

Building Pathways to Liberation

Stories, Struggles, and Strategies for Racial Justice Across the Americas



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to educate, organize, and empower for human rights, democracy, and racial justice throughout the Americas

OUR FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF

We place the lived experiences and knowledge of Black women and girls at the center of our work. We affirm their fundamental human rights and commit to dismantling all structures, institutions, and practices that seek to deny them through our own collective action and in solidarity with allied organizations and individuals.

Message from our Executive Director

2024 reminded us that the struggle for Afro-descendant liberation is both challenging and full of hope. At AfroResistance, we stood with communities across the Americas—supporting local struggles, amplifying migrant voices, and building alliances for justice.

Our vision remains clear: racial, gender, and migrant justice are urgent necessities. Memory without action becomes nostalgia; action without memory loses meaning. That is why we honor those before us while creating pathways for those to come.

Building Pathways to Liberation reflects both our achievements and the work that lies ahead. Together in resistance and hope we move closer to freedom and dignity for all.

Thank you for walking this path with us. The struggle continues, and AfroResistance will remain steadfast until justice is won.



Janvieve Williams Comrie

Executive Director



Our Principles



Black Unity in the Americas

We are a political platform uniting Black people in the Americas to co-create an agenda rooted in gender, racial, reproductive, and economic justice



Gender Analysis that centers Black TransWomen and Girls

Gender is the foundation of our work across all intersections. Centering the impact of systems on Black trans women and girls is an intentional stance toward the liberation of all Black women and girls



Racial Justice that centers Blackness

Centering Black people's liberation due to the historical and global history of structural and systemic oppression that Black people continue to face. It's a vital path to our liberation.



Reproductive Justice as a human right

Reproductive justice is a framework elaborated by Black women and it is central to our analysis of health and health inequalities of Black women and girls.



Migration that honors Black people's movement regardless of 'status'

Having an internationalist perspective on migration, where Black migrants regardless of political, social, economic or cultural migration realities and stories are honored and centered as members of society and therefore entitled and guarantee of all their human rights.

Afroresistance Leadership



**Janvieve Williams
Comrie**

Visionary leader for racial
and gender justice.



**Mauri Balanta
Jaramillo**

Black-Trans activist for
equity and autonomy.



Argelis V. Wesley

Afro-Panamanian strategist
and movement builder.



Chevy Solís

Researcher amplifying
Afro-descendant voices.



Valerie Summer

Challenging systems of
exclusion impacting Afro-
descendant communities

Together We Move Forward

2024 was a year of challenges, but also one of resilience and collective strength. At AfroResistance, we were able to confront difficulties and move forward because we were never alone. Every step we took was made possible thanks to our believers, donors, partners, and allies who trust in our vision of justice, dignity, and liberation for Afro-descendant communities across the Americas.

Your support allowed us not only to sustain our programs, but to expand them bringing visibility to silenced stories, amplifying voices of resistance, and building pathways toward racial, gender, and migrant justice. None of this work would have been possible without your generosity, your commitment, and your belief in the power of organized communities.



A Year of Collective Action

The year 2024 showed us that resistance is not only about surviving but also about creating new possibilities for justice and dignity. AfroResistance deepened its commitment to strengthening Black liberation across the Americas by turning everyday struggles into spaces for community, care, and political vision.

Our **film forums in Panama** became powerful meeting points where stories of migration, resilience, and identity sparked dialogue across generations. Through the **Olla Comunitaria in Colombia**, we responded to urgent needs while also affirming food as a right and community care as a form of resistance.

We expanded our reach through **virtual convenings and online gatherings**, connecting voices from Panama, Colombia and the Caribbean. These exchanges allowed us to weave a stronger fabric of solidarity, knowledge-sharing, and mutual support.

In addition, our **Black Highlights series** uplifted the brilliance and contributions of Black leaders across the Americas, affirming that recognition and visibility are integral to liberation. Each highlight reminded us that our collective power is rooted in the stories we tell and the legacies we honor. In 2024, AfroResistance advanced not only through programs but through the living connections we built. Together, we proved once again that memory, action, and solidarity are the foundation for a freer and more just future.



Strengthening Transnational Ties

In 2024, AfroResistance deepened its commitment to collective struggle by weaving new connections and amplifying ongoing initiatives. In **Colón, Panama**, the Afrodescendant Women's Committee became a space of political education and community power, positioning women at the center of resistance. Across borders, we accompanied organizations in **Honduras**, standing alongside grassroots leaders advancing racial, feminist, and territorial justice.

Our alliances with **Garífuna communities** reaffirmed the importance of defending ancestral rights while building transnational solidarity. Beyond on-the-ground organizing, we also invested in storytelling: through **blogs and digital publications**, we highlighted the leadership, creativity, and resilience of Black communities across the Americas.

Recognition also came from the broader movement. At the **North Star Fund Gala**, our collective work was celebrated as an example of how sustained organizing and visionary leadership can shift narratives and practices. This honor underscored not only our achievements but also the urgency of continuing to expand our reach.



First Quarter 2024

From Resistance to Action



AFRORESISTANCE

First Quarter 2024 — January March

During the first quarter of 2024, we continued to elevate our mission of human rights, racial justice, and democracy across the Americas. We marked special days through **social media highlights** that amplified key messages of solidarity, reproductive justice, and racial equity ensuring that our platforms remained a space for visibility, education, and collective empowerment. These communications campaigns reaffirmed our commitment to centering the experiences and struggles of Black women, femmes, and girls across the region.



First Quarter 2024 – January March

On **January 25, 2024**, we convened the virtual forum “*Voices of Resistance in Panama Against Extractivist Policies.*” This critical conversation explored the historic struggle of Panamanian communities against large-scale mining projects and the profound environmental, racial, and social inequalities at stake. The dialogue came at a pivotal moment: following unprecedented mobilizations, the people of Panama successfully pressured the government to suspend the contract with Minera Panamá marking a milestone in the defense of biodiversity and collective rights.

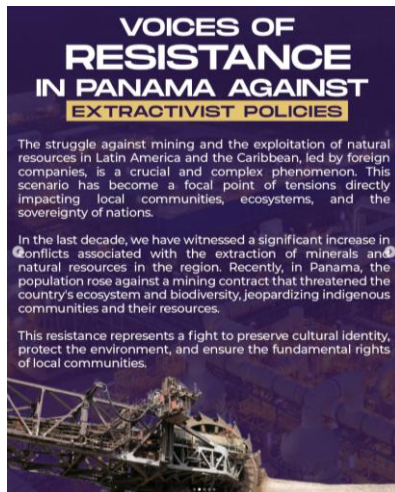
The discussion featured a powerful group of women leaders and activists, including:

Raiza Banfield, architect and environmentalist

María Flore de Rodríguez, community leader from Boca de Tulu

Rencilla Mendoza, coordinator of the Collective of Indigenous Women EEM

Walkiria Chandler D'Orcy, independent legislator and attorney



VOICES OF RESISTANCE IN PANAMA AGAINST EXTRACTIVIST POLICIES

PANELISTS

- 
Rencilla Mendoza
Coordinator of the Indigenous Women's Collective of EEM.
- 
Walkiria Chandler D'Orcy
Independent Deputy, lawyer.
- 
Maria Flores Rodriguez
Leader of the Boca de Tulu community.
- 
Raiza Banfield,
Environmental Architect.

DATE

 **2-4:30** EST  **25** JANUARY

VIRTUAL EVENT | PRE-REGISTRATION

ORGANIZED BY: **AFRORESISTANCE** IN COLLABORATION WITH:

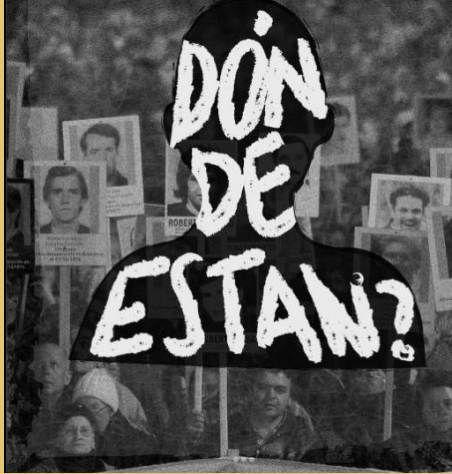
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First Quarter 2024 — January March

As part of our ongoing work with the **Global Black Victory Lab (GBVL)**, AfroResistance was honored to participate in the international seminar *“Historical Reparation and Solidarity in the Black Diaspora,”* hosted by **UNEafro Brasil, Instituto de Referência Negra Peregum,** and **Alma Preta Jornalismo** at **Unifesp.**

This gathering created a vital space for reflection and dialogue on the urgent need for historical reparations and the strengthening of solidarity across the African Diaspora. The seminar highlighted the deep historical injustices that continue to shape the realities of Black communities worldwide, while also offering strategies for collective resistance, advocacy, and transnational unity. By participating in this convening, we reaffirmed our commitment to advancing a global Black feminist agenda grounded in the leadership of Black women, femmes, and girls that confronts systemic racism, colonial legacies, and structural inequality. Together with our partners, we elevated the call for reparations not only as a demand for justice, but as a pathway toward healing, transformation, and liberation across generations.





