

UNDERSTANDING THE STATE OF GLOBAL LGBTQI+ PERSECUTION



RAINBOW
RAILROAD

2021 Annual Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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



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 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Understanding Our Perspective..... | 6 |
| Introduction to RAINBOW RAILROAD’s Work in 2021 | 8 |
| Update on The State of Global LGBTQI+ Persecution | 12 |
| The Continued Impact of COVID-19..... | 14 |
| Section I: | 16 |
| Understanding Forces of Displacement and How Rainbow Railroad Responds | |
| Section II: | 26 |
| Insights into Our Work | |
| Section III: | 38 |
| Our Impact | |
| Section IV: | 42 |
| Our Advocacy | |
| Section V: | 46 |
| Supporters & Financials | |

UNDERSTANDING OUR PERSPECTIVE

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.

RAINBOW RAILROAD'S WORK IN 2021

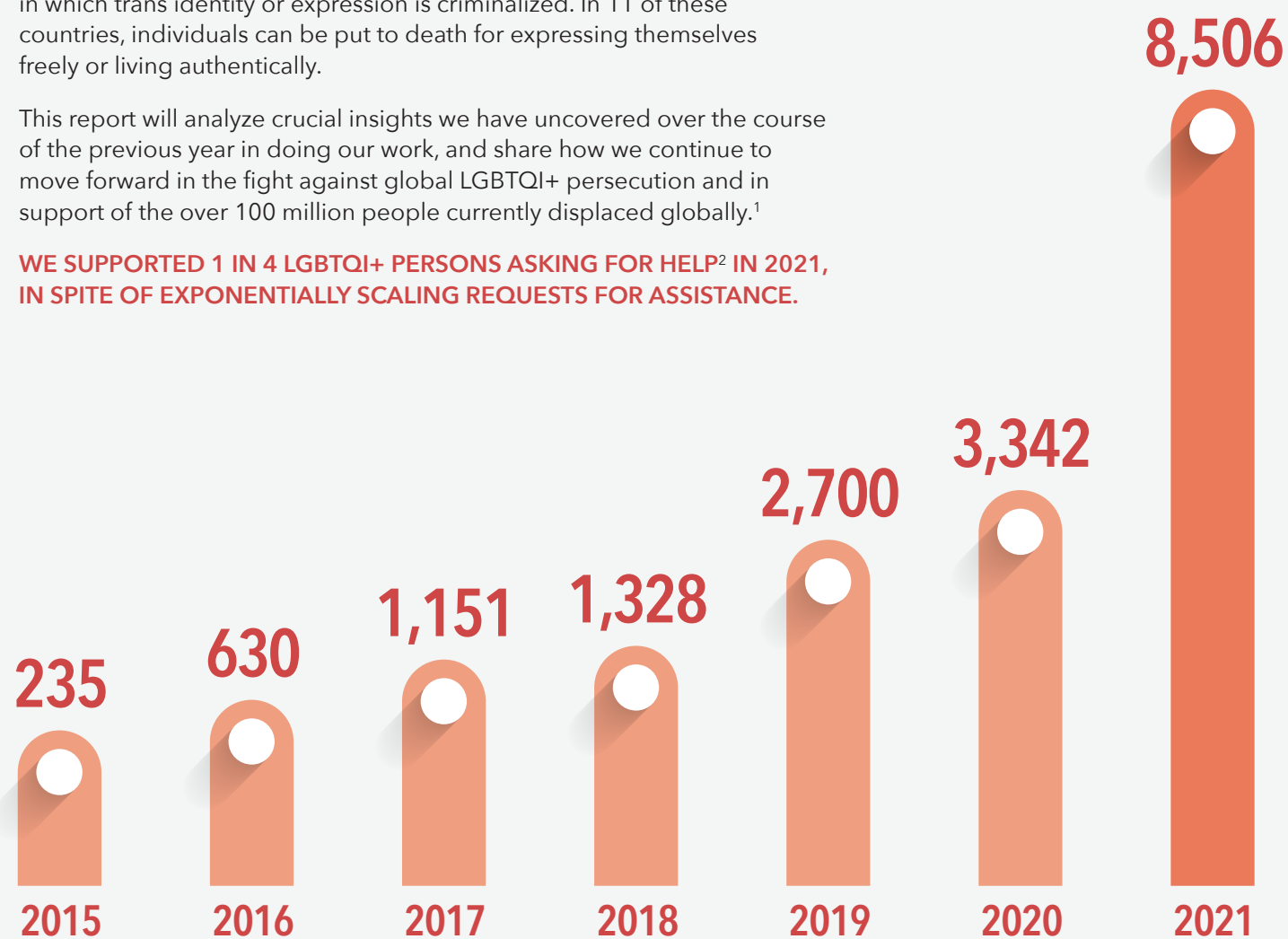
8,506 PEOPLE ASKED US FOR HELP IN 2021.

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.



¹ UNHCR, UNHCR: Ukraine, other conflicts push forcibly displaced total over 100 million for first time (2022), <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/5/628a389e4/unhcr-ukraine-other-conflicts-push-forcibly-displaced-total-100-million.html>

² Based on the verified LGBTQI+ status of 7,100 individuals.



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 IMMINENT 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.

PROGRAM TWO: DIRECT SUPPORT TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

This program allows us to collaborate with local human rights defenders (HRDs), activist networks, and organizations that are positioned to provide us with on-the-ground insights, verification, identification information and logistical support. Supporting these individuals and organizations builds the capacity of our partners, which contributes to the strength of the global LGBTQI+ rights movement. In 2021, we worked with over a dozen organizations from around the world.

THANKS TO OUR INVESTMENT IN GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND OUR WORK WITH THESE PARTNERS, 1,096 LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE THROUGH PROGRAM 2 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 transition 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 a safehouse were successfully integrated into the camp.

PROGRAM THREE: EMERGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO CRACKDOWNS ON LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

This program monitors for and responds to sudden state-sponsored persecution against LGBTQI+ individuals. Crisis situations may emerge in the midst of political instability, mass detentions and arrests of LGBTQI+ persons.

We monitor crisis-prone environments and create pathways to safety when they occur. Presently, we are monitoring anti-LGBTQI+ persecution in many countries – from the targeting of transgender persons in Ukraine to the crackdown on LGBTQI+ human rights defenders in Chad. In 2021, we tracked and responded to crises in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Chad and Afghanistan.

WE PROVIDED 314 LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS WITH SUPPORT THROUGH CRISIS SITUATIONS AND CRACKDOWNS IN 2021.

PROGRAM FOUR: RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TO PEOPLE AT IMMINENT RISK

This program provides essential resources, mental health support, and advice to LGBTQI+ people facing violence and persecution. Through this program, we are also able to refer individuals to other organizations best positioned to support their needs.

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 see no way out. With your support, I know I can manage.” – LGBTQI+ individual who received Program 4 Support.



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.

In these programs, we prioritize refugees with limited access to resettlement options such as trans individuals, and lesbian and bisexual women.

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



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.

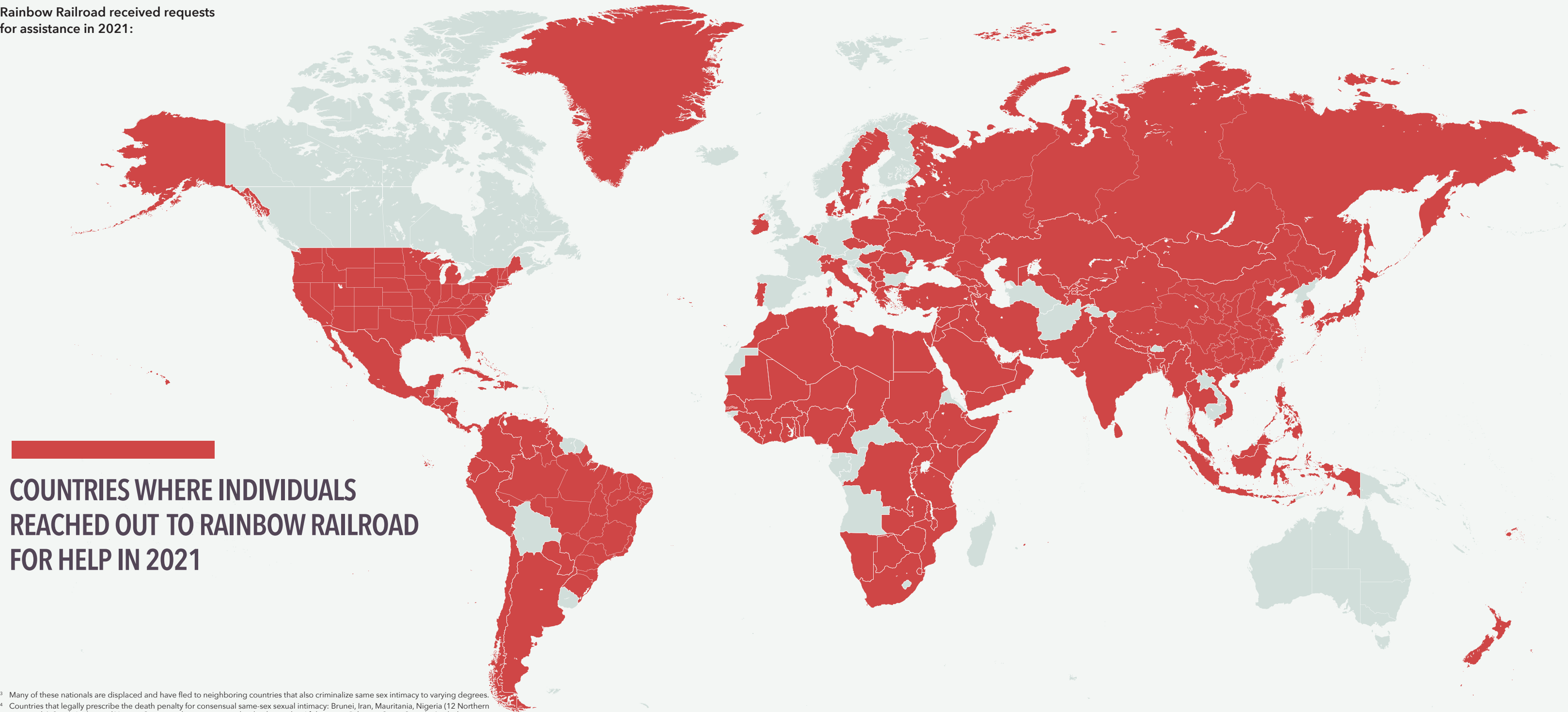
UPDATE ON THE STATE OF GLOBAL LGBTQI+ PERSECUTION

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.^{3,4} 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.

Pictured here are the countries from which Rainbow Railroad received requests for assistance in 2021:



COUNTRIES WHERE INDIVIDUALS REACHED OUT TO RAINBOW RAILROAD FOR HELP IN 2021

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

³ Many of these nationals are displaced and have fled to neighboring countries that also criminalize same sex intimacy to varying degrees.
⁴ 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.

