

## **#BringBrittneyHome x Black Feminist Future Press Kit**

#### **Our Mission**

BFF is a political hub focused on the dynamic possibilities of galvanizing the social and political power of Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people towards liberation. We do this by building and nourishing the leadership of fierce Black feminists, fortifying aligned organizations and movements, and shifting cultural norms.

## **Our Vision**

BFF envisions a world where all Black women, girls, and gender-expansive folks are: safe, joyful, cared for, powerful, self-determining, and thriving. We envision a world where freedom is our birthright and we are in abundant, nurturing, and interdependent relationships with our communities and the earth.

#### **BFF Facts**

- Black Feminist Future (BFF) was founded by Paris Hatcher in 2014 and is headquartered in Atlanta, GA.
- BFF has 9 team members, 7 advisory committee members, 13 Constellation steering committee members, and 15 board members.
- BFF has partnered with Black-led organizations like Movement for Black Lives, Freedom Inc., Planned Parenthood's Stand with Black Women, Collective Action for Safe Spaces, viBe Theater Experience, WomanHOOD Project, and many others.

## More about BFF Our Team Bios

## About the #BringBrittneyHome Campaign

Brittney Griner has been in Russia since February 17, and U.S. officials are waiting to bring her home. Unfortunately, the response to Brittney's detainment from U.S. media and elected officials has been tepid, and has had relatively low media visibility. Brittney's safe return is clearly not a priority for U.S. officials, and Black Feminist Future wants to know: Why?

Brittney Griner is a 31-year-old Black queer woman. She is a partner, friend, family member, and teammate. She is also one of the top players in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and has been in the overseas professional basketball league for the last nine years. The overwhelmingly wide pay gap between NBA and WNBA players in the U.S. has forced many WNBA players—the majority of whom are Black and queer—to supplement their income overseas.

Russian customs officials allege that Brittney was in possession of vape cartridges containing hashish oil and have opened a criminal case against her. She faces up to ten years in prison. Experts are calling into question the allegations against Brittney, as the lack of transparency and communication from Russian authorities is more indicative of Russian political bargaining than a standard criminal proceeding. In addition to the current geopolitical tensions, there is a longstanding history of discrimination and ill treatment toward Black and queer people in Russia, putting Brittney at an even greater risk of harm.

#### Why is this a Black feminist issue?

- These are common conditions in which our bodies are policed.
- The gendered and racialized pay gap overwhelming impacts Black women, specifically Black queer women.
- The lack of visibility around this issue in the U.S. media and lack of action taken by elected officials reveals how Black women, girls, and gender expansive people are repeatedly deprioritized.
- Russia's discrimination and treatment of Black and queer people puts Brittney at a greater risk of harm.
- Brittney is ours, and we will fight for ours-every time.

#### Our Demands:

To combat this injustice, BFF is launching the #BringBrittneyHome campaign to raise awareness and amplify the call to urge U.S. officials to prioritize Brittney Griner's swift and safe return home.

• We demand the U.S. government prioritize the swift and safe release and return of Brittney Griner back to the United States - facing no charges.

## Email: media@blackfeministfuture.org

Instagram: @BlackFeministFuture Facebook: @BlackFeministFuture Twitter: @BlkFemFuture Official BFF Website



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- We demand ongoing visible proof of Brittney Griner's safety and wellbeing as well as consistent communication and wellness checks while in custody.
- We demand Brittney Griner have access to the same benefits and protections as any other U.S. citizen, including but not limited to, U.S. consular access.

Press Release Toolkit Campaign Page

Past Media Coverage

Black Women Radicals: Afrekete Convos with Black Feminist Future Colorlines: Black Feminists Respond to Ferguson Mic: Altars for Korryn Gaines, Other Black Women Killed by Police Pop Up in Several Cities

Past Press Releases