Redadas de Agentes de Migración en autobuses de República Dominicana, el calvario diario de negros/as y personas indocumentadas



PIEDAD CÓRDOBA
1955-2024



This first quarter, we raised our voices in solidarity with struggles across the region.

- We echoed the call for justice in **Ecuador** after the disappearance of *Suris Sayanna Bone Castro*, a young Afro-descendant girl whose case exposed the racialized violence and invisibility faced by Black girls.
- We denounced the **racist migration policies in the Dominican Republic**, where Black and undocumented people face constant danger in exercising their right to free movement.
- We also honored the life and legacy of **Piedad Córdoba**, Afro-Colombian leader and ally, whose advocacy was key to **Law 70 of 1993**, securing collective rights and ancestral land for Afro-Colombian communities. Her vision continues to inspire our work for racial justice and collective liberation.

Rooted in Resistance: Our Podcast

We continued building our podcast, **“Rooted in Resistance,”** now available on **YouTube and Spotify**. With new episodes added to our digital platforms, the series amplifies Black voices, stories, and strategies for justice across the Americas. Through this work, we are strengthening accessible tools for political education and collective empowerment.



AFRORESISTANCE ROOTED IN RESISTANCE

PODCAST

Stream on



Understanding the Realities of the Americas

We hosted our second virtual call in February, “*Understanding the Current Socio-Political, Economic, and Racial Realities of the Americas.*” This essential gathering created space for a deep analysis of the historical, racial, and socio-economic forces shaping the ongoing challenges across our region.

Our panel featured powerful voices: **Alejandra Magaña** (El Salvador, AfroOS), **Ingrid Gamboa** (Guatemala, ISERI IBAGARI), **Juana C. Francis Bone** (Ecuador, Mujeres de Asfalto), and **Francía Jenny Moreno Zapata** (Ecuador). Together, they shared critical perspectives on how systemic inequities continue to impact Black and Indigenous communities in their respective countries.

This event was made possible through collaboration with allied organizations including **La Cuerda, Mujeres de Asfalto, Mujer & Mujer, Poder Constituyente, Ojalá,** and **AfroOS**. By convening this collective dialogue, we strengthened our transnational analysis and deepened solidarity across movements working to dismantle structural racism and inequality in the Americas.

VIRTUAL EVENT

Understanding the current
political, economic and racial
realities of the Americas



Francía Jenny
Moreno Zapata
Justice Observatory
for Afro-descendants
in Latin America

International Seminar on Historical Reparation and Solidarity

In March, we participated in the **First International Seminar on Historical Reparation and Solidarity in the Black Diaspora**, held in São Paulo. The gathering focused on the urgent demand for public institutions to implement effective reparative actions for Brazil's Black population, while also strengthening networks across Diaspora countries that continue to confront the legacies of slavery and colonialism.

With strong Black representation and participation from multiple Diaspora organizations, the seminar created space for collective strategies to advance reparations and deepen solidarity among movements across the Americas and beyond. We were invited by **UNEafro Brasil**, whose leadership convened this important exchange that connected historical struggles to present-day demands for justice and transformation.



Realities and Challenges of the Haitian Population in the Dominican Republic

We hosted our third virtual call, “Realities and Challenges of the Haitian Population in the Dominican Republic: From the Voices of Women.” This powerful conversation centered the experiences of Haitian and Dominican-Haitian women who are on the frontlines of confronting racism, xenophobia, and systemic exclusion.

Our panel brought together courageous leaders: **Altagracia Jean Josep** (Fundación Código Humano), **Maribel Pierre** (Reconocido), **Liliana Dolis** (Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas, MUDHA), and **Colette Lespinasse** (Grupo de Apoyo a Repatriados y Refugiados, GARR). Through their testimonies and analysis, we gained critical insights into the realities of discrimination, the struggle for documentation and rights, and the collective strategies being built to resist injustice.

By holding space for these voices, we deepened solidarity with Haitian and Dominican-Haitian women and reaffirmed our commitment to advancing racial and migrant justice across the region.

AFRORESISTANCE

REALITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE HAITIAN POPULATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FROM THE VOICES OF WOMEN

PANELISTS

DATE



Altagracia Jean Josep
-Fundación Código humano-



Maribel Pierre
-Reconocido-



Liliana Dolis
-Movimiento de Mujeres
Dominico-Haitianas (MUDHA)-



Colette Lespinasse
-Grupo de Apoyo a Repatriados
y Refugiados (GARR)-



21
MARCH

Time zones

- Colombia and Panamá: 2:00p.m - 5:00p.m
- New York: - Rep. Dominicana: 3:00 p.m - 5:00p.m
- Brazil: 4:00p.m - 6:00p.m
- Central America: 1:00p.m - 3:00p.m

We will have simultaneous translation in Spanish Portuguese and English

Sign up: <https://t.ly/...>

AFRORESISTANCE
IN COLLABORATION WITH



Uplifting Black Voices: Black History Month and Women's Month

During **Black History Month**, we highlighted the voices of leaders such as **Marielle Franco** (Brazil) and **Ceferina Banquez** (Colombia), honoring the significant contributions of Black people across history and in the present. Our focus extended beyond remembrance—lifting up current events, liberation movements, and ongoing achievements that continue to shape our world.

For **Women's Month**, we celebrated the power of Afro-descendant women across Latin America and the Caribbean, whose leadership is transforming their communities. Among them, we amplified the voice of **Juanita Francis Bone** (Mujeres de Asfalto), who courageously advocates for equality, justice, and dignity in the face of persistent violence and inequality.

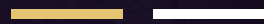
We also uplifted the leadership of our founder and Executive Director, **Janvieve Williams**, and honored the historic achievement of **Erika Hilton** in Brazil, the first trans woman elected to office in the country. These stories reaffirm the power of Black women, femmes, and girls to lead movements of justice and liberation across the Americas.





Second quarter 2024

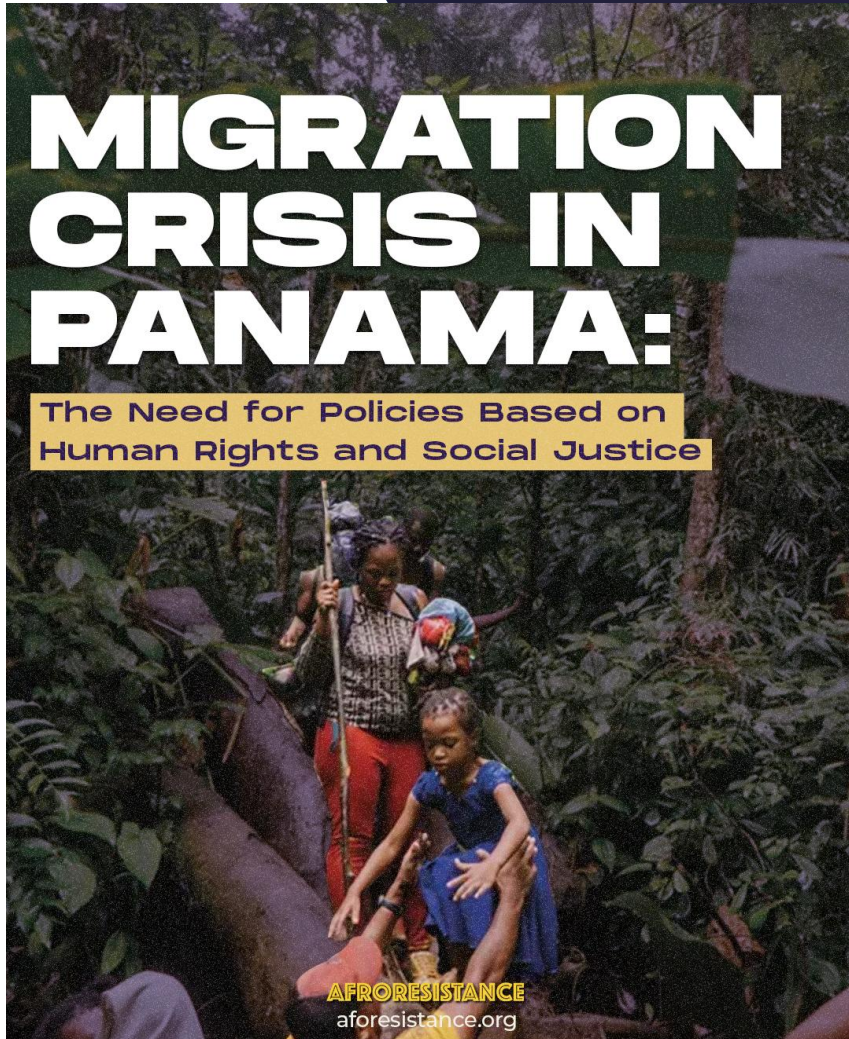
Building Solidarity, Demanding Justice



AFRORESISTANCE

MIGRATION CRISIS IN PANAMA:

The Need for Policies Based on
Human Rights and Social Justice



AFRORESISTANCE
aforesistance.org

Exposing the Crisis in the Darién Gap

Between April and June, we amplified the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the **Darién Gap**, where thousands of migrants especially **Black migrants** face violence, exploitation, and death. The failures of capitalism and the absence of government accountability have deepened this crisis, leaving communities to bear the weight of systemic neglect.

