rejection from their families, and violence at the hands of the authorities in Egypt - leading them to reach out to us.

In Mohammed’s own words, describing his own family: “They did everything in their ability to destroy me. I was tied to a tree and whipped badly all over my body for days. They took all the money I made and kicked me out of the house and then they talked to a relative of ours who is a police officer who had me arrested. I was tortured in prison for 25 days.”

Ali and Isma reached out to us just before the pandemic, when it came time for their mandatory military service. In Azerbaijan, military service is mandatory. Ali and Isma knew that the discrimination and persecution they experienced in their day-to-day lives would only be exacerbated in this context.

While travel and border restrictions prevented us from fully evacuating them until 2021, we provided Ali and Isma information and direct financial support until they were able to flee to Spain.

Their resettlement has been assisted by local organizations that support the LGBTI+ community and LGBTI+ newcomers. Ali and Isma were also able to meet refugees supported by Rainbow Railroad that had been in Spain for some time, who served as guides as they acclimatized to their new home. They’re finally beginning to settle in.

“Here we celebrate for the first time the first Pride of our life. We have friends. We are free.”
IV: Our Advocacy

Rainbow Railroad has worked as a leader in supporting LGBTQI+ persons experiencing forced displacement for over 15 years. Through this experience, it has become clear that establishing direct resettlement referral partnerships with safer states for LGBTQI+ persons would be transformative for our work. In recent years, we have engaged multiple governments of safer states. We continue to push governments to prioritize the needs of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by establishing a direct referral partnership with us to identify and reach this particularly vulnerable population.

We focus on the needs of forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons experiencing persecution at every stage of their refugee journey. Where legal protections for LGBTQI+ people do not exist, and where countries actively persecute the community, people face unimaginable human rights violations including killings, torture, arbitrary detention and widespread discrimination. In recent years, we have seen an unsettling number of state-sponsored crackdowns, specifically targeting larger groups of LGBTQI+ persons and their allies. In these cases, human rights defenders and grassroots organizations are lifelines to individuals at risk, and in so doing, often become victims of violence themselves. The result is an environment where the only option is to evacuate.

When LGBTQI+ people do flee across borders to neighboring countries, refugee camps are often dangerous places for them. For example, many LGBTQI+ Ugandans seek safety in Kenya in places such as the Kakuma Refugee camp. As detailed in our co-authored report on “The Challenges Facing LGBTQI+ Refugees In Kenya,” LGBTQI+ displaced persons at Kakuma face food shortages, flooding, unsanitary and inadequate shelter and facilities, violence and threats of violence from others within the camp and from the surrounding area, few options to gain a livelihood, and the ongoing denial of their human rights to express their authentic gender identity and/or sexual orientation. LGBTQI+ asylum seekers can be barred from gaining refugee status determination, and state and civil society organizations that support refugees in these countries are often unresponsive or actively hostile to LGBTQI+ refugees.

While some people are able to flee, many factors prevent persecuted LGBTQI+ people from even escaping their country, leaving them internally displaced. Notably the same health and welfare and security forces of displacement identified in Section 1 are the very same limitations that make international travel particularly difficult for LGBTQI+ asylum seekers.

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71 Read our report on three steps the Canadian government can take to provide more pathways to safety for LGBTQI+ Refugees here.
72 Read Rainbow Railroad’s Kakuma report in partnership with the Organization for Refugee, Asylum & Migration (ORAM) here.
Many LGBTQI+ people cannot turn to family for practical assistance, and lesbians and trans people may not be allowed to leave their homes without the support of male relatives. LGBTQI+ asylum seekers are systematically excluded from the labor market, severely limiting their ability to cover travel costs associated with escape. Trans women face a disproportionate risk of entrapment into sex trafficking. These individuals may face surveillance and threats from gangs, making the prospect of escape extremely difficult. In addition, trans people are also often unable to access travel documents that align with their gender, and trans, gender diverse and intersex people face heightened scrutiny at borders. Bisexual persons are often forced to conceal their identity in order to flee, and people who have family may be forced to flee without their children. These are just some of the reasons LGBTQI+ internally displaced persons are particularly failed by the existing refugee protection apparatus. ¹³

