



# SOLIDARITY IN PRIDE

**Rainbow Railroad acknowledges that our offices in Tkaronto (Toronto) and Menatay (Manhattan, NYC) are on the unceded land of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat and the Lenape peoples. We encourage our supporters to learn more about the history of Indigenous and Native peoples and support their fight for justice on stolen land.**



**1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**2**

**SOLIDARITY IN PRIDE**

**3**

**INITIATIVES**

**5**

**ABOUT RAINBOW RAILROAD**

**6**

**OUR WORK**

**7**

**HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU**

**12**

**FUNDRAISING CHECKLIST**

Thank you so much for your interest in fundraising for Rainbow Railroad! As an LGBTQI+ organization that was volunteer-run upon its founding, we know all too well how important the power of community is. Whether you are a member of the LGBTQI+ community or an ally, we can come together to forward Rainbow Railroad's mission to help persecuted LGBTQI+ individuals get to safety.

Every dollar raised supports our mission – helping more LGBTQI+ people escape persecution and violence. We are so grateful to count you in as a supporter and champion of our cause.

In this toolkit, you will learn a little bit more about our work, how you can help, and how we can assist you in your fundraising efforts. Please don't hesitate to reach out for questions and support.

**Contact us at**  
[events@rainbowrailroad.org](mailto:events@rainbowrailroad.org)  
for additional information.



# SOLIDARITY IN PRIDE

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Show your solidarity this pride by helping us raise \$2 million by June 30th.

Rainbow Railroad's 2024 Pride campaign focuses on finding solidarity in Pride. Pride started as a protest and today, it largely remains a time to advocate for the rights and freedoms of all identities and sexualities across the LGBTQI+ community.

We stand in solidarity with folks in countries where it is unsafe to celebrate Pride so openly, without fear of persecution and violence. The LGBTQI+ community is not free until every last member of the community is also free – free to express

themselves authentically and free to love whom they want to love.

Join us in fostering Solidarity in Pride and supporting LGBTQI+ individuals on their journey from Persecution to Pride. Be a key partner by helping us raise **\$2 million by June 30th**, providing vital support to refugees reaching out to Rainbow Railroad.

# YOUR FUNDRAISING WILL HELP SUPPORT INITIATIVES LIKE:

## Ongoing Support in Africa

- Currently, same-sex intimacy is illegal in 31 African countries and punishable by death in three, including **Uganda**, which signed the Anti-Homosexuality Act into law in May 2023.
- Earlier this year, **Ghana's** parliament passed one of the world's harshest anti-LGBTQI+ bills, further threatening and endangering the queer and trans community in Ghana.
- Late last year, **Kenya** attempted to introduce legislation that would have included the death penalty for homosexuality and banned the promotion of LGBTQI+ activity; homosexuality remains a criminal act in Kenya.

## Support in Russia

- In December 2023, the **Russian Supreme Court** labelled the international LGBTQI+ movement as “extremist.” The Supreme Court ruling is already leading to arrests and prosecutions for acts as simple as posting a rainbow flag on social media.

## Ongoing Work in Afghanistan

- The violent fallout from the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 continues to impact the LGBTQI+ community. LGBTQI+ Afghans reaching out to Rainbow Railroad disclose experiences of severe persecution, including community rejection and violence, verbal threats and abuse, and family-based rejection, forcing many to live in hiding due to credible threats against their lives.

# ABOUT RAINBOW RAILROAD

Rainbow Railroad is an international organization that helps LGBTQI+ people escape violence and persecution to find a path to safety.

Across more than 60 countries globally, same-sex intimacy is criminalized. This often results in state-enabled violence, discrimination in all aspects of everyday life and, in extreme cases, even the death penalty.

Rainbow Railroad steps in to provide vital support for these individuals, including the facilitation of emergency travel to safer locations. **Since our inception, we've successfully relocated over 2,000 people to safety and provided essential services to an additional 13,000.**

However, the need for our services continues to grow. **This year alone, we anticipate receiving requests for help from 15,000 LGBTQI+ individuals—our highest number yet.** To ensure we can meet this urgent demand and continue our work, we are reaching out to our community and allies for support, starting with



# OUR WORK

## Emergency Travel Support

Relocating LGBTQI+ people who face immediate danger.

## Direct Livelihood Support

Support includes accommodation, medical care, access to essential medicines and relocation to another region of the country.

## Partnership Development

Direct capacity building and livelihood support to human rights defenders, organizations and collectives in countries where people are displaced.