We underscored that the Darién is not only a Panamanian issue but a **regional and global challenge**, exposing entrenched racial, social, and economic inequalities. By centering Black migrant voices, we demanded responses rooted in **human rights, racial justice, and dignity**, instead of exclusion and abandonment.

AFRORESISTANCE

Advancing Trans-Political Leadership

Our Race and Gender Coordinator, **Valerie Summers**, participated as a panelist in the **First Trans-Political School in Palmira, Colombia**.

This groundbreaking space was created to strengthen the political participation and leadership of trans communities, while addressing the intersections of race, gender, and class in the Colombian context.

Valerie's contribution underscored the critical importance of trans voices in shaping democratic futures, confronting systemic exclusion, and advancing social justice. By engaging in this dialogue, we reaffirmed our commitment to building movements where trans women especially Black trans women are recognized not only as participants but as leaders in the fight for equality and liberation across the Americas.



Realities and Challenges of the Haitian Population Beyond Borders

We hosted a virtual conversation on the **realities and challenges of the Haitian population beyond the Dominican border, through the voices of the diaspora**. This dialogue explored the complex crises facing Haiti one of the most impoverished countries in the Western Hemisphere where political instability, social unrest, and recurring natural disasters intersect to deepen poverty and inequality. Together, we reflected on the surge in migration following the **2010 earthquake**, when thousands of Haitians were forced to leave in search of opportunity in countries such as Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador. We also examined how the **COVID-19 pandemic** and entrenched **structural racism** in the region have compounded these struggles, while highlighting the powerful forms of **resistance and resilience emerging from the Haitian diaspora**.

The event featured the voices of **Sassoue Dacier** (ERITAJ), **Tania Pierre Charles**, and **Annavialice M. Casimir** (Marabou Kreol), who offered critical insights on how Haitian communities continue to organize, resist, and demand justice across borders. By centering these perspectives, we strengthened solidarity with Haitian-led movements and reaffirmed our commitment to advancing migrant and racial justice throughout the Americas.

AFRORESISTANCE

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA - HAITI
JIMANI (Prov. Ind.)

VIRTUAL EVENT

REALITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE HAITIAN POPULATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FROM THE VOICES OF WOMEN

PANELISTS

DATE

21 MARCH

Time zones

- Colombia and Panamá: 2:00p.m - 4:00 p.m
- New York: - Rep. Dominicana - Haití: 3:00 p.m 5:00p.m
- Brazil: 4:00p.m - 6:00p.m
- Central America: 1:00p.m - 3:00 p.m

We will have simultaneous translation to English, Spanish Portuguese and Creole

Sign up: <https://t.ly/HaitiDR>

AFRORESISTANCE
IN COLLABORATION WITH

reconoci.do
Fundación Código Humano
MUDHA
JUNTA DE PRIETAS



Recognized by the North Star Fund

We were honored to receive the prestigious **Frederick Douglass Award** from **North Star Fund**. This recognition reinforces our commitment to standing in solidarity with Black communities, advocating for their rights, and working toward a world where every person is valued and respected.

This acknowledgment is a profound testament to our unwavering dedication to empowering and advocating for **Black migrant women and girls**. Our mission remains deeply rooted in amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and building a future grounded in justice, dignity, and equality—regardless of background or status.





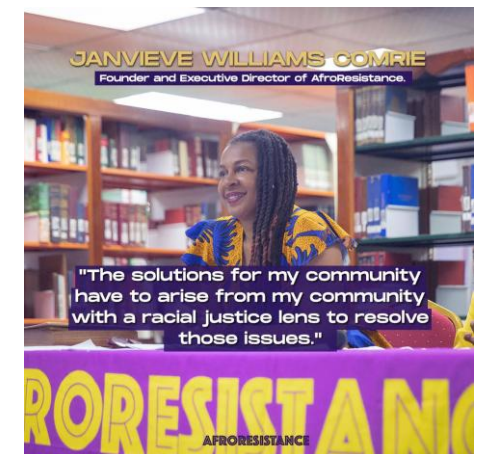
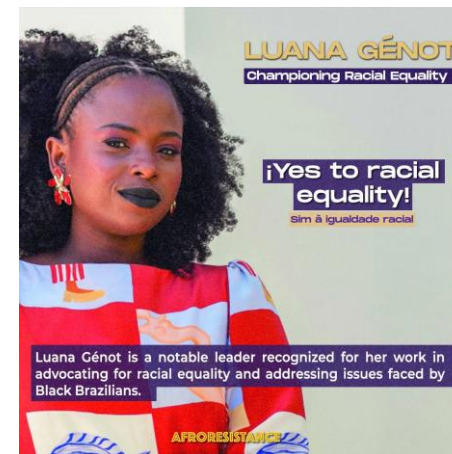
Honoring Powerful Voices

We amplified the voices of three extraordinary women whose leadership and courage continue to inspire movements for justice.

Annie Lee Cooper, a fearless civil rights activist, became a symbol of courage during the **Selma Voting Rights Movement**.

Luana Génot, a remarkable advocate for racial equality and social change in Brazil, has spent more than a decade advancing **diversity and inclusion**.

Janvieve Williams Comrie, our Founder and Executive Director, has spent 18 years advancing human rights and empowering marginalized communities across **Latin America and the Caribbean**.



Honored with the Frederick Douglass Award

We were deeply honored to be named one of the **2024 Frederick Douglass Award Honorees** by the **North Star Fund**. This recognition came at a milestone moment as we prepare to celebrate our **20th anniversary in May**.

For two decades, we have served as a beacon of education and organizing for human rights, democracy, and racial justice across the Americas. To be acknowledged alongside other movement leaders through this prestigious award affirms the impact of our work and strengthens our commitment to advancing collective liberation, guided by the leadership of Black women.

**ANNOUNCING OUR 2024
FREDERICK DOUGLASS
HONOREE**



AFRORESISTANCE

afroresistance.org

Pride Month: Black LGBTIQ+ Realities and Resistance



BLACKENED PRIDE ONLINE TALK
A Transnational Connection of Black LGBTIQ+ Struggle and Memory


Tanya Lallmon


Roodjmie Nazaire


Mandala Walker

Date
Friday, June 14, 2024

Time
10:00 - 12:00 (Bogotá)
11:00 -13:00 (New York)

Moderated by:
Mauri Balanta Jaramillo



We will have simultaneous interpretation.
to English Spanish Portuguese and Creole

Sign up: bit.ly/Blackndpride

AFRORESISTANCE



ONLINE TALK

BLACKENED PRIDE
A Transnational Connection of Black LGBTIQ+ Struggle and Memory

Friday, June 14, 2024. 10:00 - 12:00 (Bogotá) / 11:00 -13:00 (New York)

Moderated by: Mauri Balanta Jaramillo

Welcoming New Leadership

Argelis V. Wesley, our new **Operations Director**, is an Afro-Panamanian activist with extensive experience in market research, administration, and strategic planning across both private and nonprofit sectors. She brings critical skills to strengthen our infrastructure and sustainability.

Mauri Balanta Jaramillo joined us as **Deputy Director**. A Black-Trans activist, researcher, and cultural manager, Mauri has over 12 years of experience advancing racial justice and the political autonomy of Afro-descendant communities. With expertise in intersectionality, diversity, and inclusion, she continues to drive change across Latin America and beyond.



**Argelis
Wesley**
Operational manager



**Mauri
Balanta
Jaramillo**
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Advancing Afro-Descendant Justice: Research Call

We launched a call to support **community-led research projects** addressing the inequalities and discrimination faced by Afro-descendant communities in **Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras**. This initiative was designed for grassroots organizations and collectives that integrate research and community reporting into their agendas.

Our objective is to foster research in critical areas such as **racial justice, reproductive justice, and gender justice**, generating knowledge that can shape public policy and drive meaningful social change.

Through this program, three projects one in each country will receive **\$5,000 USD** in funding to carry out their investigations, strengthening Afro-descendant voices and advancing justice across the region.

AFRORESISTANCE

CONVOCATORIA

Únete a Nuestra Misión para Promover la Justicia

Como organización, nos esforzamos por combatir las desigualdades y la discriminación que afectan a las comunidades afrodescendientes en Guatemala, Panamá y Honduras.

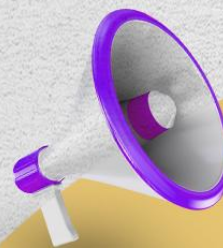
Por esta razón Invitamos a organizaciones de la sociedad civil que integren la investigación en sus programas a unirse a esta iniciativa crucial.

Monto por Investigación:

Cada investigación recibirá un financiamiento de **\$5,000.00USD** dólares. Serán escogidas tres (3) investigaciones, una por país.