THE CONTINUED IMPACT OF COVID-19

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-19.⁵ These challenges are compounded by pandemic mitigation efforts such as quarantines, shelter-in-place orders, travel bans, and closures of vital government, community and LGBTQI+-related services.⁶

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

Despite a lack of evidence proving their effectiveness,⁷ virtually all countries introduced travel restrictions to contain the virus.⁸ 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.⁹ 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.'¹¹ 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.¹²

Many of these restrictions persist and, in countries around the world, refugee processing backlogs have resulted 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.¹³ 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.^{14 15}

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.¹⁶

Xenophobic politicians and their supporters often blame refugees for the spread of infections to host communities. There have also been 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.¹⁷ Religious and political leaders from at least 12 different countries blamed the pandemic on the existence of LGBTQI+ persons and their allies.¹⁸ In some countries, police used COVID-19 directives to target LGBTQI+ organizations.¹⁹

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.

⁵ Clarke et al., Potential Impact of COVID-19 on Recently Resettled Refugee Populations in the United States and Canada: Perspectives of Refugee Healthcare Providers, Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-020-01104-4>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Edmonds and Flahault, Refugees in Canada during the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18030947>

⁸ In a few scarce cases, governments have enacted policy measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugee and migrant populations. Some examples include: Thailand offering free COVID-19 testing and treatment to refugees, the UK providing accommodation to thousands of rejected asylum seekers, and Portugal granting refugees temporary citizenship rights in order to gain access to healthcare services.

⁹ Crawley, The Politics of Refugee Protection in a (Post)COVID-19 World, Human Rights and Displaced People in Exceptional Times (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10030081>

¹⁰ Saifee et al., Refugee Health During COVID-19 and Future Pandemics, Current Tropical Medicine Reports (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40475-021-00245-2>

¹¹ CDC, Order Regarding the Right to Introduce Certain Persons from Countries Where a Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists, CDC (2022), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavi-rus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/Final-CDC-Order-Prohibiting-Introduction-of-Persons.pdf>

¹² Dearen and Burke, Pence ordered borders closed after CDC experts refused, Associated Press (2020), <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pandemics-public-health-new-york-health-4ef0c6c5263815a26f8aa17f6ea490ae>

¹³ OHCHR, Report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights of LGBT persons, OHCHR (2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SexualOrientationGender/Pages/COVID19Report.aspx/>

¹⁴ Edmonds and Flahault, Refugees in Canada during the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18030947>

¹⁵ Read more here: <https://www.unhcr.ca/news/joint-statement-unhcr-iom-vitorino-announce-resumption-resettlement-travel-refugees/>

¹⁶ Edmonds and Flahault, Refugees in Canada during the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18030947>

¹⁷ UNAIDS, UNAIDS and MPact are extremely concerned about reports that LGBTI people are being blamed and abused during the COVID-19 outbreak, UNAIDS (2020), https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2020/april/20200427_lgbti-covid

¹⁸ OHCHR, The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of LGBT Persons, UN General Assembly (2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/SexualOrientation/ImpactCOVID19LGBTpersons.pdf>

¹⁹ Jiménez, UN News, COVID-19: Rights experts highlight LGBTI discrimination, antisemitism (2020), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1062042>

I:

UNDERSTANDING FORCES OF DISPLACEMENT AND HOW RAINBOW RAILROAD RESPONDS

IN 2021
8,506
PEOPLE REQUESTED
OUR HELP.



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)²⁰, 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.

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 as a result of extreme homophobia and individuals being water locked from fleeing. **Rainbow Railroad**'s reputation is also firmly established 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. JAMAICA

3. UGANDA

4. SYRIA

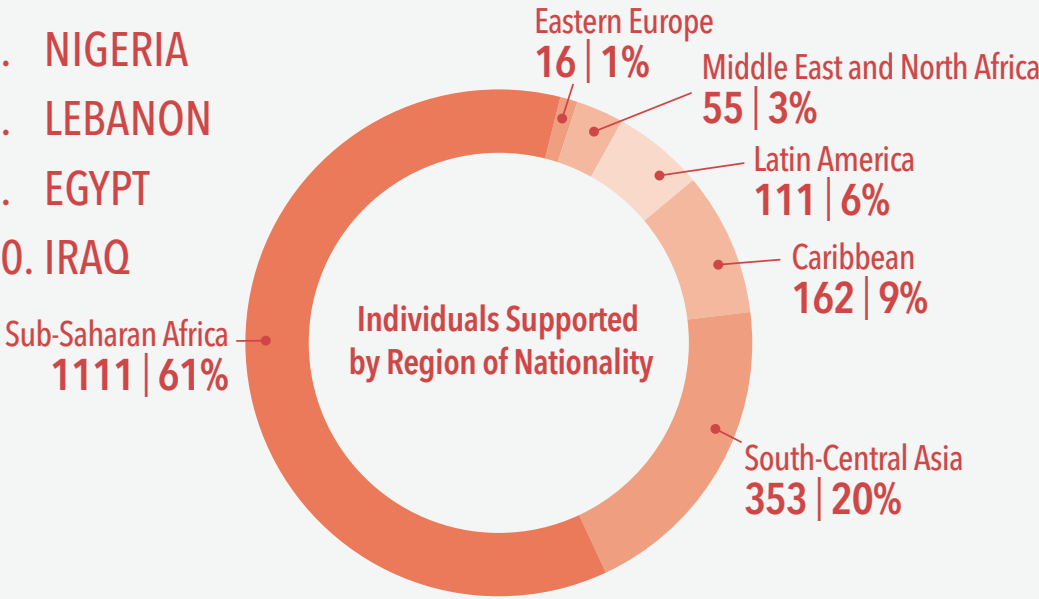
5. PAKISTAN
6. IRAN

7. NIGERIA

8. LEBANON

9. EGYPT

10. IRAQ



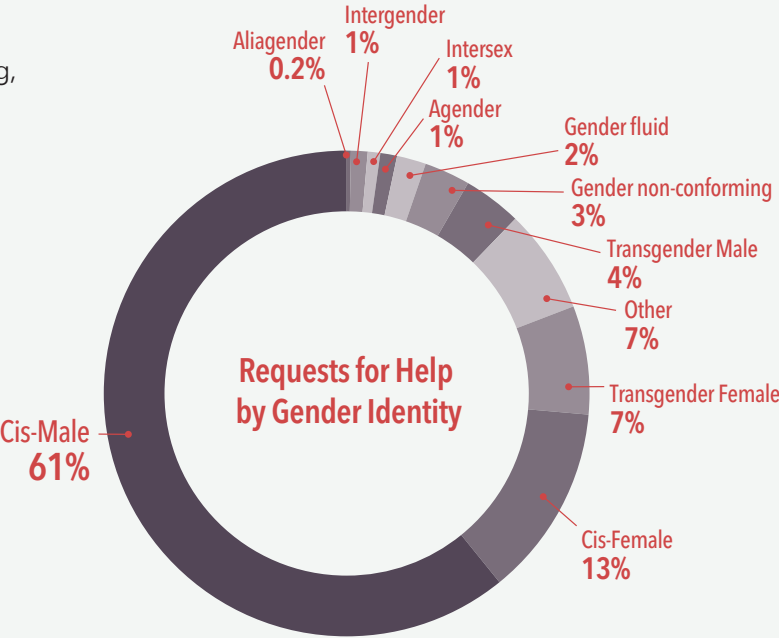
RAINBOW RAILROAD SUPPORTS INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE GENDER SPECTRUM

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.

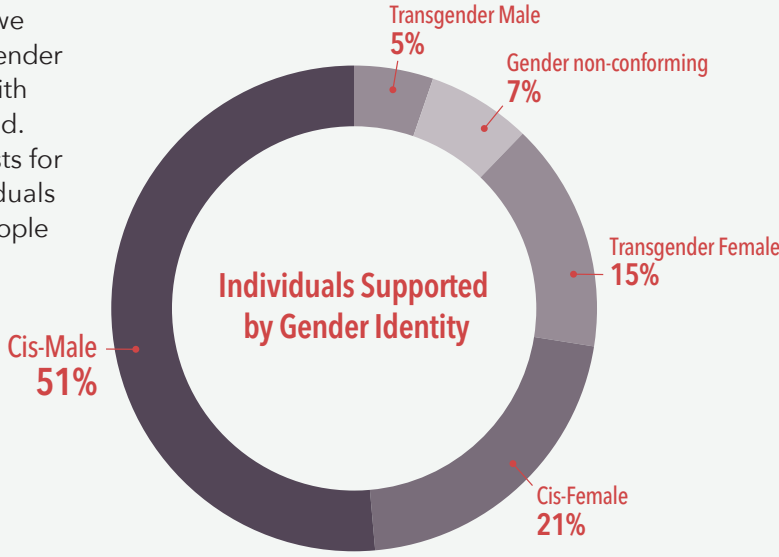
In 2021, the top three gender identities requesting help were cisgender men, cisgender women, and transgender women. Over 60% of all requests came from cisgender men, down from 70% in 2020. Cisgender and transgender women formed the second and third most requests at 13% and 7% respectively.

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.

We continue to see sociocultural and geopolitical barriers impact **RAINBOW RAILROAD**'s ability to provide direct assistance to individuals from across the gender spectrum. Intersecting forces of marginalization mean that our services are most accessible to cisgender gay men. One of the ways we are addressing this gap is through strategic investments across our programming priorities. In 2021, we made progress towards our [strategic priorities](#) to reach more women and trans people and this is reflected in our programmatic data surrounding the individuals we supported.



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.

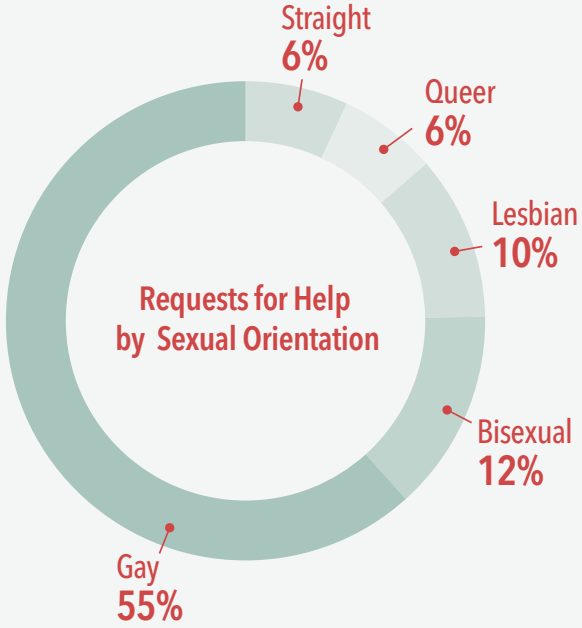


SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

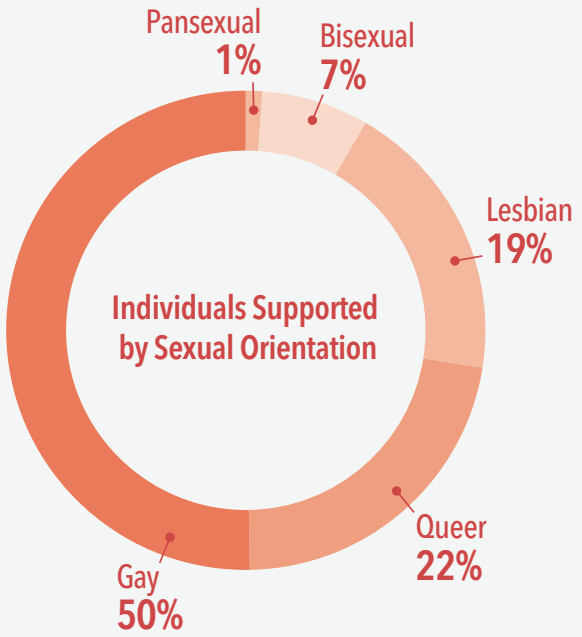
We also break down our data by sexual orientation as well as sex characteristics and capture the following sexual identities: Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Queer, Straight, Heterosexual, Pansexual, Asexual, and Intersex.