In short, if protection policies are to reach the most vulnerable persons, Rainbow Railroad must be empowered to refer cases to governments. In 2021 our work with the Government of Canada evolved in two ways:

1) Establishing a refugee stream for human rights defenders (HRDs) with LGBTQI+ persons as a named priority group. In 2021, we provided concrete policy recommendations in our report Partnering with Rainbow Railroad: Three Aims of the Next Government of Canada and

2) Partnering with the Government of Canada and Equitas on the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF). Through this program we are working with six of our partners across two regions, Central South America and Sub-Saharan Africa, to help build local LGBTQI+ advocacy and asylum seeker support capacity, and develop alternative pathways to resettlement that do not rely on North American and European governments.

We have also deepened our engagement with the United States government. As referenced in this report, sweeping pandemic-era border restrictions, more commonly known as Title 42¹⁴ saw significant harms for asylum seekers attempting to cross into the United States. Implemented in March 2020 due to escalating concerns about COVID-19, the public health order was used to limit asylum seekers from entering the United States over health concerns. Although initially enforced under the Trump administration, the Biden administration has largely maintained the policy despite criticisms from immigrant advocates. We have strongly condemned this policy since its implementation, including in panel conversations with international partners in March and June of 2021. We continue to work with Ali Otro Lado, a bi-national advocacy and legal aid organization serving LGBTQI+ migrants, refugees and deportees in the United States and Mexico. We continue to support efforts to repeal Title 42.

Rainbow Railroad has also made policy recommendations to the U.S. Government with the release of Partnering with Rainbow Railroad: Three recommendations for U.S. Policy-makers.

Full implementation of the recommendations outlined in this document would represent major strides in the Biden Administration’s memorandum on advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons from around the world. The implementation of a direct referral partnership between the US State Department and Rainbow Railroad would allow us to get more LGBTQI+ asylum seekers to safety in the United States.

We have also taken on leadership roles in advocating for LGBTQI+ persons at the United Nations and other international fora. In June 2021, UNHCR and the Mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on SOGIE co-convened the 2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for LGBTQI+ Persons in Forced Displacement.¹⁵ The event had cross-sector attendance from 650 participants and, in addition to opening and closing plenaries, included 13 working roundtable discussions. We led, moderated, and organized a number of these roundtables.

Rainbow Railroad was the lead international partner and curator at the Copenhagen 2021 Human Rights Forum, a three-day Human Rights Conference on global LGBTQI+ rights that brought together over 1,000 human rights defenders and activists.¹⁶ We advocated for the needs of forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ people, and co-organized and moderated the plenary session “The Landscape for LGBTI+ Refugees and Forced Migration - Global Issues and Solutions.” This is part of our role as a leading organization in the international movement for LGBTQI+ equality and we are board members of the the Commonwealth Equality Network, the Dignity Network and the Canadian Rainbow Coalition for Refuge. We collaborate on an ongoing basis with multiple international organizations including the Equal Rights Coalition, the Council for Global Equality, Outright Action International, Human Rights Campaign, Stonewall UK and the Amsterdam Network.

This year, we will receive 10,000 requests for help from LGBTQI+ people all over the world, and the only way to reach them is to partner with governments directly. We operate through global partnership networks that provide ongoing monitoring in crisis-prone environments, and create pathways to safety when they occur. We will continue to advocate for the fact that direct referral partnerships with Rainbow Railroad are the best way to reach LGBTQI+ asylum seekers with the most urgent protection needs.

¹³ Read Rainbow Railroad’s report on The Impact of COVID-19 on Displaced LGBTQI+ Persons here


¹⁶ Copenhagen 2021, The Copenhagen 2021 Human Rights Forum was an international LGBTI+ experience consisting of multiple high-level events and a broader program open to the public (nd), https://copenhagen2021.com/human-rights
**CANADA**

### $250,000+
- Salpam Investments (Arizona) Inc.
- The Lawrence Schafer Foundation

### $100,000-$249,999
- GiveOut
- La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso
- Labatt
- Regnbågsfonden
- Scotiabank
- TD Bank Group
- Anonymous