Plazo de Investigación:

Las investigaciones deberán realizarse en un período máximo de **3 meses** a partir de la fecha en que se reciba la financiación



Descarga la información completa
bit.ly/Afrojusdetalles

AFRORESISTANCE

Advancing Afro-Descendant Justice: Research Call

CONVOCATORIA

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Descarga la información completa
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AFRORESISTANCE

CONVOCATORIA

Únete a Nuestra Misión para Promover la Justicia

Fecha límite para la presentación de propuestas

30 de Junio 2024

Notificación de resultados

10 de julio de 2024

Inicio del periodo de investigación

15 de julio de 2024

Contacto y envío de propuestas a

chevy@afroresistance.org



Descarga la información completa
bit.ly/Afrojusdetalles

AFRORESISTANCE

CONVOCATORIA

Únete a Nuestra Misión para Promover la Justicia

Modalidades para la presentación de propuestas:

Para facilitar la inclusión y participación en nuestra convocatoria, ofrecemos varias modalidades de presentación de propuestas, adaptándonos a las distintas capacidades tecnológicas de las organizaciones o grupos de base comunitaria, de este modo nos aseguramos que todas puedan participar.

- ✓ Documento escrito y enviado digitalmente.
- ✓ Video - bit.ly/Afrojusvideo
- ✓ Audio
- ✓ Formulario de Google - bit.ly/Afrojusform

Criterios de elegibilidad:

- ✓ La convocatoria está abierta a organizaciones de la sociedad civil con o sin personería jurídica.
- ✓ Grupos de base en los territorios o comunidades afrodescendientes de Panamá, Honduras, y Guatemala.
- ✓ Se dará prioridad a las propuestas generadas desde los territorios que sean lideradas y desarrolladas por las comunidades.



Descarga la información completa
bit.ly/Afrojusdetalles

AFRORESISTANCE

Con Voz Hay Ley: Strengthening Trans Leadership

Our Race and Gender Coordinator, **Valerie Summer**, participated in the “**Con Voz Hay Ley**” gathering in Colombia, a two-day event that marked the culmination of the *Escuela de Vocerías*. This space allowed participants to take ownership of the articles of the **Integral Trans Law** and to build collective strategies for advocacy and action.

Through shared experiences and dialogue, the encounter strengthened connections across territories and reaffirmed the power of **collective leadership**. The closing of this formation process opened new possibilities for trans-led action and reminded us that we are not alone we are a movement, a community, a collective voice for justice.



Lifting Trans Voices in Panama

We held an important and necessary conversation with **Barbara Delgado**, who shared her story as a Black trans woman in Panama. Barbara recounted being detained and discriminated against by police despite holding a valid work permit. Because her ID still carried her birth name and male gender marker, she was subjected to unjust treatment and derogatory comments.

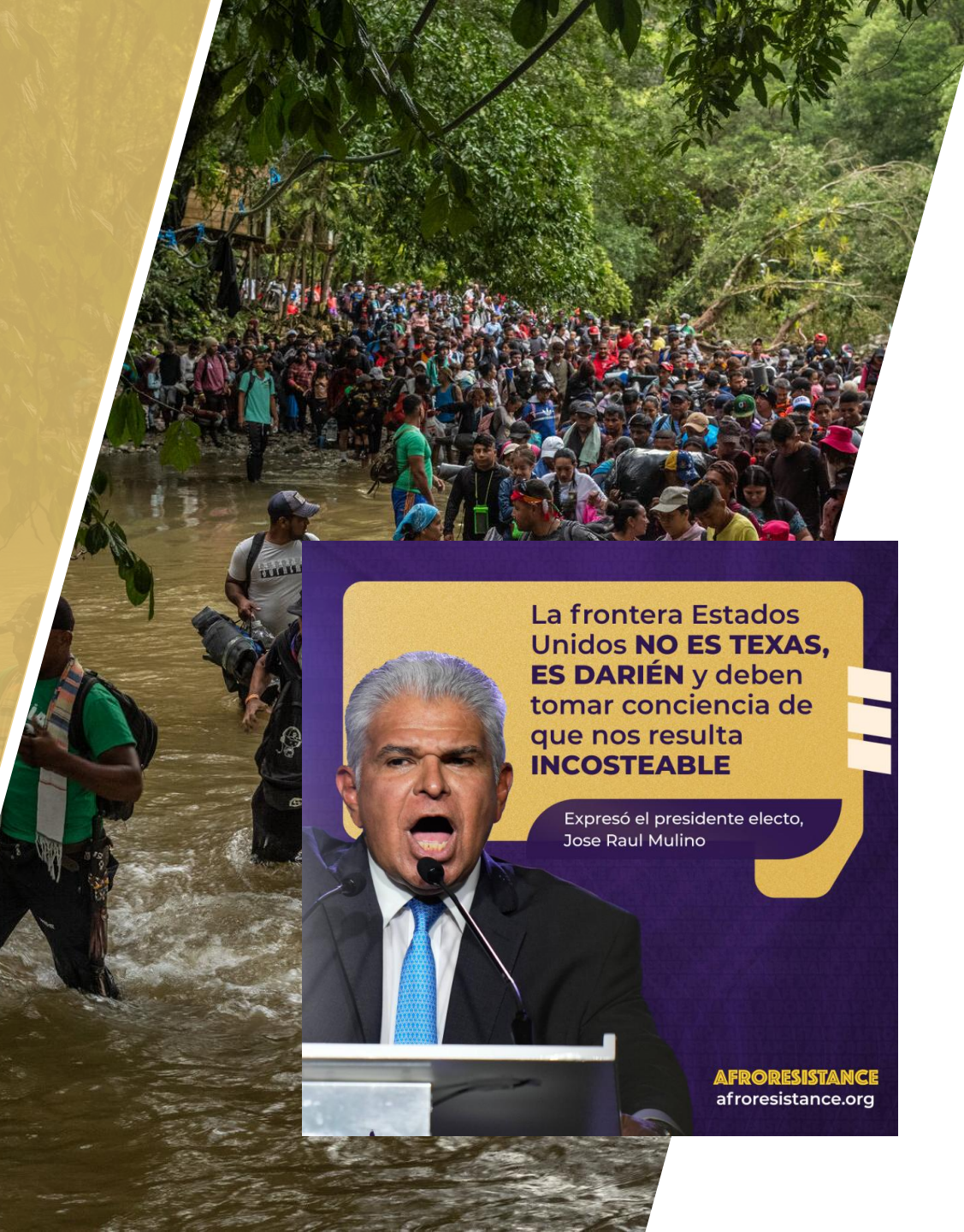
Her testimony reflects the reality faced by many **trans people in Panama**, who continue to struggle for access to food, medicine, and essential healthcare while confronting systemic discrimination. **By amplifying Barbara's voice**, we underscored the urgent need for policies and protections that affirm the dignity and rights of trans communities.



Third quarter 2024

Advancing Change, From Call to Action

AFRORESISTANCE



Naming the Crisis: The Darién Under Siege

As we entered the third quarter, the Panamanian government under President **José Raúl Mulino** began closing the border between Colombia and Panama in the Darién Gap, declaring: *“The border of the United States is not Texas, it is the Darién, and people must understand that it is unsustainable for us.”*

In this context, we raised public denunciations of what we have been calling out for years: the atrocities faced daily by migrants crossing the Darién in search of a better future for themselves and their families. Rather than protecting lives, the government responded by installing **metal fences** to block crossings forcing migrants onto new, unknown, and far more dangerous routes through the jungle, dramatically increasing the risk of death.