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.



²² In our case work, we often find that individuals may come to use different language and terminology overtime 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% 5= 109 | 2% 9= 15 | 1%
2= 722 | 14% 6= 54 | 1% 10= 51 | 1%
3= 152 | 3% 7= 57 | 1%
4= 108 | 2% 8= 27 | 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/Shot 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 2021.²³

TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE CONCERNS
REPORTED AMONG THOSE REQUESTING HELP: 1,504

TOTAL SAFETY CONCERNS
REPORTED AMONG THOSE REQUESTING HELP: 2,695

²³ For a variety of 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 in the middle of the most harrowing experiences of their life.

HEALTH AND WELFARE CONCERNS

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.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.²⁵

5 MOST REPORTED HEALTH AND WELFARE CONCERNS²⁶

RISK OF SUICIDE
45%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

LACK OF INCOME DUE TO COVID-19
27%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

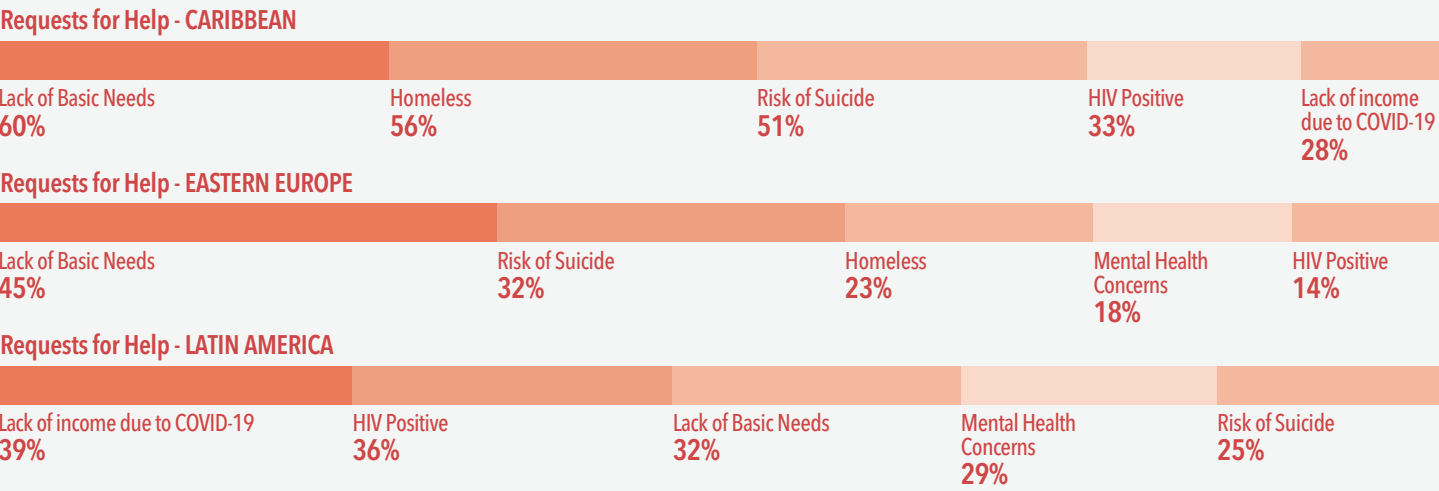
LACK OF BASIC NEEDS
33%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

HOMELESS
27%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

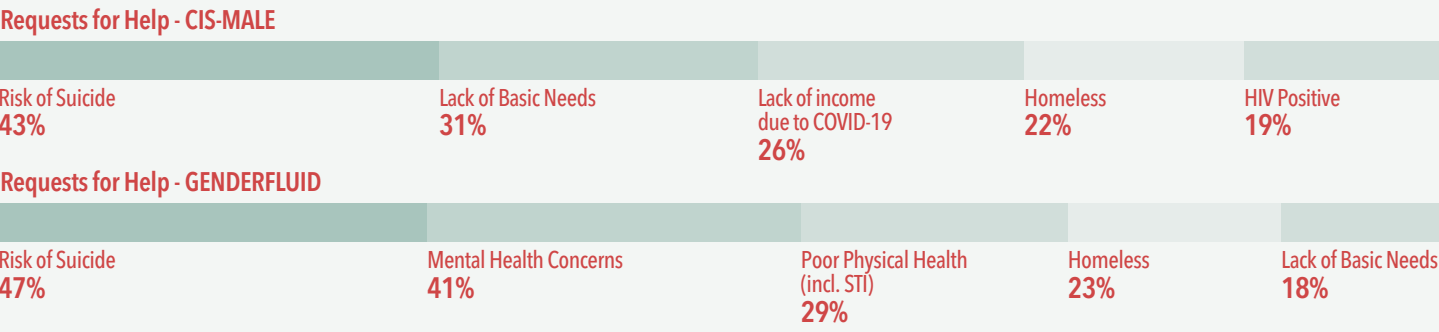
MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS
20%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

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.

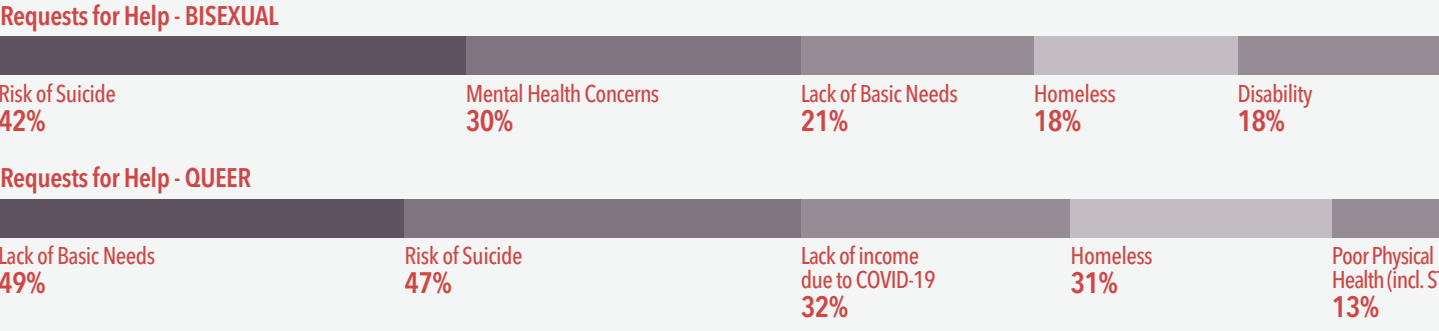
HEALTH & WELFARE CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY REGION



HEALTH & WELFARE CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY GENDER



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



²⁴ Of individuals who reported health and welfare concerns.
²⁵ This includes individuals who are: cisgender men, cisgender women, transgender men, transgender women, gender non-conforming and genderfluid. All other gender identities were excluded as they each formed less than 1% of all individuals reported health and welfare concerns.
²⁶ For a full list of health and welfare data disaggregated by region, gender identity, and sexuality please refer to Annex XX.

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 CONCERNS²⁷

**FAMILY-BASED
REJECTION**
56%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

**FAMILY-BASED
VIOLENCE**
30%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

**BEAT UP/SHOT AT/
CHOPPED**
39%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

**SEXUAL
VIOLENCE/CRIME**
15%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

**IN HIDING
DUE TO
CREDIBLE THREAT**
13%
(OF TOTAL CONCERNS)

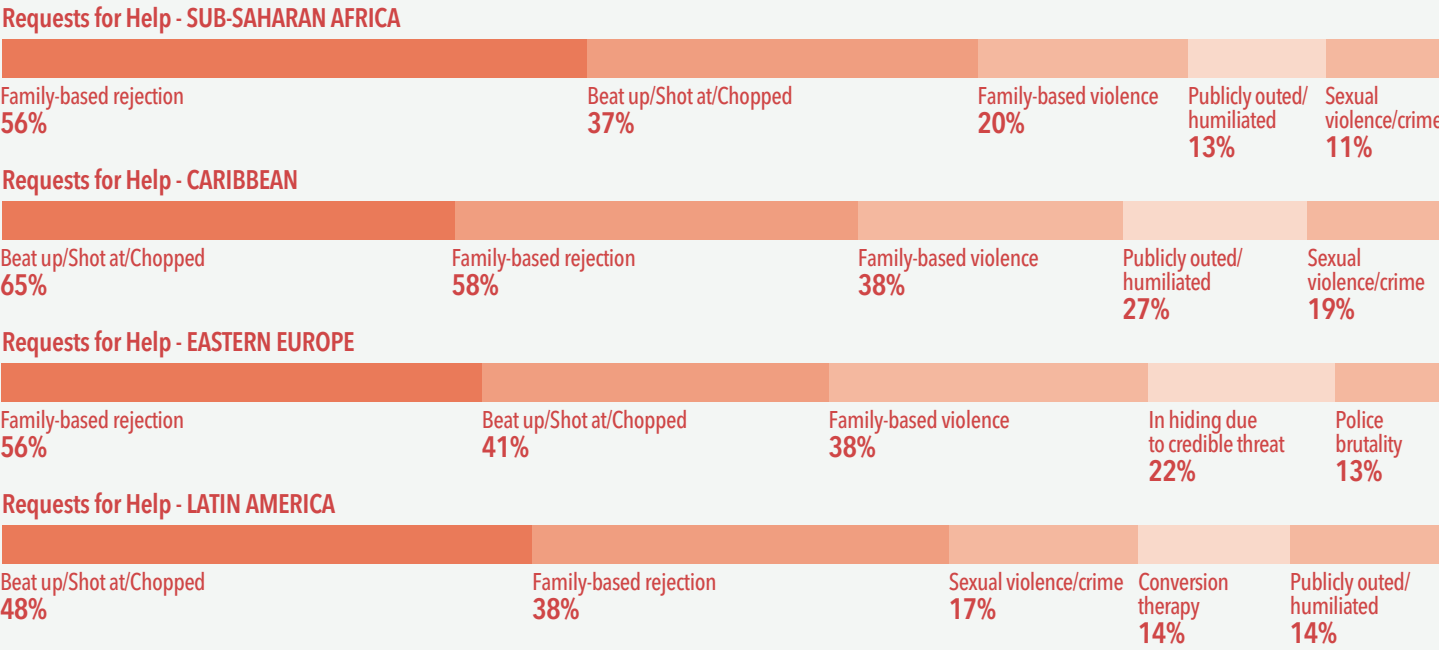
²⁷ For a full list of safety data disaggregated by region, gender identity, and sexuality please refer to Annex XX.



