

Letter to Dominic Raab's office 18th August 2020

Please can you bring to this email to the attention of the foreign office.

LGBT refugees are being held in Block 13 of Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. They are seeking asylum due to their sexuality and are kept separately from the other refugees. Due to being held in that block, they are outed as LGBT and therefore are frequently subjected to physical and emotional abuse in homophobic attacks.

The charity I work with FiLiA have spoken to some lesbians who are there and they are suffering a lot. There is some information here

<https://filia.org.uk/podcasts/2020/8/12/filia-campaign-support-lesbians-in-kakuma-refugee-camp-we-need-your-help>

The refugee camp is run by UNHCR. It is really important for the refugees that the camp remains in place but I thought as Britain contributes to the initiative and as we are a UN member we ought to be able to do something about the conditions, in particular the lack of security for the LGBT residents.

I think it would be good for the government to show their international commitment to LGBT struggles.

I've attached a collection of evidence from various residents of Block 13.

It is not sustainable for the LGBT people to be kept at Kakuma, it has been shown that they are not safe from attacks by fellow refugees due to homophobia being rife (and culturally acceptable) within the camp. Also those who should be protecting them, Police, Doctors and UNHCR staff are also sadly affected by blatant homophobia and failing in their duties. I don't think we can change the culture of an entire camp so we would like the FCO to use its influence to expedite the processing of the LGBT refugees to countries where they can start to heal and live their lives with dignity.

One man has already committed suicide, many refugees (including babies) have been seriously injured, women (and men) have been raped. So the sooner action can be taken the better.

I would appreciate an update whenever you are able to provide one. Thanks very much for your time.

Kind regards,