### $50,000-$99,999
- Air Canada
- Capital One
- DECIEM Inc.
- Dick Foundation
- Economical Insurance & Employees *
- Andrew Gillespie
- Krista Hill
- Donald F. Hunter Charitable Foundation
- John Fluevog Boots and Shoes Ltd
- Kraft Heinz Canada
- Bruce Lawson
- Love Good Fats
- William MacKinnon
- Minden Pride *
- PlayDate & Tiffany Boxx
- Scott Powell & Kirk Hill Foundation
- Mark Pratt
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Shreya Shah
- Melanie & Dr. Eric Semlacher
- Andrew Swart & Michael Sacke
- TELUS & Employees *
- TouchBistro Inc.
- Traction on Demand
- WES Mariam Assefa Fund
- George Yabu & Glenn Pushelberg

### $25,000-$49,999
- Andrew Beckerman
- Corby Spirit and Wine
- Gore Mutual Insurance Company
- The Employees of HOOPP
- Hudson’s Bay Company
- John King
- Jeffry Myers
- Ross Slater & Wayne Smith, Reach Capabilities Inc
- Steven Spencer
- Anonymous

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* includes fundraised amounts  † includes in-kind support
### USA

#### $100,000-$249,999
- The Harry Halvorssen Fund
- The Points Guy *

#### $50,000-$99,999
- Chicago 5 Lives *

#### $25,000-$49,999
- Andrew Beckerman
- Boucher Charitable Gift Fund
- Chegg, Inc. & Employees *
- GLBT Fund of America
- Liz & Eric Lefkofsky
- OutRight Action International
- Qatalyst Partners
- Martin K. Smith

### USD

#### $10,000-$24,999
- ARVD Foundation
- Blaseball Cares *
- Everyman Jack
- Adam Todd Feild & Erik Torkells
- HBO
- Mark Heumann and John Millea
- Jonaf C. Houts Family Fund
- Howmet Aerospace Foundation
- Instacart & Employees *
- Albert Lepage
- Reginald Lewis
- Daniel Mallory
- A. Jackson Neighbor Foundation
- Others First
- Ida Ovies
- The Fotos Pantazis Fund
- Clark Pellett and Robert Kohl
- Poly, Inc. & Employees *
- Eric Schuman
- Stollettsarar Giving Fund
- Stonewall Community Foundation
- Tommy Hillger
- Transamerica
- Jeremy Vogel
- Waukegan Friends of Rainbow Railroad
- Patrick L. Weber & Marti A.M. Morfitt

#### $5,000-$9,999
- Kalib Alexander
- Amazon Music
- Apple Inc. *
- Capital Group
- D Squared Gay Gents Fund of Horizons Foundation
- Fantastic Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- Jacqueline Foster
- Richard Gallagher
- Charles Garwood Jr. & Jason Mark Roberts
- Google LLC
- A.J. Golding
- Heather Hofs Porter
- Havas Chicago
- Hazanee & Friends *
- Jessica Ribston
- Maxine & Irving Castle Foundation
- Jake Rosen
- Timothy Kirch
- The Kelso Foundation
- Jonathan Katz & James Kuurncher
- Joyface
- Benjamin Manwaring & Daniel Fox
- Microsoft Corporation & Employees *
- Pascal Milkare & Justin Hilton
- Vivek Mistry
- Nader Moussiezadeh
- George Rogers
- Maureen Rosen & Friends *
- Salesforce
- The SohaPride & Ally Community at Snap Inc.
- Kevin Stein
- Frederick Tran & Friends *
- United Airlines, Inc. *
- Whipple-Buccola Giving Fund
- FI Zal
- Anonymous (2)