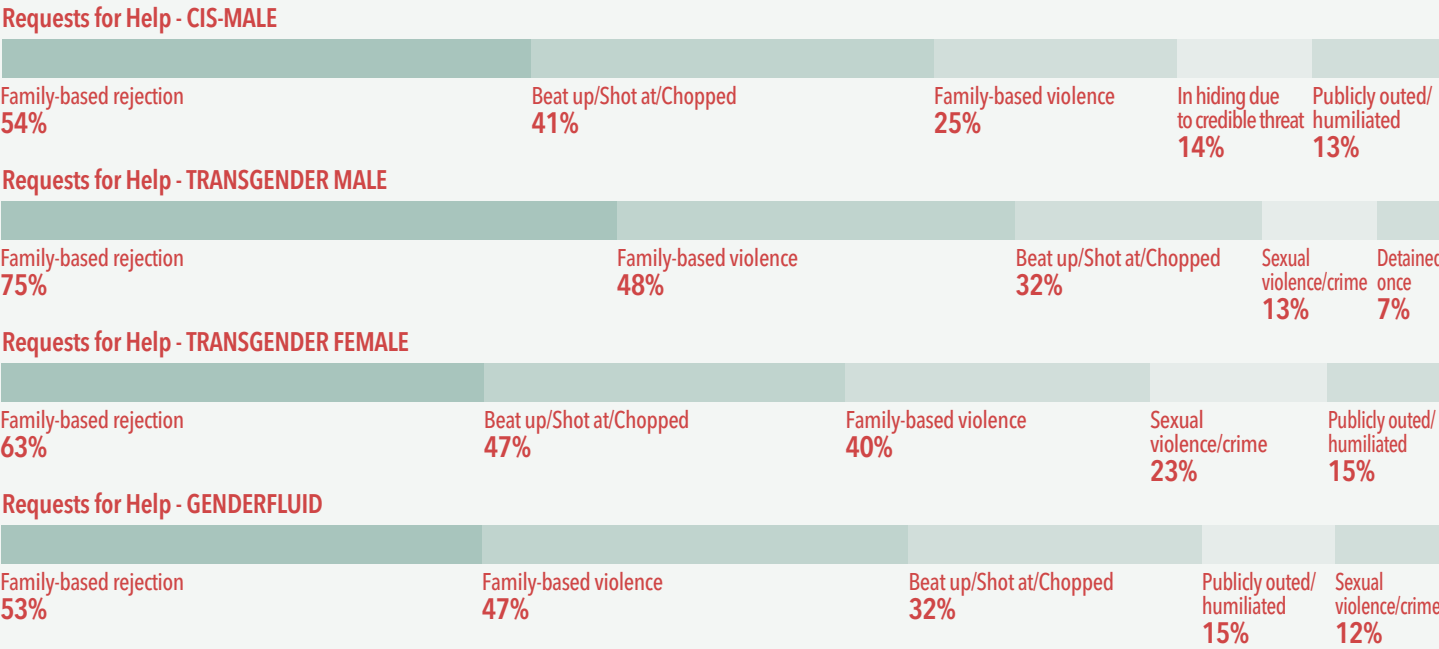
TRANS PEOPLE ARE PARTICULARLY AT RISK.
75% OF TRANSGENDER MEN EXPERIENCE FAMILY-BASED REJECTION (NON-VIOLENT),
59% OF TRANSGENDER MEN REQUESTING HELP EXPERIENCE A RISK OF SUICIDE,
75% OF TRANSGENDER WOMEN REQUESTING HELP EXPERIENCE A RISK OF SUICIDE.
TRANSGENDER WOMEN AND GENDERFLUID INDIVIDUALS BOTH 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.

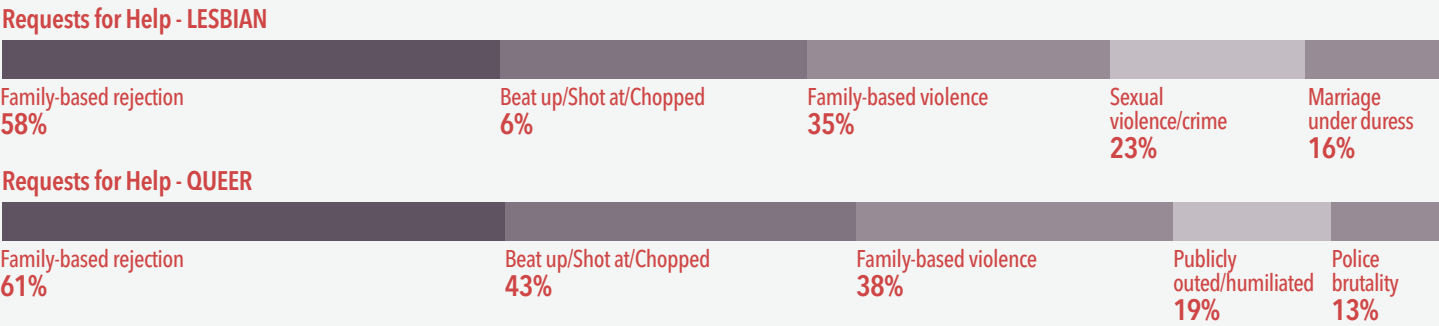
SAFETY CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY REGION



SAFETY CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY GENDER



SAFETY CONCERNS BROKEN OUT BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS



INSIGHTS INTO OUR WORK

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.

²⁸ Global Philanthropy Project, Where are the Global COVID-19 Resources for LGBTI Communities?, Global Philanthropy Project (2021), <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Mapping-COVID-Report-2021-Final-1.21.21.pdf>; <http://files.server.idpc.net/library/Converging-Epidemics-Report-April-2021-FINAL.pdf>

²⁹ Dempster et al., center for Global Development, Refugees International and International Rescue Committee, Locked Down and Left Behind: The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees' Economic Inclusion (2020), <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/506c8ea1e4b01d9450dd53f5/v/5f038766b9ce1873cd137176/1594066792858/locked-down-left-behind-refugees-economic-inclusion-covid.pdf>

³⁰ Kabir and Klugman, Unlocking Refugee Women's Potential, Rescue Works and IRC (2019), <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/3987/reportrescueworksunlockingrefugeewomenspotential.pdf>



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.³¹ 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.³² The practice is associated with severe long-term mental health implications.³³ Although 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.³⁴

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.³⁵

While nearly all genders we serve identified conversion therapy as a key safety concern,³⁶ 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.³⁷ 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.³⁸ Forced marriage is more common in the MENA and SCA.³⁹ Individuals from these regions report 2x the risk of experiencing forced marriage compared to other regions, with more than 1 in 10 individuals from both regions reporting this safety concern. Notably, lesbians were the only group to report marriage under duress within their topmost safety concerns.



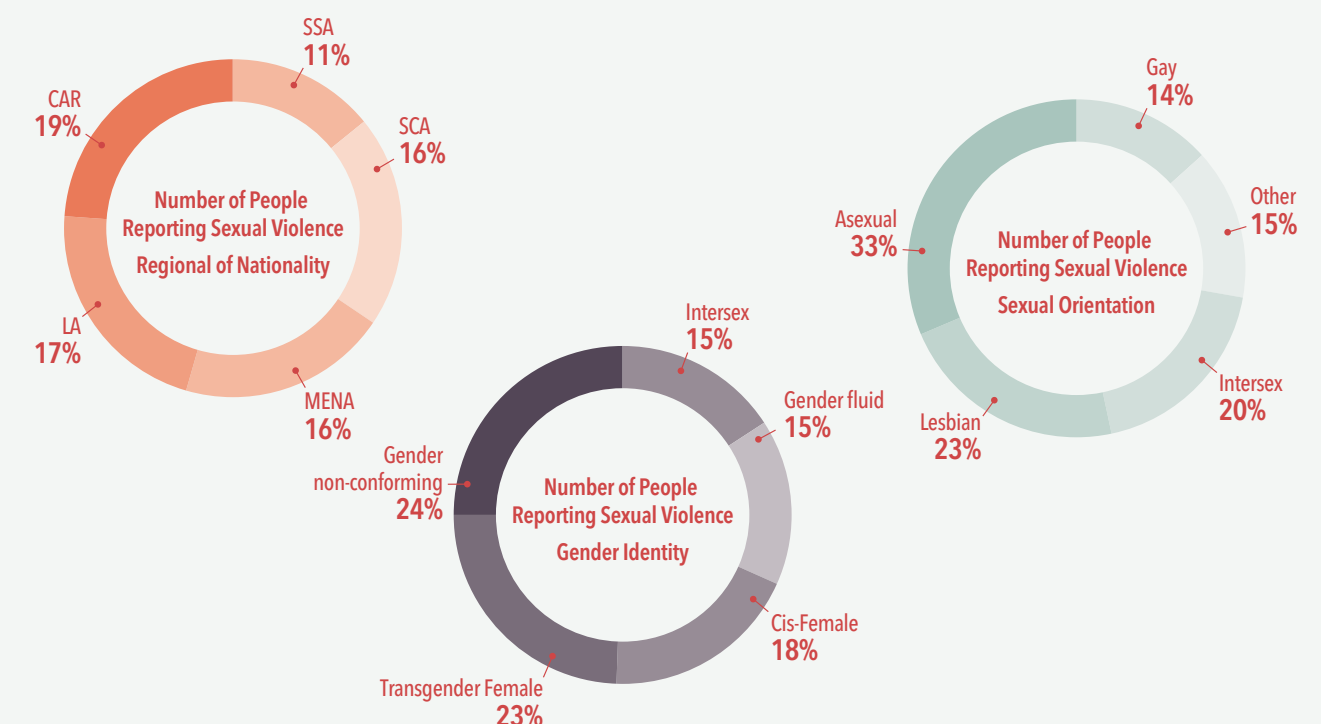
3. SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS KEY TACTIC OF PERSECUTION

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 of 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.⁴⁰ 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.



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.⁴¹ 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.⁴²

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.

³¹ "Conversion therapy" is an umbrella term for a wide-ranging set of practices perpetrated at all levels of the family, community and state representatives with the purpose of turning LGBTQI people heterosexual or cisgender.

OHCHR, Report on conversion therapy, (2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SexualOrientationGender/Pages/ReportOnConversiontherapy.aspx>

³² Reid, Global Trends in LGBT Rights During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Human Rights Watch (2021), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/24/global-trends-lgbt-rights-during-covid-19-pandemic>

³³ Human Rights Campaign, The Lies and Dangers of Efforts to Change Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity, Human Rights Campaign (n.d.), <https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>

³⁴ Human Rights Council, Practices of so-called "conversion therapy", UN General Assembly (2020), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/53>

³⁵ The second most prevalent region was Eastern Europe at 9%.

³⁶ Save for agender, intergender and aliagender.

³⁷ Human Rights Council, Practices of so-called "conversion therapy", UN General Assembly (2020), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/53>

³⁸ Forced Marriage Unit, What is a Forced Marriage?, Forced Marriage Unit (n.d.), https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/70157/Forced_Marriage_Unit_what_is_forced_marriage_LGBT_leaflet.pdf

³⁹ Coded as 'marriage under duress.'

⁴⁰ Of gender non-conforming, transgender women, and cisgender women who reported any safety concerns.