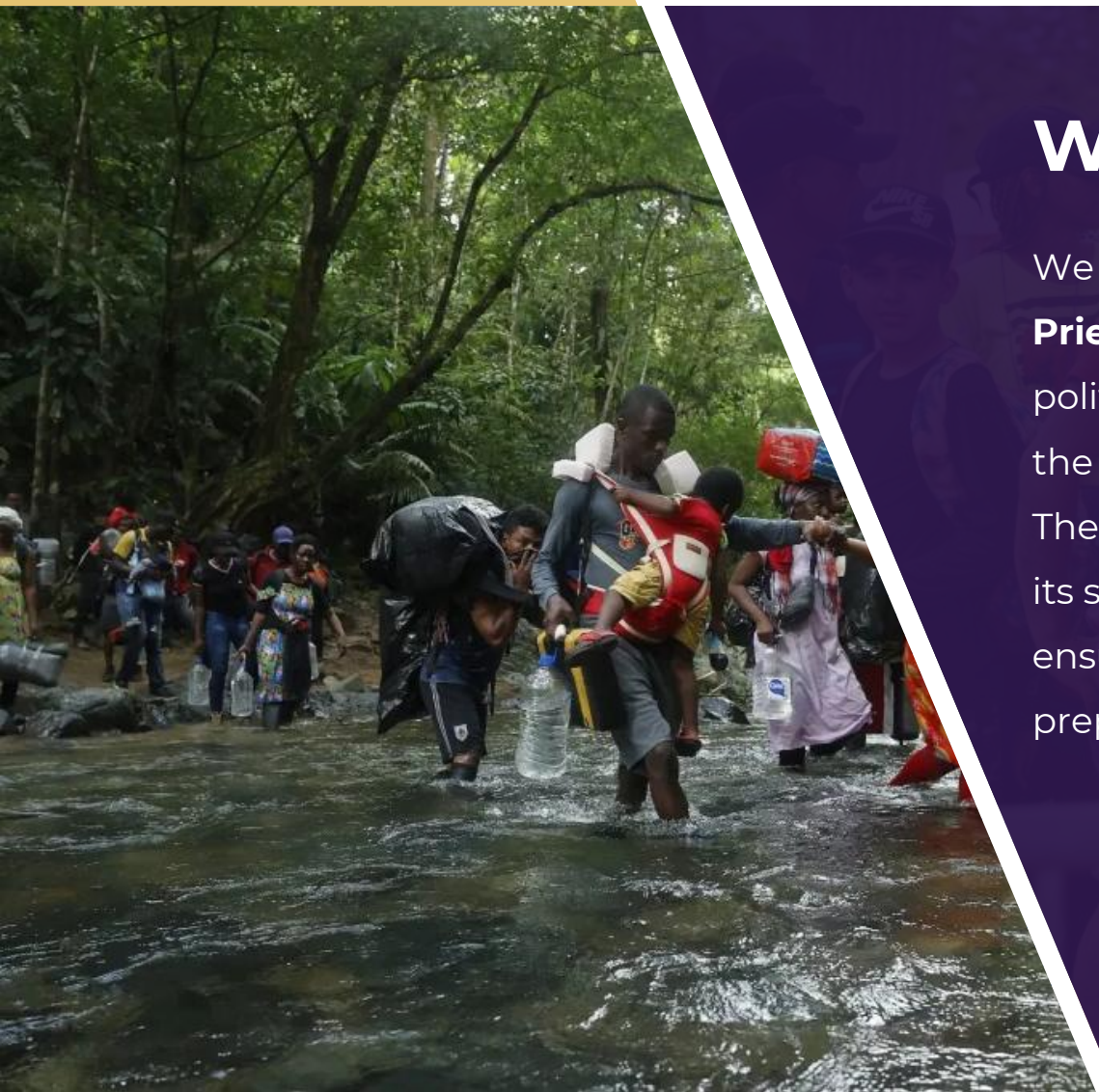
Through our advocacy, we reaffirmed that migration is not a crime, and that the dignity and human rights of Black and migrant communities must remain at the center of any response to this crisis.

La frontera Estados Unidos **NO ES TEXAS, ES DARIÉN** y deben tomar conciencia de que nos resulta **INCOSTEABLE**

Expresó el presidente electo, José Raúl Mulino

AFRORESISTANCE
afroresistance.org

AFRORESISTANCE



What is Happening in Panama

We hosted a virtual call titled “*What is Happening in Panama*” with **Amílcar Priestley** from the Afro Latino Project. Together, we examined the pressing political and migration crises unfolding in the country, while also analyzing the role of the United States in shaping these developments.

The conversation also looked ahead to our upcoming delegation, discussing its significance, and strategizing around the logistics and support needed to ensure its success. This dialogue helped strengthen our collective vision and preparedness, grounding our actions in solidarity and transnational strategy.

Join our Zoom Call

**WHAT IS
HAPPENING IN
PANAMA**



With Amílcar Priestley - Panelist

JULY 16
7:00 PM (Eastern Time)



Moderator: Janivieve Williams Comrie



Denouncing Threats to Rights in the Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, we raised public denunciations against the imminent approval of a deeply problematic reform to the **Penal Code**. The proposed legislation upholds the **total ban on abortion**, denying women and girls the right to make decisions about their own bodies. Equally alarming, the reform continues to **exclude sexual orientation** from the list of protected characteristics against discrimination, leaving LGBTQIA+ communities without equal protection under the law. We made clear that these measures represent a grave setback for human rights and gender justice, and we reaffirmed our commitment to standing with Dominican movements resisting these threats.

AFRORESISTANCE

Toward the Solidarity Journey to Panama

In this quarter, we formally opened registrations for our **Solidarity Journey to Panama**, bringing together organizations from the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. This initiative was designed to deepen understanding of the crisis in the Darién Gap and to witness firsthand the realities faced by migrants crossing one of the most dangerous migration routes in the world.

As part of this effort, we convened the virtual conversation “*Crossing the Darién: An Afro-Centered Approach to the Migration Crisis.*” This high-level dialogue gathered experts, political actors, and civil society leaders to provide critical analysis of the humanitarian emergency. More than an overview of the crisis, the call offered an **intersectional perspective** emphasizing the racial and gender dimensions of migration and highlighting the disproportionate impact on Afro-descendant women and girls.

Through this space, we underscored the urgency of placing **ethnic-racial and gender justice at the center** of migration debates, while strengthening transnational solidarity in the fight for human rights and dignity.

AFRORESISTANCE



AFRORESISTANCE
afroresistance.org

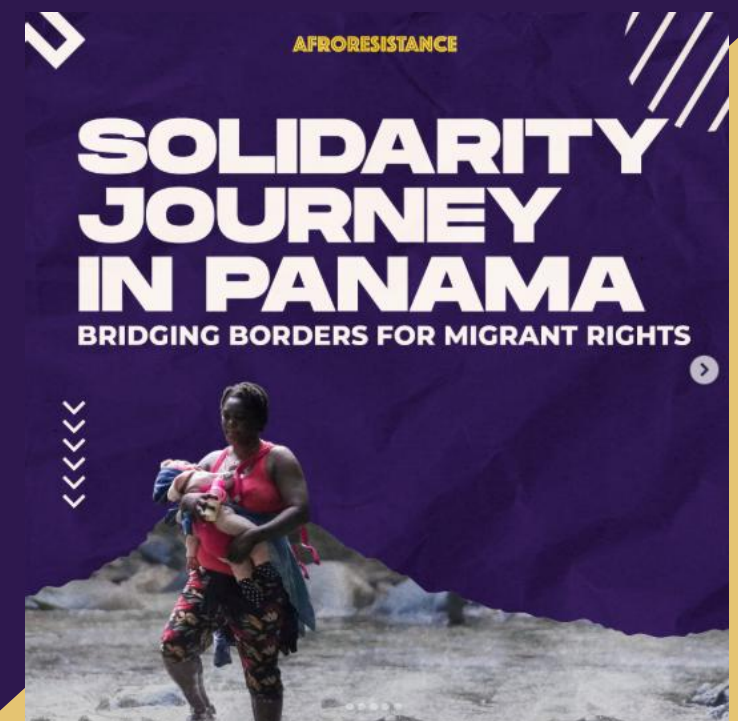
EVENTO VIRTUAL

CRUZANDO EL DARIÉN

Una aproximación afrocentrada sobre la crisis migratoria.

ANÁLISIS DE CONTEXTO
Janíveve Williams Comrie
Directora Ejecutiva de Afroresistencia

Este espacio será un diálogo de alto nivel con actores políticos y civiles, enfocado en la crisis migratoria en el Tapón del Darién.
Se abordarán estrategias de movilización y recursos para el acompañamiento, desde una perspectiva interseccional.



AFRORESISTANCE

SOLIDARITY JOURNEY IN PANAMA

BRIDGING BORDERS FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS

Black Women Shaping AfroFutures Forum

We participated in the **Black Women Shaping AfroFutures Forum**, which brought together visionary leaders to highlight the vital contributions of Black women in building futures deeply rooted in cultural heritage.

The conversations centered on empowerment, storytelling, and collaboration, showcasing how Black women are redefining what it means to envision and create an Afrocentric future. These women stand at the forefront of innovation, generating new narratives that celebrate identity, resilience, and collective power.

By engaging in this forum, we reinforced our commitment to uplifting and amplifying Black women's voices as they continue to inspire the next generation of changemakers.

AFRORESISTANCE



Announcing and Supporting Research Grant Winners

Under the leadership of our research coordinator Chevy Solís we announced the winners of the **research call** launched in the previous quarter and began providing follow-up and support to each of the selected organizations. By accompanying these projects, we are ensuring that their research not only documents the realities of Afro-descendant communities in **Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras**, but also generates knowledge that can influence public policy and strengthen community-led advocacy.

Through this process, we reaffirmed our commitment to advancing racial, gender, and reproductive justice by investing in grassroots research that drives meaningful change.

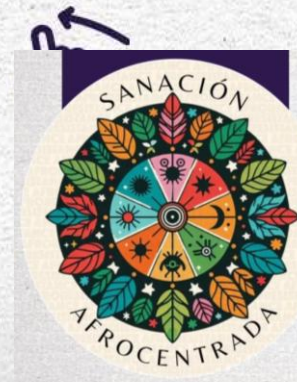
FELICIDADES

Felicitaciones a las ganadoras de la convocatoria. Su dedicación y compromiso han destacado entre un grupo de participantes excepcionales.



HONDURAS

Danzando por la Justicia: Cultura Negra Garífuna de Honduras y Erradicación del Racismo



GUATEMALA

PROPUESTA
Círculos de sanación Afrocentrada



PANAMÁ

Comité Pro Rescate de Colón

Announcing and Supporting Research Grant Winners



PANAMÁ

Comité Pro Rescate de Colón

PROPUESTA

Investigar y documentar estas problemáticas de las aguas residuales en la comunidad de Nuevo Colón, Corregimiento de Sabanitas, Provincia de Colón.