#### $1,000-$4,999
- Acerangendregid & Friends
- Ada Support Inc.
- ADP Corporate Services
- Jay Allen
- Timothy Allen
- Lisa Archer & Robert Polit
- Lisa Armentrout
- Jesse Audet
- Autodesk, Inc. & Employees *
- Donald Bucyurul & Son Feeder
- Mike Buban
- Richard Ballard & Alexandra Dove Family Fund
- Matthew Baybutt
- Lucie Barnes
- Richard Barry
- Victor Burea
- Mikel Ann Buzau
- James Beach
- Beyond Giving & Employees *
- David Blatt & David Moore
- John Bowes
- Fred Boe
- Elizabeth Bowles
- Lindsay Boyajian
- Nick Brae&on & Jason Kodima
- Thurstm Bratlyk Peace and Love Fund
- Barry Branden & Friends *
- Douglas Braun-Haney
- Joseph Brell
- Stephen Brocelman
- Christopher Brown
- Russell Budhler
- Caleb Burson
- Jess Caghe
- Matthew Caldwell
- Ben Casy & Friends *
- Anthony Carter & Kris Willey
- Cassian Catanares
- CB Fug & Friends *
- Lukas Cohn
- Cel closeModal & Friends *
- Steve Chadma
- Hard & Jason Chan
- Ivan Cheung
- Laura Cherry
- David Chikoski
- Howard Clauer
- Anthony Clough
- Martin Cohen
- The Stephen Colbert Americone Dream Fund
- Mark Cudlaere
- Kazia Colnicz
- Concentric Health Experience & Friends *
- Daniel Conway
- Morgan Conway
- Morgan Cxz
- Michael Dale
- Katherine Dent
- David Dritsh
- The Doyle Dripping & Jim Coalley Fund
- Martin Duberman

* Includes fundraised amounts
† Includes in-kind support
USA
Ebx_erin & Friends *
Steven Eisenman
Elder California Foundation
Thea Elf
Aladarai Fawng
Marc Fajer
FaunaLoviesGames & Friends*
Feed Communications Ltd
Feldenkrais Festival
David Fernandes
Fix Software
Lawrence Flamholtz
Holly Flows
Morgan Fong
Louis Fenni-Lee
Jasmine Fiedrich
Pierre Frinault
Dennis Frisman
Fronds & Friends *
Jeaniene Frost
Kenneth & Sue Fuirst
Sid Gajjar
Paul Gaskill
Genentech, Inc. & Employees *
Golden Creative, LLC
John Goodman
Genietech, Inc. & Employees *
Golden Creative, LLC
Goodfields & Friends *
Goss Family Charitable Fund
Hollis Granato
Denise Grech
Howard Hahn
Hannon Armstrong & Employees *
Harbor Capital Advisors, Inc.
Karen Haycock
Allan Heineberg
The HER App T
Teranis Harris
Heydestineerea & Friends *
Brent Holman-Gomez
Michael Horvat
Michael Horvich
Eric Hsu & James Chambers Charitable Fund
Michael Kinsley
Kiva Microfunds
Open Pride *
Orix Foundation
John Josephson
Alison N. Owen Craig M. Ohner Family Charitable Fund
Dream Pallet
Paul Pons
Paw for a Cause & Friends*
Pegasystems Inc.
Ralph Pollock
James Pollet
Pfizer Inc.
Puddle & Friends *
Remit Platen
Steven Randolph
Raymond Rodriguez
Drew Reed
John Reed
Jonathan Reel
Reisa/Keung Family Fund
Dar Roberts
Matthew Roberts
Alan R. Rosenfeld
Samuel Roseenthal
Rupakula-Soward Fund
Marc Sanchez
Norman L. Sandfield Charitable Fund
Donald Schenq
Candice Schmitt
Charles & Ria Schutz
Jared Schwartz
Mark Schnellbacher
Scott Family Foundation
Tim Shee
Shirt Killer LLC
David Shull
Meggin Simon
David Skeist
Brandon Smith
Jeremy Smith & Family Fund
SoftBank
Kevin Sottak & Debrah Peyton-Sottak
Krystal Jay Snows
Swagbox & Friends *
Frank Stark
Jon Taylor Stein
John Steffens
Carl H. Stahl
Stockman Family Fund
Eric & Emily Strong
Sean Strub & Rainer Morales
Emily Su
Dave Thorpe
Roger Thrain
I'Mobile
Joe Torres, Jr.
TunedIn & Friends *
Robert Urich
UniMax Solutions Inc. & Employees *
Kerissa Van Baalen
Jerry Van den Bent
Paul T. Vosley & Vincent C. Dilseno Foundation
Amber Vlajcaky
Kelly Yoe
Andrew Wachtsteigel
Miles Walker
Samuel Wallace
Ray Wallack
Timothy Warmuth
Michael Wassenman
Doug Watkins & Friends *
Mark Webster
Michelle Welch
Hanan Widen
Jesse Williamson
Erie Wolfe
Christopher Wolz
Christian Yoder & Jonathan Miller
Monte Young
Len Zimmerman
David Zuckerman Family Trust Gift Fund
Anonymous (2)
USA
Elba_zen & Friends *
Steven Eisenman
Elder California Foundation
Thea Elf
Aladarai Fawng
Marc Fajer
FaunaLoviesGames & Friends*
Feed Communications Ltd
Feldenkrais Festival
David Fernandes
Fix Software
Lawrence Flamholtz
Holly Flows
Morgan Fong
Louis Fenni-Lee
Jasmine Fiedrich
Pierre Frinault
Dennis Frisman
Fronds & Friends *
Jeaniene Frost
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Scott Family Foundation
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Shirt Killer LLC
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Eric & Emily Strong
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Joe Torres, Jr.
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UniMax Solutions Inc. & Employees *
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Ray Wallack
Timothy Warmuth
Michael Wassenman
Doug Watkins & Friends *
Mark Webster
Michelle Welch
Hanan Widen
Jesse Williamson
Erie Wolfe
Christopher Wolz
Christian Yoder & Jonathan Miller
Monte Young
Len Zimmerman
David Zuckerman Family Trust Gift Fund
Anonymous (2)
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & NET ASSETS - CANADA