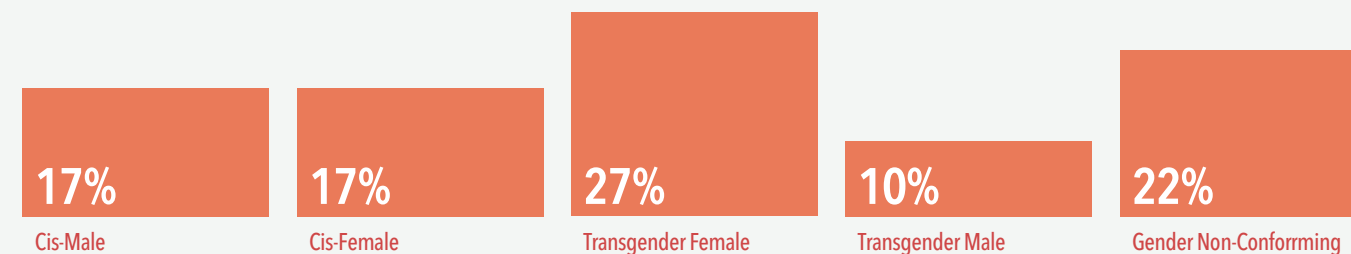
⁴¹ Human Rights Council, Practices of so-called "conversion therapy", UN General Assembly (2020), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/53>

⁴² Human Rights Council, Practices of so-called "conversion therapy", UN General Assembly (2020), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/53>

4. THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF LGBTQI+ ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE INCREASING

LGBTQI+ PEOPLE SEEKING HELP FROM RAINBOW RAILROAD REPORT EPIDEMIC LEVELS OF MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS.

Percentage of Cases Reporting Mental Health as a Health & Welfare Concern - GENDER IDENTITY



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.⁴³

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.⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵

Transgender and nonbinary 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-affirming care and 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.⁴⁶ 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 health concerns, poor physical health, and being denied medical care. Of those who reported any health 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 LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY.

For cisgender men and genderfluid individuals, HIV-positive status⁴⁷ 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.⁴⁸ For instance, Jordan routinely deports foreign nationals, migrant workers, and refugees who are HIV-positive, while denying them access to necessary antiretroviral medication. LGBTQI+ people living with HIV/AIDS in Jordan typically face medical discrimination without legal recourse. One global survey found that 23% of participants living with HIV had lost access to HIV-specific healthcare as a result of COVID-19 social isolation measures.⁴⁹ 1 in 4 individuals who identified as a racial or ethnic minority and were taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) reported significant difficulties accessing or refilling their medications.⁵⁰

In 2021, 16% of individuals seeking assistance from Rainbow Railroad shared that they were HIV-positive. We relocated 33 individuals who disclosed they were HIV-positive, representing 16% of all individuals we relocated in 2021.

Many individuals we help are not aware of, or choose not to disclose, their HIV status. Notably, 1 in 3 individuals from the Caribbean disclosed their HIV-positive status – over 3x higher than any other region.⁵¹ Individuals from the Caribbean reported a higher risk of experiencing all health and welfare concerns compared to any other region – and remain most likely to share these with us.

CASE STUDY:

THE STATE OF PERSECUTION IN JAMAICA

In Jamaica, consensual same-sex sexual intimacy is prohibited under the Offences Against the Person Act 1864. The act criminalizes acts of ‘buggery’ and ‘gross indecency’ between men, carrying a maximum penalty of ten years’ imprisonment with hard labor. Although there is scarce evidence of enforcement, reports suggest threats of arrest are sometimes used to extort LGBTQI+ populations.

For trans and gender diverse populations, name change is possible but gender marker change is not allowed. Moreover, there are consistent reports of severe violence, persecution, and discrimination including murder, assault, harassment and extortion, denial of basic rights and services, and mob attacks targeting LGBTQI+ persons in Jamaica. The country’s transgender community is particularly vulnerable to sexual and physical violence, as well as precarious living conditions.

Many LGBTQI+ individuals in Jamaica are experiencing homelessness or displacement, with many living in gullies (storm drains) underneath the city. Understandably, the consistent reports of violence committed against LGBTQI+ people in Jamaica, including murder, assault, and harassment, are reflected in the insights gathered in our own Health and Welfare data.

This is also reflective of the data we see from the Caribbean as it relates to HIV-positivity. It is noted that when LGBTQI+ individuals face a lack of basic necessities, increased instances of sexual violence, or lack of access to mental health and healthcare, HIV-positivity rates increase. This is a tangible example of why the persecution faced by the LGBTQI+ community in Jamaica remains deeply concerning.

⁴³ This 18 fold increase must be contextualized, as the voluntary ‘Mental Health Concerns’ pick-list is something Rainbow Railroad recently started tracking. Understandably, we cannot isolate how Mental Health concerns were connected to the pandemic based on our data alone, but it is interesting to note where there may be a correlation.

⁴⁴ Kurt et al., The psychological impacts of COVID-19 related stressors on Syrian refugees in Turkey: The role of resource loss, discrimination, and social support, International Journal of Intercultural Relations (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2021.09.009>; <https://doi.org/10.1111/pcn.13142>

⁴⁵ Baams, Disparities for LGBTQ and Gender Nonconforming Adolescents, Pediatrics (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-3004>.

⁴⁶ van der Miesel et al., “You Have to Wait a Little Longer”: Transgender (Mental) Health at Risk as a Consequence of Deferring Gender-Affirming Treatments During COVID-19, Archives of Sexual Behavior (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01754-3>

⁴⁷ In our casework, we often find that individuals may not feel safe or comfortable disclosing their HIV status, but also we find that they may in fact be HIV-positive and not know their status. They may describe experiencing health difficulties that they later find out were related to living with HIV/AIDS.

⁴⁸ OHCHR, The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of LGBT Persons, OHCHR (2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/SexualOrientation/ImpactCOVID19LGBTpersons.pdf>

⁴⁹ Santos et al., Economic, Mental Health, HIV Prevention and HIV Treatment Impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Response on a Global Sample of Cisgender Gay Men and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men, AIDS and Behavior (2020), <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007%2Fs10461-020-02969-0>

⁵⁰ Santos et al., Economic, Mental Health, HIV Prevention and HIV Treatment Impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Response on a Global Sample of Cisgender Gay Men and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men, AIDS and Behavior (2020), <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007%2Fs10461-020-02969-0>

⁵¹ It’s important to note that this data reflects our rates of self-disclosure of HIV-positive status, rather than total individuals who may be living with HIV/AIDS.

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.

RUSSIA
21%
CASES FAILED.

JAMAICA
17%
CASES FAILED.

TUNISIA
18%
CASES FAILED.

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

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.

⁵² Galaski, How do refugees travel to other countries? Why don't they take the plane?, Liberties (2018), <https://www.liberties.eu/en/stories/why-refugees-do-not-take-the-plane/16316>

⁵³ These amounts are based on estimates as both airlines and government bodies are reluctant to release this information. Baird, European Journal of Migration and Law, Carrier Sanctions in Europe: A Comparison of Trends in 10 Countries (2017), https://brill.com/view/journals/emil/19/3/article-p307_307.xml

⁵⁴ Council of the European Union, Council Directive 2001/51/EC, Official Journal of the European Communities (2001), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:187:0045:0046:EN:PDF>

⁵⁵ Amnesty International, No Flights to Safety, Amnesty International (1997), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/act340211997en.pdf>

7. PATHWAYS TO SAFETY REMAIN LIMITED FROM MANY COUNTRIES WHERE LGBTQI+ PERSONS ARE AT-RISK

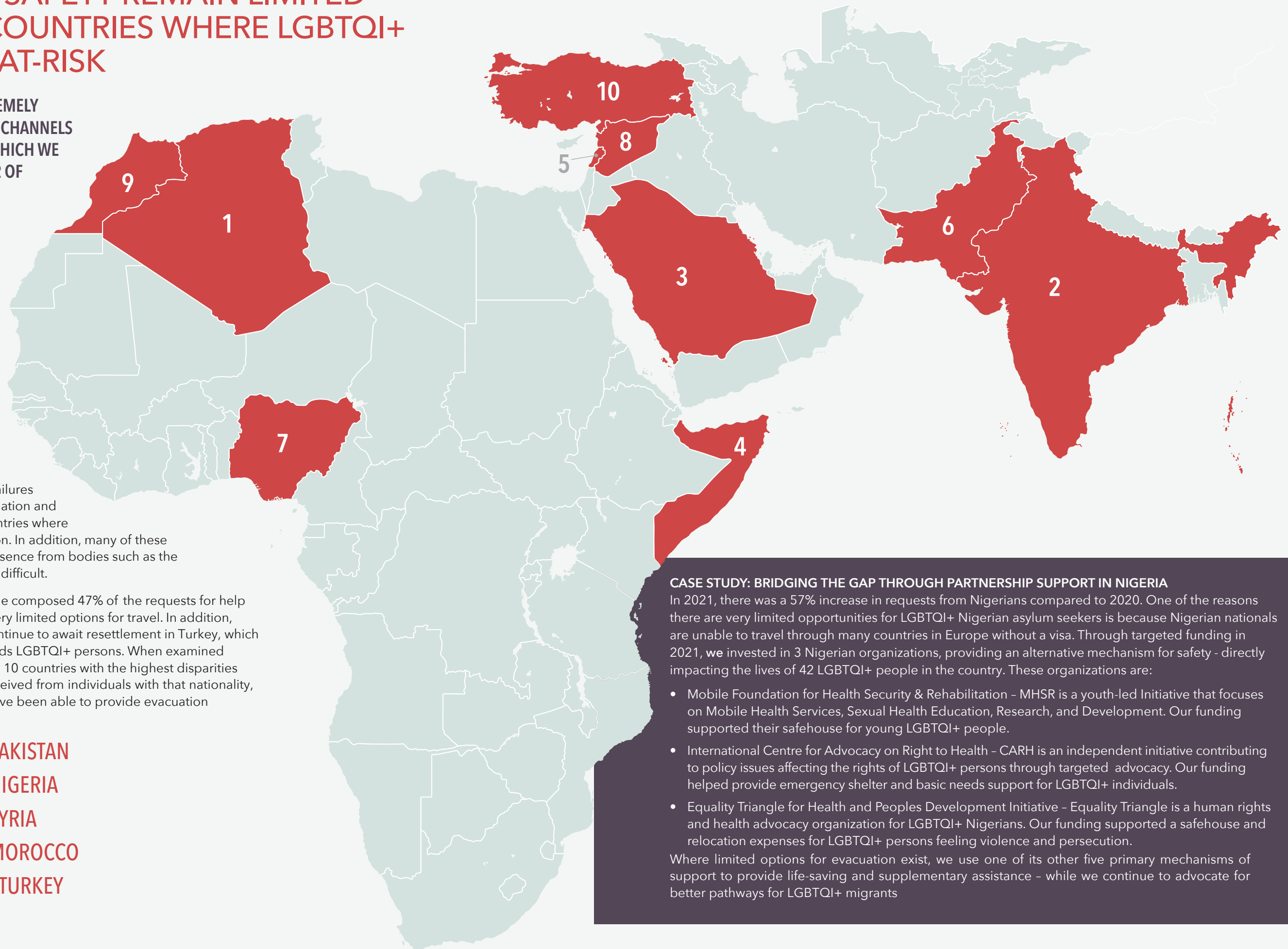
SAFE TRAVEL OPTIONS ARE EXTREMELY RESTRICTED THROUGH EXISTING CHANNELS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES FROM WHICH WE RECEIVE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR HELP.