AFRORESISTANCE

The **Comité Pro Rescate de Colón** was selected as one of the winners of our Afro-descendant Justice Research Call. Their proposal focuses on **investigating and documenting the challenges related to wastewater management in the community of Nuevo Colón, Corregimiento de Sabanitas, Province of Colón.**

This project is critical because environmental issues such as untreated wastewater disproportionately affect Afro-descendant communities, threatening health, dignity, and access to basic rights. By documenting these problems from within the community, the Comité is generating vital evidence to demand accountability and influence public policy, while also strengthening local advocacy for environmental and racial justice.

Their work reflects the powerful role of community-based organizations in confronting structural neglect and ensuring that Afro-descendant voices lead the fight for healthier, safer, and more just living conditions.

AFRORESISTANCE

Announcing and Supporting Research Grant Winners



Guatemala: Círculos de Sanación Afrocentrada

In Guatemala, the winning initiative was the **Afro-Centered Healing Circles**, led by an autonomous collective committed to nurturing spaces of care, resistance, and collective healing.

Their proposal embraces the philosophy of “*sentipensar desde la ternura radical*” thinking and feeling with radical tenderness placing healing at the core of their political and social practice. By creating circles of Afro-centered healing, the collective works to restore dignity, strengthen cultural identity, and build resilience in Afro-descendant communities historically marked by exclusion and invisibility.

This project highlights the vital connection between **healing and justice**, recognizing that repairing historical and ongoing harm requires both political action and spaces for emotional, spiritual, and communal restoration. In doing so, they are advancing a vision of justice that integrates cultural memory, collective care, and resistance.

Announcing and Supporting Research Grant Winners



HONDURAS

**Danzando por la Justicia: Cultura Negra Garífuna de Honduras
y Erradicación del Racismo**

PROPUESTA

Promover la valoración y preservación de la cultura Negra Garífuna de Honduras mediante la enseñanza de la Lengua y Danza, con el fin de contribuir a la erradicación del racismo y la discriminación, en la Comunidad Garífuna de Juan Francisco Bulnes.

AFRORESISTANCE

Honduras: Danzando por la Justicia – Cultura Negra Garífuna y Erradicación del Racismo

In Honduras, the winning initiative is **“Danzando por la Justicia”** (Dancing for Justice), a project dedicated to the **preservation and promotion of Garífuna culture** through the teaching of language and dance. Implemented in the Garífuna community of **Juan Francisco Bulnes**, this initiative uses cultural expression as a powerful tool to confront racism and discrimination.

By centering Garífuna traditions, the project affirms identity, strengthens intergenerational transmission of knowledge, and empowers youth to embrace their heritage with pride. At the same time, it challenges structural racism by asserting the value of Garífuna culture as a vital part of Honduras’ history and future.

This project demonstrates how cultural preservation is also a form of resistance—an act of justice that not only safeguards language and dance but also dismantles narratives of exclusion. Through dance, music, and collective memory, the community is advancing a vision of justice rooted in **identity, resilience, and dignity**.

AFRORESISTANCE

Cine Foro: *Igualada*

Under the leadership of our research coordinator Chevy Solís we hosted a **film forum** showcasing “*Igualada*,” the powerful documentary about **Francia Márquez**, an Afro-Colombian leader whose journey from community struggles to national leadership has inspired movements across Latin America and beyond. The film chronicles her unwavering fight for social justice, human rights, and environmental protection, while also shedding light on the systemic racism and inequalities faced by Afro-descendant communities in Colombia.

The screening brought a **full house**, demonstrating the deep resonance of Francia’s story with our communities.

Following the film, participants engaged in a meaningful dialogue that connected Francia’s story to broader struggles across the Americas, reflecting on how local resistance is tied to transnational movements for justice.



Confronting the Impact of Drug Policies

Our Race and Gender Coordinator, **Valerie Summers**, represented us in a critical dialogue on the effects of drug policies in **Brazil and Colombia**, with a specific focus on how these policies disproportionately impact Afro-descendant communities.

The conversation underscored how punitive drug laws often reinforce systemic racism fueling criminalization, mass incarceration, and cycles of poverty that disproportionately target Black people. By engaging in this space, we emphasized the urgent need to **reframe drug policy through an anti-racist lens**, centering justice, health, and human rights over punishment and exclusion.



fourth quarter 2024

From Awareness to Presence: Our Solidarity Journey



AFRORESISTANCE

Closing the Year with Action and Solidarity

In the last quarter **October, November, and December** we created spaces to address the **mass deportations of Haitians from the Dominican Republic**, denouncing these racist practices and amplifying affected voices. We also hosted key calls and participated in vital events that advanced our regional advocacy.

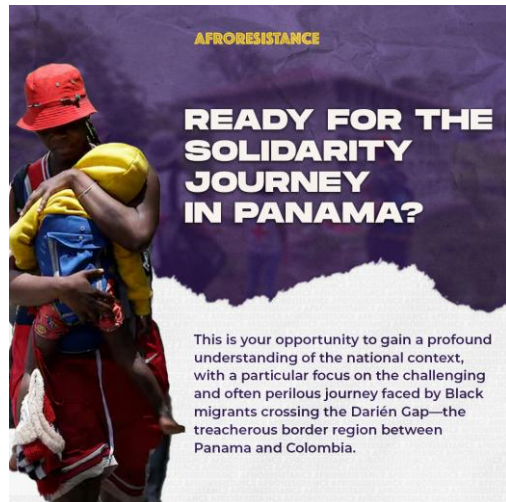
During these months, the winners of our **research call** came together as a collective to strengthen their communities through knowledge and organizing. At the same time, we engaged in dialogues that highlighted how a **differential approach and diversity perspective** are essential to fully understanding and addressing the realities of **LGBTI communities**.



A Year of Collective Action

We held several consultation and briefing calls with members of our **Solidarity Journey** delegation to share updates on the upcoming trip. These sessions created space for **questions and answers**, ensuring that participants were informed about the logistics of the journey as well as the broader political context.

At the time, Panama had undergone a change in government from President Laurentino Cortizo to José Raúl Mulino which shifted the national discourse on migration and security. Keeping our delegation informed of these developments was essential to grounding the journey in accurate analysis and collective preparedness.



TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1: OCTOBER 20 - ARRIVAL IN PANAMA

- Arrival in Panama City
- Check-in at the accommodation
- Welcome dinner and orientation

DAY 2: OCTOBER 21 - TRIP TO DARIÉN PROVINCE

- Learn about the challenges faced by migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers

DAY 3: OCTOBER 22 - MEETINGS IN PROVINCE OF DARIEN

- Meetings with local communities and discuss the impact of migration on Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities

DAY 4: OCTOBER 23 - MEETINGS WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN PANAMA CITY

- Meetings with organizations that serve migrants, NGOs, and cultural groups
- Participate in discussions on immigration policies, human rights, and community empowerment
- Learn about ongoing initiatives and challenges faced by these organizations

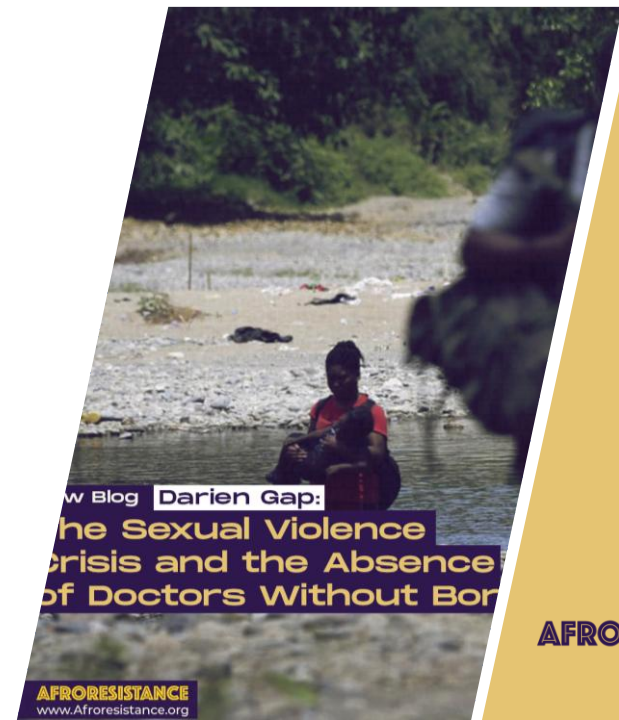
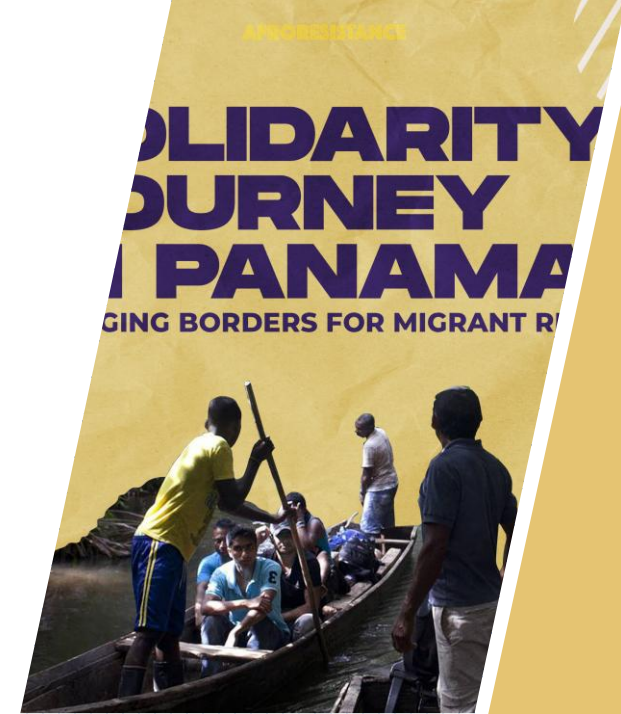
DAY 5: OCTOBER 24 - MEETINGS WITH AFRO-PANAMANIAN MOBILIZATION IN PANAMA CITY

- Participate in discussions on social mobilization, labor movement, environmental movement, and LGBTQIA+ mobilization

DAY 6: OCTOBER 25 - FREE DAY

- Free day to explore Panama City or participate in optional activities including Portobelo in Colon.

