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STATEMENT ON BRITTNEY GRINER SENTENCING IN RUSSIA

Long Beach, CA (August 4, 2022) – The LGBTQ Center Long Beach is appalled by the prison sentence Russian courts have pronounced today against the openly lesbian American Olympian and WNBA star Brittney Griner.

Griner, like many WNBA stars travels to Russia in the off-season to play basketball as an offset for their minuscule salaries compared to that of their male counterparts.

This is a shameful historical event where a tyrannical nation uses an extraordinarily talented American as a pawn to better their image on the world stage. Additionally, her identity as a strong out Black lesbian makes her a target in the homophobic Russia, and at home too. The Center calls for a public reckoning over the cause of great public indifference in this case to identify racial, gender, or sexuality biases and rectify.

The Center asks why American women should have to travel to a hostile nation in order to flourish in their chosen field?

Among the toxic worldwide discourse of laws, politics, the gross inequities in American sports, gender abilities, sexual orientation, and women's rights, The Center urges the public to not lose site of the bigger issues of women's value as persons and professionals. Please reach out to your elected officials and express your support of Brittney Griner.

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About The LGBTQ Center Long Beach:

Since 1977, The LGBTQ Center Long Beach has provided support and community to LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies in the Greater Long Beach, CA area. The Center focuses its work in five major areas which include youth and family support, older adult programs, health testing and mental health treatment, and legal services for victims of discrimination and crime including one of the nation's few LGBTQ+ domestic violence clinics. Each month The Center offers more than two dozen free community workshops, meetings, and programs that appeal to folks of each Pride rainbow color. It also produces several annual events including [QFilms Long Beach](#), an annual LGBTQ+

film festival, AIDS Walk Long Beach, and Transgender Week of Visibility celebrations. For Long Beach Pride, The Center hosts the annual Teen Pride Dance and creates the Family Fun Zone, a sober area for people of all ages. Follow The LGBTQ Center Long Beach [@CenterLB](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or visit www.CenterLB.org.