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, Pakistanis 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 | 6. PAKISTAN |
| 2. INDIA | 7. NIGERIA |
| 3. SAUDI ARABIA | 8. SYRIA |
| 4. SOMALIA | 9. MOROCCO |
| 5. LEBANON | 10. TURKEY |



CASE STUDY: BRIDGING THE GAP THROUGH PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT IN NIGERIA

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

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.⁵⁶

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.⁵⁷ 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.⁵⁸

Geopolitical crises expose the tenuousness of the protective networks available to LGBTQI+ people in these situations. Neutral, and even supportive relatives, neighbors, or organizations 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.⁵⁹ This is exacerbated by the fact that LGBTQI+ people in camps or detention facilities frequently face ostracization and violence by other displaced persons as a result of pre-existing prejudices.⁶⁰

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.⁶¹ In 2021, Afghanistan saw 50% of its food supply rendered insecure by a severe drought, while certain regions of Pakistan experienced extreme heatwaves.⁶² At the same time, flooding in South Sudan and Somalia displaced over 900,000 people.⁶³

Evidence from the 2020 Haitian earthquake suggests that LGTBQI+ people were denied access to emergency shelter and disaster relief assistance, mirroring similar data from natural disasters elsewhere.^{64 65} LGBTQI+ people might even be directly blamed for natural disasters by religious and community leaders and deliberately excluded from humanitarian assistance.⁶⁶ 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.⁶⁷

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 makes 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 destabilization 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 2021.⁶⁸ 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.⁶⁹ 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.⁷⁰

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."

⁵⁶ See, e.g., Alon Margalit, "Still a Blind Spot: The Protection of LGBT Persons during Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence," *International Review of the Red Cross* 100, no. 907-909 (2018): 237-65; Peter Lackcrack, "Criminalising Homosexuality and LGBT Rights in Times of Conflict, Violence and Natural Disasters" (Human Dignity Trust, November 2015).

⁵⁷ See, e.g., Leo Goldsmith and Michelle L. Bell, "Queering Environmental Justice: Unequal Environmental Health Burden on the LGBTQ+ Community," *American Journal of Public Health* 112, no. 1 (January 2022): 79-87.

⁵⁸ See, e.g., Yiftach Milo, "Invisible in the City: Protection Gaps Facing Sexual Minority Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Urban Ecuador, Ghana, Israel, and Kenya" (HIAS, February 2013); Yiftach Milo and Duncan Breen, "Protection in the City: Some Good Practice in Nairobi," *Forced Migration Review* 42 (April 2013): 54-56; Kate Pincock, "UNHCR and LGBTI Refugees in Kenya: The Limits of 'Protection,'" *Disasters* 45, no. 4 (October 2021): 844-64; Neil Grungras, Rachel Levitan, and Amy Slotek, "Unsafe Haven: Security Challenges Facing LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Turkey," *Praxis: The Fletcher Journal of Human Security* 24 (2009): 41-61.

⁵⁹ Danielle Roth et al., "Cycles of Displacement: Understanding Violence, Discrimination, and Exclusion of LGBTQI People in Humanitarian Contexts" (New York: International Rescue Committee, 2021).

⁶⁰ Nishin Nathwani, "Protecting Persons with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities: A Global Report on UNHCR's Efforts to Protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Asylum-Seekers and Refugees" (Geneva: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, December 2015).

⁶¹ Amali Tower, "2021 Deepened Climate Migration as Survival" (Climate Refugees, January 7, 2022).

⁶² Amali Tower, "2021 Deepened Climate Migration as Survival" (Climate Refugees, January 7, 2022).

⁶³ Amali Tower, "2021 Deepened Climate Migration as Survival" (Climate Refugees, January 7, 2022).

⁶⁴ Goldsmith and Bell, "Queering Environmental Justice."

⁶⁵ Lackcrack, "Criminalising Homosexuality and LGBT Rights in Times of Conflict, Violence and Natural Disasters."

⁶⁶ Goldsmith and Bell, "Queering Environmental Justice."

⁶⁷ "Press Release: Over One Billion People at Threat of Being Displaced by 2050 Due to Environmental Change, Conflict and Civil Unrest" (Institute for Economics and Peace, September 9, 2020).

⁶⁸ Rainbow Railroad received 25 requests for help from Afghans between January and June 2021, and 3,305 requests between July and December 2021.

⁶⁹ "Even If You Go to the Skies, We'll Find You": LGBT People in Afghanistan After the Taliban Takeover" (Human Rights Watch, January 26, 2022).

⁷⁰ "Even If You Go to the Skies, We'll Find You."



OUR IMPACT

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

THE PROBLEM

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.

DESIRED SOCIAL IMPACT

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.

STORIES OF OUR IMPACT

Last year, **8,451** people reached out to us requesting assistance, and we provided support to **1,812** individuals.

We have shared stories of insights into our work, and the aggregating factors that drive displacement and persecution.

We see ourselves as facilitators for the LGBTQI+ individuals brave enough to begin the risky and difficult journey to safety.

Here are three stories:



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. On campus, she found some LGBTQI+ groups, and joined them.

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 she knows that the important work continues, and is still fighting for her fellow LGBTQI+ Afghans.

"I urge Rainbow Railroad and its supporters to continue their tireless advocacy. I am still so concerned for all the friends I had to leave behind – and know we cannot forget them. Rainbow Railroad has limited funds, and limited capacity – but it's already done so much.

Thank you for keeping us safe – please keep this service alive and continuing." – Amina

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.

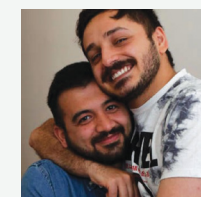
Two months before they were scheduled to escape to safety, we paired Omar and Mohammed together to help ensure their journey was a success. The two agreed that they'd feel more comfortable if they weren't traveling alone.

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.

"After 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



In Azerbaijan, LGBTQI+ 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, sociocultural 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, LGBTQI+ 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.

Hate groups persistently target LGBTQI+ individuals in Azerbaijan. Ali shares a story of being followed home by two men belonging to a hate group, and receiving threats of violence and murder online. Both Ali and Isma lived in constant fear.

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 LGBTQI+ community and LGBTQI+ 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

WHEN LGBTQI+ PEOPLE DO FLEE
ACROSS BORDERS TO NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES, REFUGEE CAMPS ARE OFTEN
DANGEROUS PLACES FOR THEM.



IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GLOBAL MISSION OF PROVIDING LGBTQI+ PEOPLE SAFETY AND FREEDOM FROM STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE AND PERSECUTION, ADVOCATING TO GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IS A KEY PRIORITY FOR RAINBOW RAILROAD.

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.⁷¹

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.⁷² 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.

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.⁷³ These are just some of the reasons LGBTQI+ internally displaced persons are particularly failed by the existing refugee protection apparatus.

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 Asks 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 42 [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 [Al 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.⁷⁵ 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.⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷ 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.



⁷³ Read Rainbow Railroad's report on The Impact of COVID-19 on Displaced LGBTQI+ Persons [here](#)

⁷⁴ The Canadian Rainbow Coalition for Refuge is an umbrella organization of LGBTQI+ refugee resettlement organizations in Canada. Its steering committee consists of Calgary Rainbow Railroad Station (End of the Rainbow Foundation), Capital Rainbow Refuge, Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, Rainbow Railroad (co-chair), Rainbow Refugee (co-chair), and the Rainbow Refugee Association of Halifax.

⁷⁵ As outlined in: Joseph R. Biden Jr., Memorandum on Advancing the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Persons Around the World (February 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/04/memorandum-advancing-the-human-rights-of-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-and-intersex-persons-around-the-world/>

⁷⁶ UNHCR, Summary Conclusions: 2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for LGBTQI+ People in Forced Displacement (July 2021), <https://www.unhcr.org/publications/brochures/611e48144/2021-global-roundtable-protection-solutions-lgbtqi-people-forced-displacement.html>

⁷⁷ 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 (n.d.) <https://copenhagen2021.com/human-rights/>

VI:

SUPPORTERS & FINANCIALS

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 †
The Beer Store
CIBC
Palm Bay
Shaw Communications & Pride@Shaw *
Zurich Insurance Group & Employees *

\$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

\$10,000-\$24,999

The Michael Baylis Foundation
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

CANADA

\$5,000-\$9,999

Altus Group & Employees *
Scott Baker
Michael & Keith Battista
Canadian National Railway Company
Charton Hobbs Inc.
Cheshire Homes McLeod Home
In Memory of Drake Colantino *
David Dubrovsky
Deloitte Canada
Enbridge Inc.
Ernest Cider Co. Ltd.
Genuine Health Inc.
Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP †
Judith Hayes
Bennett Haynen
The Hogarth Family Foundation Fund
Estate of William Hubacheck
Larry Hughsam
K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation
Amir Ghomshei & Friends *
Caleb Goodman
Karim Ladak
League Inc.
LinkedIn & Employees *
Frank Lowery
Mantella Corporation
Fabio Mascarin Foundation
Mawer Investment Mgmt Ltd.
Martha McCain
McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd.
John McNain
Scott McNeil †
Mercer Lunz Fund
Jordan Merkur & Ivan Joya Gonzalez
Adrian Mitchell & Bruce Youngblud
National Union of Public and General Employees
Ian Nordheimer
Pink Triangle Press
QuadReal Property Group
Robert Brews
Joel Rotstein & Frank Chester
Alan Rowe
Andre & Brock Rowland Foundation
Glenn L. Smith
Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.
Sour Puss
Jason Stone
James & Judith Thiessen
June Thompson & Terri Holizki
TICOT Social Society Inc
Tika the Iggy & Thomas Shapiro
Tony's LLP
Tyria Pride *
Unifor Social Justice Fund
Vessi Footwear
Anna Wienburg & Friends *
David Wong
WW Canada, Ltd
Zdarsco, Inc.
Anonymous (6)

\$1,000-\$4,999

Mary Abbott
Maureen Adamson
Adobe Inc.
Danny Agro
Gary Akenhead
Michelle Albert & Denis Roy
David Alexander & Paul McKinnon
Paul Alexander
Connie & David Anderson
Robert Anderson & Friends *
Todd Andaya
Wesley Andreas
John Andru
Eva Archbold & Friends *
Bacardi Canada
Michael & Keith Battista
Diane Beauchesne
Guy Beaudin
Denis Beaulieu
Andrew Bennett
Noemie Benoit
Antoine Belaieff
Trent Berry
The Bishop Strachan School & Friends *
Kurt Blais & Friends *
Dane Bland
Body Love Inc. & Friends *
James Bogle
Borderland Pride *
Borland Foundation
Jonathon Borland
Alex Borovoy
Dimitris Boutourelis Grammatikopoulos
BPG Holdings Group Inc.
John Brewster
Ray Brillinger & Cy Hack Fund
Peter Broadhurst & Ryan Morreale
Neil Buddel
George Burns
The Cabinet Salon
Roy Cain
Mike Callaghan
Shelley Cameron
The Canadian Tilling Foundation
Cannabis for Harm Reduction
Capital Rainbow Refuge Fund
K. Shane Carter
Tasha Carter
Chloe Case
Certarus Ltd.
The Chitovas & Lawton Foundation
CI Financial & Employees *
Joseph Cirone
Cameron Clark
Brian Clarkin
Ben Coburger
Jamieson Cochrane
Leslie Colantino
Collar of Sweden AB
Andrew Collins
Morgen Cookson
Lift Corktown