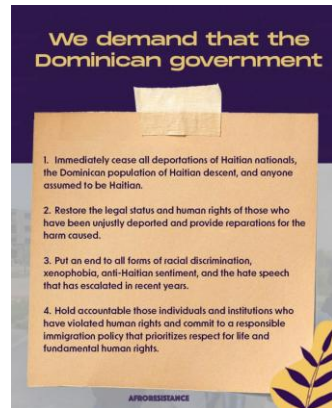
AFRORESISTANCE



Standing Against Mass Deportations in the Dominican Republic

We created a space for dialogue in response to the **mass deportations targeting Black Haitians in the Dominican Republic**. In this space, we denounced these **cruel and discriminatory practices** that perpetuate anti-Blackness, violate basic human rights, and deepen systemic racism across the region.

We reaffirmed our commitment to stand in solidarity with the Haitian community and all Black people in the Dominican Republic, advocating for their **rights, dignity, and safety**. Together with allies, we continue to demand an equitable and just future where no one is criminalized for their race or migration status.



Solidarity with OFRANEH and the Garífuna People

We held a vital call with **OFRANEH (Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña)**, where our **Language Justice Team** provided live interpretation to ensure full participation. This conversation created space to listen, learn, and amplify the ongoing struggles of the Garífuna people.

OFRANEH has been a tireless force in defending **ancestral Garífuna territory**, resisting decades of oppression, violence, and dispossession. For years, they have fought against extractivist, tourism, and exploitation projects that threaten to displace their communities. Their resistance has come at a high cost leaders and activists have been **assassinated or forcibly disappeared** because of their commitment to justice and self-determination.

In this context of constant threat, Garífuna communities continue to defend their rights, culture, and land. By supporting this dialogue, we reaffirmed our solidarity with OFRANEH and their struggle, underscoring that the fight for territorial, cultural, and racial justice in Honduras is part of the broader struggle for Black liberation across the Americas.



The Solidarity Journey to the Darién: A Historic Milestone

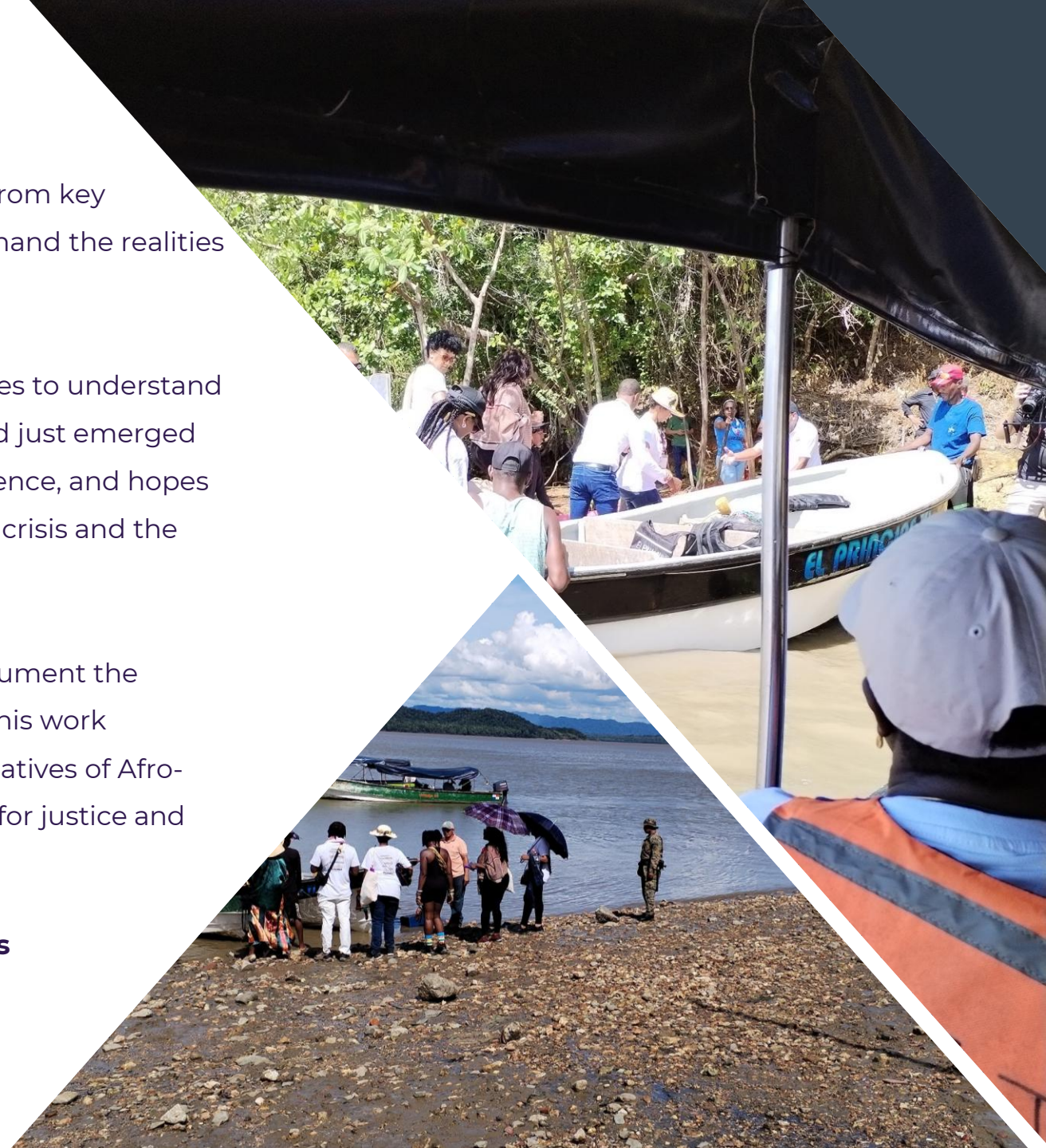
Our **Solidarity Journey** was a defining moment of 2024. Delegations from key organizations across the Americas traveled to Panama to witness firsthand the realities of migration through the **Darién Gap**.

During this journey, we engaged with local government representatives to understand their perspectives, while also centering the voices of migrants who had just emerged from the jungle. Listening to their testimonies about the dangers, violence, and hopes that accompany the crossing revealed the depth of this humanitarian crisis and the resilience of those seeking a better life.