DONATIONS: $4,637,588
FUNDRAISING EVENTS: $78,266
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE: $17,999
OTHER REVENUE: $32,840
TOTAL REVENUE: $4,766,693 CAD

PROGRAMS: $3,544,620
FUNDRAISING: $806,921
ADMINISTRATION: $306,399
TOTAL EXPENSES: $4,660,960 CAD
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES: $105,753 CAD
For the year ended December 31, 2021

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & NET ASSETS - USA

DONATIONS: $2,242,357
OTHER REVENUE: $34,701
TOTAL REVENUE: $2,277,058 USD

PROGRAMS: $1,762,276
FUNDRAISING: $97,083
ADMINISTRATION: $25,537
TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,884,896 USD
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES: $392,162 USD
For the year ended December 31, 2021
RAINBOW RAILROAD STAFF

Kimahli Powell, LL.D (Hons) - Executive Director
Dane Bland - Director of Development & Communications
Rafale Chouinard - Director of Administration & Human Resources
Timothy Hutten - Director of Operations
Devon Matthews - Director of Programs
Nishin Nathwani - Senior Advisor
Michael Anderson - Senior Development Officer
Sandi Baker - Senior Accountant
Kathryn Busch - Development Officer
Ella Ector - Executive Assistant
Joselynn Crosby - Program Officer
Adriana Espinosa - Program Officer
Scott Ferguson - Senior Development Officer
Jordan Harding - Finance Officer
Gareth Henry - Senior Program Officer
Abby Jackman - Program Officer
Michelle Jung - Office Administrator
Kevin Lemieux - Development Officer
Paige MacLean - Program Officer
Aabyaz Mustafa - Program Officer
Maicel Neema - Program Officer
Emma Reid - Communications Officer
Kiana Reyes - Case Worker
Pax Santos - Program Manager
Monique Sereneo - Program Officer
Brittany Skerritt - Development Officer
Milo Stewart - Program Officer
Curtis Wackett - Program Officer
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Team Glowing Hearts Team Indigo
Team Malaja
Team New Start

Team Rahim and Amir
Team Rainbow Routes
Team Sumayya
Team Three
Team Uhuru
Team Umoja
Team Welcome
Team York
Team YYZ
Team Z

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Isabelle Crew
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Sara Gold
Katelyn Gray
Sheela Gupta
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Fareen Kassam
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Rebeka Lauks
Rachel Levitsky
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Kes Posgate
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Rashim Sharma
Amanda Smith Hatt
Sathyia Thillainathan
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Adrienne Woodyard
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Andrew Gillespie
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Glad Day Bookshop
Gital Gosai
Peter Graham
Rafael Grosso Rios
Doug Haldeman
Michelle Hartlen
Mary Kate Heney
Clara Hill
Garry Ho
Rami Hosein
Larry Hughesan
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights Foundation
Human Rights Watch
ILGA World (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association)
Inside Out
Margaret James
Kevin Jennings & Jeff Davis
Tim Jones
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Mark Kelly & Winston Griffith
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