Chris Corsini
Rachel Courey
Daiana Crisan
Crumps' Naturals Canada
Anna Cruz
Cupe Local 2316
David Da Silva
Bruce Daccord
Ed & Margaret DaCosta
Michael Daniels
Michael Daniels & Al Ramsay
Richard Davidson
Trevor Davison
Randall Dawson & Rudy Ticzon
Paul Dilley
Dianna Dinoble
Docusign, Inc. & Employees *
Jason Doolan
Dream Asset Management Corp
Anthony Dunn
Tim Dueck
Keith Ebanks
Philip Edwards
Electronic Arts Inc.
The Edith & Bernard Ennis Foundation
Trevor English
Christopher Ewasiuik
EY Canada
Anders Fällmar
Fasken & Employees *
Robert Fischer
Dan Flanagan & Stephen Calnen
Joseph Flessa
The Foundry Kids & Friends *
Brian Francis
Shelley Fritz
Fullscript
Romeo Gagnon
Serge Gallant
Berns Galloway
Martha Gartley
Robert Gauvin
Get REAL
Martyn Goddard & Barry Scott
Golden Gate Graphics
Daniel-Robert Gooch
Goodfood Market Corp. & Employees *
Yola Grant
Richard Grass
William R Gregg
Ian Gregoire
Keeley Grier
Anostin Grieves
Andrew Grimes
Allan Guinan
Sajeed Haji
George Hall
Kenn Hamlin
The Harbinger Foundation
Darq & Meagan Harris
Benjamin Hartung
Timothy Hayman
Daniel Hector
Brian Henderson

CANADA

HELM Life
Patricia Hennessy
Gareth Henry
Hill+Knowlton Strategies Canada
Zahir Hirji
Andrew Hood
Zaid Hoosain
Peter Howie
HTS Engineering Ltd.
Peter Husar
Jane Hutton
Steven Hutton
Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth
Ms. Kelsey Ingham
Andrew Innes & Donald Watson
Derek Innis
Rick Innis
Into the Bedroom Inc. DBA The Sleep Shirt
Jacobs
Edward Janiszewski
JR Garnett Foundation
Benjamin Kaasa
Jim Kapches
Danielle & Stephen Kaplan
Trisha Kaplan & Janet Filipenko
Keefer Bar
Peter Kensho
Michael Kicis
John Kirk
Karli Kirkpatrick
Myles Kirvan
Paul Edward Kjekstad
William Klein
Robert Kleysen
Klick Inc.
Brent Knowles
Philip Kocev
Dario Kosarac
Dr. Ricky Ladyshevsky & Ronald Pettapiece
James Lammie
Paul Lancaric
Anthony Lance & Friends *
Roger Larios
AJ Leblanc & Friends *
Bram Lebo
Doug Lee
Shirley Lim
Low Down Bar & Friends *
Spencer Low
Dr. Malcolm Lucy Medical Prof. Corp.
Kathryn Lukey
Mark Luukkonen
Richard Lyle
Cassandra MacKell
Glenn Mackintosh
MacIntyre Communications
Martin MacLachlan
Andrew Mahon Foundation
John Malcolm
Roy Male
Jessica Manley & Elana Moscovitch
Manulife Financial Corporation
Joseph Marilla & Friends *
Carole Marshall
Lawrence Mason

The Math Guru
Angela Maxwell
Ryan McAdam
Miranda McCullagh
Paul McFarlane
Brett McGoldrick
Mike Mckeon Paul Roy
McKinsey & Company
Keri McKittrick
Richard McLellan
Medtronic plc
Jesse Michelin
David Miklas
Andrew Miller
Rodney Miller
Sheona & Kendra Mitchell-Foster
David Moore
Gary Moriarty
Adam Morrison & James Owen
Curtis Murphy
Megan Murphy
Michael Murphy & Shane Small
My Pride Season One Inc.
Marc Nadeau
Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre
Larry Nevard
Paul Noble
NORR Architects & Engineers Ltd.
Blair O'Connor
Jacqueline Okum
The Omidyar Group
Ronald Onerheim & Friends *
Perry Orestes
Out Adventures
Katy P
Pablo's Mecenat
Greg Parsons
Megan Paterson
Matthias Platz
Points.com
Project Xposed
Protiviti UK
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
Brian Provini
PSAC Ontario Regional Council
James Puckalo
Marcus Purtzki
Shirley Pushelberg
PwC
R&M Lang Foundation
Rainbow Collective of Thunder Bay
David Rankin
Simon Raphael
Gareth Rayner-Williams & Friends *
Ronald Reaman
Elizabeth Renaud
Rethink Communications Inc.
Jason Reynolds
David Richardson
Heather Richardson
Stephen & Geoffrey Robards
Brian Rosborough
Ann Rosenfield
A K Ross & Ross Dobson
Sanofi S.A. & Employees *

Jospeh Salvador Ferrer & Juan Carlos Fernandez
Brian Sambourne & Richard Isaac
Chris Sauve
Jessica Savage
Carter Sawatzky
Kevin Schultz
Philip Schwab
Rupen Seoni
Shapesmiths Community
Christine Sharp
Ronald Shore & Samuel Bernstein
Richard Simm
Peter Skolkay
Nicholas Skrypek
Dawn Smith
Robin Smith-Stephens
John Soer
Ronald Southerland
Caleb Steele-Lane
Ted Steenburgh
Martin Sterling
Robin Stevenson
Timothy Stokes
Ramesh Sukhnandan & Rahim Chunara
Anton Suphal
Brian Sutton
Gregory Taylor
Stephen Telka
Nadia Tepleski
TextNow, Inc.
Robert W. Thiele, Jr
Barbara Thomson
Jill Tinmouth & Dianne Davis
Top Hat & Employees *
David Townsend
Trinity-Grace United Church
Olivier Trudel
Turner/Herrmann Foundation
Ian Turner
Daniel Urquhart
Jeremy Van Dyke
Robert Vanderheyden McKay
Ian Varney
Jennifer Vella
Kyle Verge
Sylvia Videvik
Leroy Wall
Aidan Ward
Glen Watson
Alex Waugh
WeirFoulds LLP
Peter Weiss & Michael Sweeney
Caroline Welch
Myron Wells & Michael Zaranyik*
John M. Whillans
Mark Wilson
Rodey Wing
Susan Wismer
Alyce Wright
Chad Yehia
Allen Yi & Marta Mussa-Calecas
York Region Children's Aid Society
Laura Zajacz
Anonymous (19)

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

\$10,000-\$24,999

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

USA

\$5,000-\$9,999

Kaleb Alexander
Amazon Music
Apple Inc. †
BentallGreenOak
Berger Family Foundation, Inc.
Camunda
Capital Group
D Squared Gay Gents Fund of Horizons Foundation
Anthony DeFilippis
Amer El-Haddad
Adam Ellis
Fantastic Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation
Jasmine Foster
Richard Gallagher
Charles Garrido Jr. & Jason Mark Roberts
Google LLC
A.J. Goulding
Heather Hatlo Porter
Havas Chicago
Hazlanz & Friends *
Jessica Ibbitson
Maxine & Irving Castle Foundation
Jake Kenyon
Timothy Kirsch
The Kolasa Foundation
Jonathan Kratz & James Kuerschner
Joyface
Benjamin Manwaring & Daniel Fox
Microsoft Corporation & Employees *
Pascal Millaire & Justin Hilton
Vivek Moitra
Nader Mousavizadeh
George Rogers
Maseeh Roshan & Friends *
Salesforce
The SnapPride & Ally Community at Snap Inc.
Kevin Steen
Frederick Tran & Friends *
United Airlines, Inc. †
Whipple Buccola Giving Fund
Eli Zal
Anonymous (2)

\$1,000-\$4,999

Acerangerindigo & Friends
Ada Support Inc.
AE Corporate Services
Jay Allen
Timothy Allen
Lisa Archer & Robert Pfister
Lee Armentrout

Jesse Audet
AutoDesk, Inc. & Employees *
Donald Bacigalupi & Dan Feder
Mike Balaban
Richard Ballard & Alexandra Dove Family Fund
Matthew Barhydt
Lucie Barrios
Richard Barry
Victor Basile
Mabel Ann Baylon
James Beach
Beyond Giving & Employees *
David Blatt & David Moore
John Boswick
Fred Bove
Elizabeth Bowles
Lindsay Boyajian
Nick Braaten & Jason Kudrna
Thurston Bralczyk Peace and Love Fund
Barry Brandon & Friends *
Douglas Braun-Harvey
Joseph Brell
Stephen Brockman
Christopher Brown
Russell Buehler
Caleb Burson
Jess Cagle
Matthew Caldwell
Ben Cary & Friends *
Anthony Carter & Kris Wiley
Cassian Catanzaro
CBJ Play & Friends *
Lukas Ceha
Celheals & Friends *
Steve Chadima
Hardy & Jason Chan
Ivan Chavez
Laura Cherny
David Chlopecki
Howard Clauser
Anthony Clough
Martin Cohen
The Stephen Colbert Americone Dream Fund
Mark Colclasure
Kezia Colnick
Concentric Health Experience & Friends *
Daniel Conroy
Mason Conway
Morgan Cox
Michael Daly
Katherine Dent
David Dotlich
The Doyle Dreiling & Jim Coakley Fund
Martin Duberman

* includes fundraised amounts † includes in-kind support

USA

Ebx_erin & Friends *
Steven Eiseman
Elder California Foundation
Thea Ellis
Alasdair Ewing
Marc Fajer
FaunAndGames & Friends*
Feed Communications Ltd
Feldenkrais Festival
David Fernandes
Fiix Software
Lawrence Flamholtz
Holly Flow
Morgan Fong
Louis French-Los
Jasmine Friedrich
Pierre Frinault
Dennis Frisman
Fronds & Friends *
Jeaniene Frost
Kenneth & Sue Furst
Sid Gajjar
Paul Gaskill
Genentech, Inc. & Employees *
Golden Creative, LLC
John Goodman
Gooshlems & Friends *
Goss Family Charitable Fund
Hollie Granato
Denise Grech
Howard Hahn
Hannon Armstrong & Employees *
Harbor Capital Advisors, Inc.
Karen Haycox
Allan Heinberg
The HER App †
Telaireus Herrin
Heydestineerea & Friends *
Brent Holman-Gomez
Michael Horvat
Michael Horvich
Eric Hsu & James Chambers Charitable Fund
Mari Irby
Christopher Jenkinson
Jetpackmochi & Friends *
Arthur Johnston & Pepe Peña
Matthieu Jost
Cedric Karaoglan
Charley Kearns
Michael Kinsley
Kiva Microfunds
KKSWEAT LLC & Friends *