## Response to Crackdowns

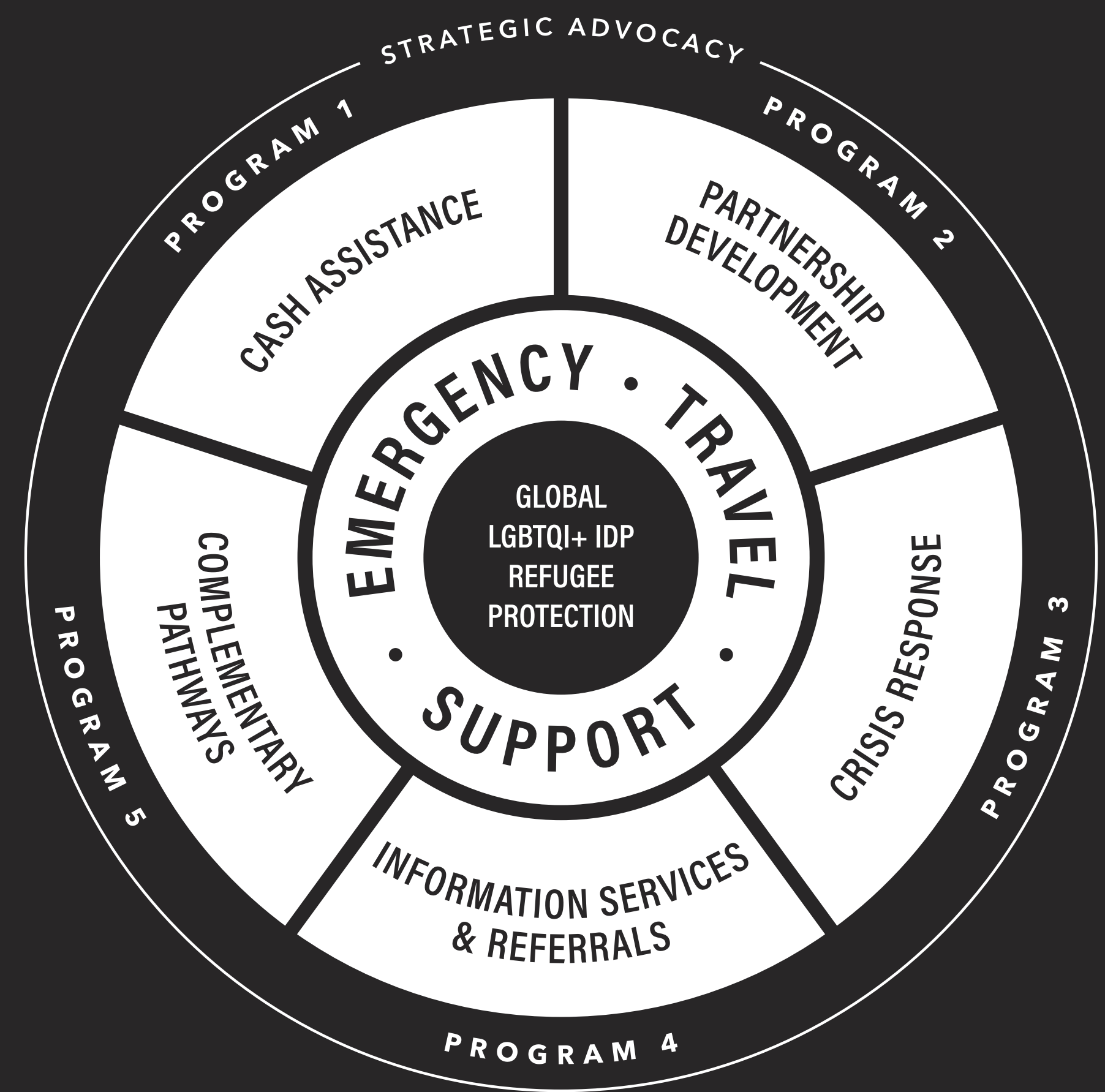
Monitoring and responding to mass detentions and/or arrests of LGBTQI+ persons.

## Non-Monetary Networks and Support

Providing essential non-monetary resources and counsel to LGBTQI+ people facing violence and persecution.

## Private Sponsorship of Refugees

Arranging for the private sponsorship of refugees and pursuing other complementary pathways to safety.





# HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

We LOVE to hear from our supporters and community members, but with Pride being the busiest time of the year, we've put together this helpful list of resources and tools to support your fundraiser.



## Planning and implementation

Since third-party fundraisers are not official Rainbow Railroad events, you are responsible for the core planning of the event. When possible, we provide promotional and organizational support in as many ways as we can. For additional support, please e-mail [tluftig@rainbowrailroad.org](mailto:tluftig@rainbowrailroad.org) so we can discuss how Rainbow Railroad can best support your event.





## Communications

Our website has a ton of information about our work. We encourage all fundraisers to check out our “**The Latest**” page for up-to-date news on our work, including current events.

For additional resources like our logo pack for promotional material, please click **HERE** to access our shared assets folder.

**NOTE:** If you will be using our logo, please email a copy of the promotional material to [tluftig@rainbowrailroad.org](mailto:tluftig@rainbowrailroad.org) for approval.



## Social Media / Promotion

Depending on the nature of your fundraiser, there may be an opportunity to share your event, or results on our social media pages. Please ensure Rainbow Railroad is tagged on all your posts. Unfortunately, we cannot share everything - but we will try!





## Post-Event

The MOST important task you can do as a fundraiser on behalf of Rainbow Railroad is to say thank you. Please reach out to your supporters and say thanks for their participation. If donations are made directly to you or your business, it is your obligation to submit these to Rainbow Railroad as soon as possible. Please contact us if you need support.

# FUNDRAISING CHECKLIST

You're ready to give back to your community and have a great fundraising idea - now it's time to put it all together!

- Visit our website to read about our work to get inspired!
- Read our Fundraising Toolkit – great job, you're already doing it!
- Plan your event - decide on what kind of fundraising event you'll be hosting and begin your planning. If you need any tips or support, reach out to us, we would love to hear about your event!
- Launch your fundraiser! Promote your event amongst your family, friends, and social media. Reach out to our team if you need help with any communication materials.
- Once you've finished your fundraiser – it's time to celebrate! Send your donors a big thank you, and feel free to send us a picture of your fundraisers to share on Rainbow Railroad's social media.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

For more information, please contact:

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