

Advocating for shifts in law and policy which would better protect the Jamaican LGBT community has been at the heart of J-FLAG's work since its inception. In 2001, the toddler-organization boldly sought inclusion in the Jamaican Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, by advocating for the constitutional prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Fast forward to 2018 where though many of the original legal and policy goals have yet to be achieved, we remain optimistic about the opportunities that have been, are being and that will be created to promote greater inclusion and protection of LGBT Jamaicans.

We have seen the National HIV/AIDS Policy as well as the National Youth Policy create avenues for more meaningful engagement of J-FLAG and the wider LGBT community. This means that it is quite possible to engage our Government around issues affecting the community and, through consistent agitation and dialogue, see the necessary changes. Therefore, the future of Jamaica's legal and policy landscape is whatever we commit to make of it.

The legal research, the policy briefs and the Gay Agenda have all led us to this jumping-off point where our options for advocacy extend beyond the repeal of anti-sodomy laws and constitutional inclusion. We stand in full recognition of the need to consider broadly law and policy reform in education, employment, healthcare, youth development, women's rights, law enforcement and justice alongside reforms such as decriminalization of same-sex intimacy, equal protection of same-sex relationships, protection from all forms of sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination and recognition of transgender identities.

This means we will continue to engage parliamentarians and policymakers and work with them to understand why they should and how they can do more for the LGBT community. We will continue to sensitize the community about different laws and legal processes so that they can better navigate public and private spaces. We will more actively engage the community in framing and prioritizing our advocacy goals. And, we will extend our reach and partnerships within the private, public and third sector.

Over the last 20 years, J-FLAG has risen as the foremost voice of the Jamaican LGBT community, and over the next 20 years, we commit to maintaining and augmenting the current social capital of the organization and broadening the space it occupies, We commit to ensuring that our advocacy represents the LGBT community as interested in and working towards a united, inclusive and prosperous Jamaica. We commit to improving our advocacy to better address the intersectional needs of the community; whether the result of poverty, social class, sex, gender, race, age, disability or place of origin. We welcome participation and constructive criticism from the community so that we can work together to achieve the best results for all.