David Kleiman
Ian Klier
Noah Kloor
Bruce Koff & Mitchell Channon
John G. Kroll
Betsy LaBarge
Mark LaChapelle
Michael Layne
The Lehman-Stamm Family Fund
Esther Lem
Stacy Levy
Liquid IV
The Listening Party Festival & Friends *
John Livesey
Craig Loeber Charitable Fund
Keiynan Lonsdale
Chris Lorway & John Austin
David Lukofsky
Julie Macrae
Andrea Mann
Salvatore Manzi
Ernest March
Mass Community Theatre Corp/Theatre at First
Mastercard Inc.
Mayte Martinez
Melissa Mauk
Kelly McBride
Richard McCune
Dr. Susan McEwen-Fial
The MeherBaba Fund
Peter Mensch & Anita Britton
Mermaidroyal & Friends *
Ellen Meyers
John Miller
Mark Miller
John & Linda Mitchell
Maria Mojica
The Molson Coors Beverage Company & Employees *
Monsterrpixels & Friends *
Morningstar Inc.
Patrick Murphree
Doug & Cynthia Nelson
Peter Nelson
New Relic & Employees *
Nicole Hollis Inc
Maya Nigrosh
The Nordblom Family Foundation
James Nutter & Philip Burgess
Sean O'Connell
Brian O'Donnell
Okkatiemae & Friends *
Daniel Oliverio

USA

OPEN Pride *
Orix Foundation
Joseph Orseno
Alyson N. Owen-Craig M. Oliner Family Charitable Fund
Devan Paillet
Paul Parks
Paws for a Cause & Friends*
Pegasystems Inc.
Ralph Pellecchio
James Pelletier
Pfizer Inc.
Puddnz & Friends *
Ernest Pusateri
Steven Randolph
Raymond Rodriguez
Derek Reed
John Reed
Jonathan Reel
Reiss/King Family Fund
Dan Robbins
Matthew Robins
Alan R. Rosenfield
Samuel Rosenthal
Rupakula-Soward Fund
Marc Sanchez
Norman L. Sandfield Charitable Fund
Donald Schmidgall
Candice Schrock
Charles & Bea Schutz
Jared Schwartz
Mark Schnellbaecher
Scott Family Foundation
Tim Shea
Shirt Killer LLC
David Shull
Meggin Simon
David Skeist
Brandon Smith
Jeremy Smith & Family Fund
SoftBank
Kevin Sottak & Deborah Peyton-Sottak
Krystal-Jay Sowles
Squidpie & Friends *
Frank Stark
Jon Taylor Steen
John Steffens

Carl H. Stiehl
Stockman Family Fund
Eric & Emily Strong
Sean Strub & Xavier Morales
Emily Su
Dave Thorpe
Roger Thran
T-Mobile
Jose Torres Jr.
TraderZed & Friends *
Robert L. Tulini
Patrick Tubbs
Twingaymer & Friends *
Ty_screams & Friends*
Robert Ulrich
Univar Solutions Inc. & Employees *
Karissa Van Baulen
Jerre van den Bent
Paul T. Vesely & Vincent C. Dilauro Foundation
Amber Vojtecky
Kelly Vye
Andrew Wachtfogel
Miles Walker
Samuel Wallace
Ray Wallach
Timothy Warmath
Michael Wasserman
Doug Watkins & Friends *
Mark Webster
Michelle Welch
Harlan Widen
Jason Williamson
Erin Wolfe
Christopher Wolz
Christian Yoder & Jonathan Miller
Monte Young
Lori 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
Efia 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
Lauren Young - Program Officer

RAINBOW RAILROAD BOARD - CANADA

Caleb Goodman, Chair
Bruce Koff, Vice-Chair
Ian Gregoire, Treasurer
Anne-Marie Vanier, Secretary
Ann Rosenfield
Michael Murphy
David Dubrovsky
Karen Haycox
Krista Hill
John McNain
Al Ramsay
Andrew Swart

RAINBOW RAILROAD BOARD - USA

Bruce Koff, Chair
Ian Gregoire, Treasurer
David Dubrovsky, Secretary
Karen Haycox

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP

SETTLEMENT TEAMS

Day Settlement Team
Team Capital One
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

PRO-BONO LAW SUPPORT

Arvin Afzali
Fareeha Aziz
Michael Battista
Isabelle Crew
Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS)
Tatiana Emanuel
Sara Gold
Katelyn Gray
Sheela Gupta
Abeer Iftikhar
Fareen Kassam

Yalda Kazemishirazi
Rebeka Lauks
Rachel Levitsky
Abida Ludin
Taaha Malik
Frances Marinic-Jaffer
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Ciara McIlwaine
Solomon McKenszie
Katidja Moloo-Alam
Annie O'Dell

Erin O'Rourke
Kes Posgate
Debbe Rachlis
Anca Radu
Rashim Sharma
Amanda Smith Hatt
Sathyia Thillainathan
Lesley VanWynsberghe
Adrienne Woodyard

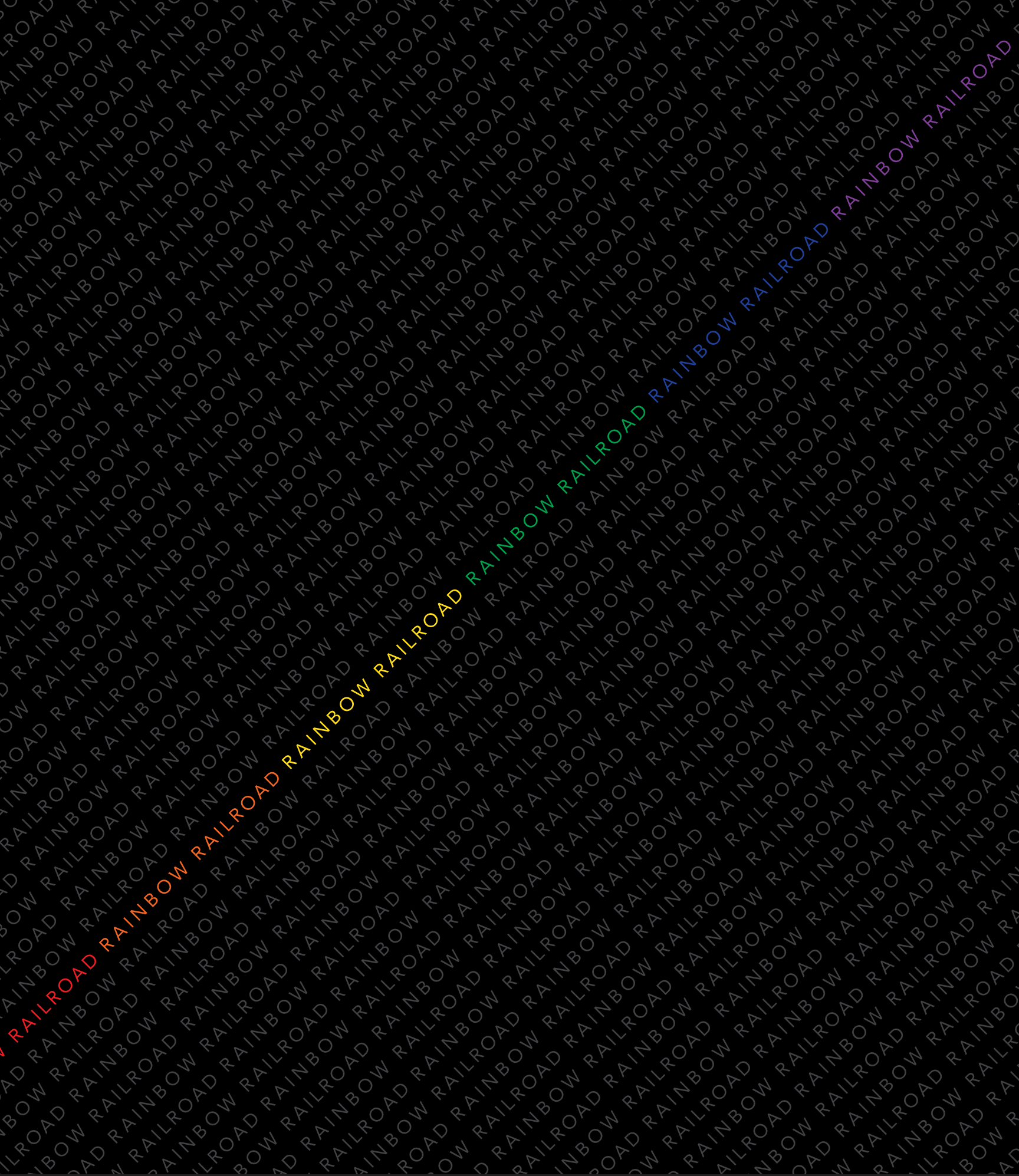


The 519
Agents of Good
AgentsC (Olumide Akerewusi and Tracy Deans)
George Antonopolous
Adrien Argentero
Salah Bachir & Jacob Yerex
Allison Baker
Tarick Bedeir
Lawrence Bennett
Blazing Agency
Scarlett Bobo
Randy Boissonnault
Chris Bolan
Laura Bonnett
James Booty
Christopher Brohman
Bill Caley & Dave Miller
Gunjan Chandok
Nick Chapman
Chris Cordingley
Deloitte
Anthony DeFilippis
Dignity Network Canada
Julie Dorf
Ted Durst
Amina Dzhabrailov
Tracy Emsun Raasch & Aybars Emsun
Will Farmer
John Flippen
Alexa Fogel
DICK Foundation
David France
Angelyn Francis
Hazem G
Stephen Gardner
Andrew Gillespie
Rory Gissane
Glad Day Bookshop
Gital Gosai
Peter Graham

Rafael Grosso Rios
Doug Haldeman
Michelle Hartlen
Mary Kate Heney
Clara Hill
Garry Ho
Rami Hosein
Larry Hughsam
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
Diala K
Mark Kelly & Winston Griffith
Kena & Sanchia
Doug Kerr
Karim Ladak
Domenico Lanzara
Eric Lauzon
The Lead PR (Jeffrey Schneider & Seth Adam)
Lemon
Emma Lewzey
Alex Lincoln
Justin LoPresti
Zakiya Lord
Robin Lord Taylor & Richard DiBella
Winnie Luk
Mickey MacIntyre
Major Tom
Becca Manheimer
Brendan Mason
Mohammad Mertaban
Joe McCormack
Elton McDuffus
Scott McNeill

Gia Metric
John Miller
Julian Morris & Landon Ross
Michael Murphy
Navigator
Aditi Nayak
Max Niedzwiecki & Albert Ruesga
Akshat Niranjani
Simon Paluck
The Points Guy
Prime Produce NYC
Priyanka
Glenn Pushelberg & George Yabu
Rainbow Coalition for Refuge
Reach Capabilities (Ross Slater & Wayne Smith)
Ann Rosenfield
Maseeh Roshan
Ian Royer
Daniel Rozak

Alex Sayde
Dawn Segura
Patrick Sessler
Alison Sharp (above in All Aboard)
Adam Sherkin
Amy Sherwood
Kevin Steen
Sara Steenhouse
Rainbow Street
Traction on Demand
Kevork Vahedjian
Glenna Waddle
Chris Wallace
Timothy Warmath
Ryan White
Eric Wright
Yabu Pushelberg's Philanthropy Committee
Mitch Young



RAINBOW
RAILROAD

401 Richmond Street West
Suite 360, Toronto,
ON M5V 3A8

424 West 54th Street,
New York, NY.
10019

info@rainbowrailroad.org
www.rainbowrailroad.org

