

Mission- Centering LGBT Youth in National Development by Building Bridges for youth Diversity and Inclusion.

Equality Youth Jamaica (EYJ) is a youth-led and focused social justice organization that seeks to promote the inclusion of diverse voices in national and youth development. EYJ focuses on creating safe spaces for young LGBT youth, Allies and other marginalized youth to exist and feel a part of a safe community.

Our main objectives are to:

1. Build and maintain relationships with youth groups and youth-focused organisations.
2. Mobilize and create safe spaces for LGBT youth (youth in rural and marginalized communities).
3. Increase LGBT youth participation in the national discourse.
4. Foster organizational sustainability.

Vision: EYJ is the preeminent youth voice on national development issues affecting LGBT youth in Jamaica.

Some of the major achievement of the equality youth project over the past three years.

1. Directly trained and impact 87 young people between the ages 18-26.
2. The youth project has also reached over 700 young people across the country through sensitization sessions on human rights, stigma and discrimination, mental health and inclusive development.
3. Engaged over 39 policy makers and duty bearers in discussions around human rights and the experiences of LGBT youth in Jamaica.
4. Published over 100 letters and editorials in local newspapers.
5. Held 3 successful National youth symposium between 2015-2018.
6. Participated in the creation of JFLAG Gay agenda 2018.

The Equality Youth Project through its work over three years designed projects and initiatives to engage LGBT youth and their allies in advocacy, community building and volunteerism. Some of the major highlights of the project include affording youth participants the opportunity to interact with policy and decision makers at the highest level, participating in the review of key legislation such as the review of the sexual offences act, sharing their stories through our building bridges activities and other critical activities.

The Youth Project has been able to extend its work beyond Kingston and St Andrew to reach communities in other parishes across the country. Building on the lessons learnt over the years, as the project enters its fourth year, its objective will be to deepen its impact within youth spaces, to provide development support for young participants to engage in social justice advocacy and support building public tolerance and respect for LGBT people.