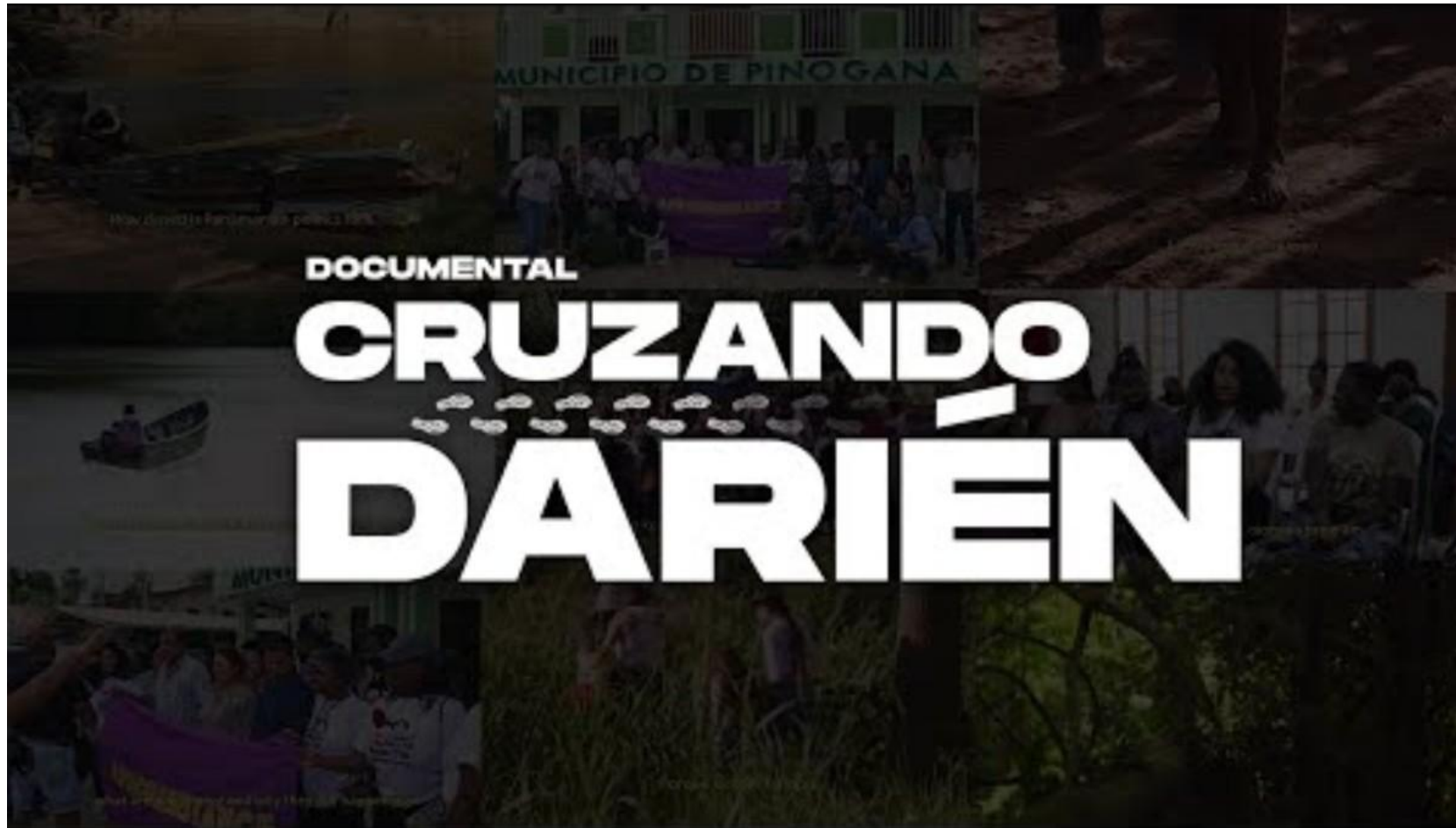
At the same time, we worked closely with our production team to document the experience, resulting in the audiovisual piece **“Cruzando el Darién.”** This work captures the journey from a **Black perspective**, ensuring that the narratives of Afro-descendant and migrant communities remain central in the struggle for justice and dignity.

To learn more about the Solidarity Journey, you can refer to this document

[Memory Solidarity Journey in Panama](#)







Here is the trailer for our documentary *“Cruzando el Darién,”* produced during the Solidarity Journey. If you would like to screen the full piece in your community or organization, please let us know.

AFRORESISTANCE



Defending the Rights of Queer Migrants and Refugees

Our Deputy Director, **Mauri Balanta**, participated in a two-day event dedicated to analyzing the complex realities of **African and Afro-descendant queer migration**. Together with activists, scholars, and movement leaders, we examined the intersecting challenges faced by queer migrants and refugees ranging from systemic racism and xenophobia to homophobia and transphobia.

The gathering sought to develop a **transnational advocacy strategy** to defend rights and advance migrant justice, ensuring that queer voices remain central in shaping solutions. By standing in solidarity with queer migrants and refugees, we reaffirmed our commitment to a world where freedom of movement, dignity, and equality are non-negotiable rights for all.





Centering Diversity at COP16

At **COP16**, our Race and Gender Coordinator, **Valerie Summers** participated in a key space to discuss the intersection of **social justice and environmental justice**. She addressed critical issues surrounding **LGBTI public policy in Colombia**, highlighting both the advances and the ongoing challenges in ensuring the inclusion of diverse communities in human rights and environmental agendas.

Drawing from her experience as a **Black trans woman and activist in Colombia**, Valerie shared the realities of defending rights in contexts marked by vulnerability and resistance. Through **ProgreSystem**, she emphasized that a **differential approach and diversity perspective** are essential for truly understanding the lived realities of LGBTI communities. Her intervention underscored the importance of placing **human rights at the center of environmental policy** and ensuring that global conversations on climate and biodiversity include those most affected by inequality and exclusion.

AFRORESISTANCE



Language Justice league in Action

Across our virtual calls in the first quarter, our **Language Justice Team** provided live interpretation in **English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese**. This reaffirmed our commitment to **language justice as a cornerstone of liberation**, breaking barriers to participation and strengthening transnational solidarity.

During the **Solidarity Journey to the Darién**, our team continued this work, offering real-time interpretation and translation that allowed participants and local communities to engage fully with one another. Their efforts ensured that every voice could be heard, honoring the principles of inclusion, dignity, and collective action.



Language Justice in Action

We hosted a **film forum** showcasing “*Igualada*,” the powerful documentary about **Francia Márquez**, an Afro-Colombian leader whose journey from community struggles to national leadership has inspired movements across Latin America and beyond. The film chronicles her unwavering fight for social justice, human rights, and environmental protection, while also shedding light on the systemic racism and inequalities faced by Afro-descendant communities in Colombia.

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Following the film, participants engaged in a meaningful dialogue that connected Francia’s story to broader struggles across the Americas, reflecting on how local resistance is tied to transnational movements for justice.



Grassroots Leadership for Change in Colón, Panama

From our research convocation, a group of determined **Afro-descendant women in Colón, Panama** came together to confront the severe **wastewater crisis** affecting their community. With the resources secured through our initiative, they began documenting and sharing the stories of their neighbors, using interviews and recordings to amplify voices that had long been silenced.

Their work quickly gained traction, reaching **national media outlets** and drawing public attention to an issue that had been ignored for years. The momentum grew when their concerns were brought before the **National Assembly of Deputies**, opening the door for direct dialogue between community members and decision-makers.



EMPOWER COMMUNITIES



Your support today empowers Black communities across the Americas to become transformative agents of change, driving progress and resilience within their own communities.

El colapso sanitario y la crisis de residuos amenazan la salud de los residentes de nuevo colón



La comunidad de Nuevo Colón

This achievement demonstrates the transformative power of **grassroots leadership**. These women not only shed light on an urgent environmental and racial justice issue, but also showed how collective action can force institutions to listen and respond. Their courage and persistence remain a powerful reminder that **real change begins within communities** determined to claim their rights and dignity.



AGUAS RESIDUALES EN LA BARRIADA NUEVO COLÓN,
EN SABANITAS



National Convening 2024: Trans Liberation and Migrant Justice

Our Deputy Director, **Mauri Balanta Jaramillo**, participated in **GCIR's National Convening 2024**, in the session *"Funding at the Intersection of Trans Liberation and Migrant Justice."* This space addressed the disproportionate impact of federal policies on **BIPOC trans and gender-expansive migrants**, highlighting how systemic discrimination continues to shape their lived realities.

Together with movement leaders and funders, we discussed the urgent challenges facing **trans migrant-led and supporting organizations** and explored what it means to resource power-building in the long term. By engaging in this conversation, we reaffirmed the need to shift philanthropy toward strategies that not only respond to crises but also **sustain grassroots leadership and build lasting change**.





AWID Forum 2024: Collective Power for Gender Justice

We participated in the **AWID Forum 2024**, joining thousands of activists and organizations from around the world to strengthen the power of collective movements for transformative change. This space allowed us to raise our voices alongside global leaders, reaffirming our commitment to advancing the rights of **Black women across the Americas**.

Collaboration and shared learning at AWID are essential to confronting global challenges such as racism, patriarchy, and systemic oppression. By bringing our experiences and perspectives, and learning from others in the global fight for gender justice, we deepened our commitment to building transnational strategies rooted in solidarity and collective liberation.



Taking to the Streets: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

On the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, we joined women across Panama in the streets to raise our voices against the multiple forms of violence we face. From **Parque Porras**, we stood together to say a resounding **NO** no to the increase in retirement age, no to individual accounts, and no to the privatization of the **Caja de Seguro Social (CSS)**. These measures, proposed under Bill 163, represent a form of **economic violence** that deepens inequality and disproportionately harms women.

By uniting in collective action, we reaffirmed our commitment to **social, economic, and gender justice**. Our presence in the streets reflected not only resistance to harmful policies, but also our determination to build a world where women and gender-diverse people live free from violence, exclusion, and systemic oppression.





Community Solidarity Pot in Cali, Colombia

In Colombia, we organized a **community solidarity pot** in Cali as an act of resistance and mutual support. Through this initiative, we reached some of the city's most vulnerable communities, including people living on the streets, reaffirming our belief in a **more just and inclusive Cali**.

More than **200 people were nourished** through this collective effort, which not only provided food but also created a space of care, dignity, and solidarity. This action reflects our ongoing commitment to grassroots initiatives that confront inequality while embodying the principles of community, justice, and mutual aid.

AFRORESISTANCE





Trans Liberation and Migrant Justice

We hosted the virtual conversation “*Trans Liberation and Migrant Justice: Challenges for Building Power and Political Autonomy of Trans and Gender-Expansive Communities.*” This dialogue created a vital space to make visible the challenges faced by trans and gender-diverse people in the region, while also envisioning collective strategies for justice and autonomy.

The call featured the powerful voices of **Emem Maurus** (Legal Director, Transgender Law Center), **Aniery Zapata** (activist and human rights defender), and **Venus Tejada** (President, Asociación Panameña de Personas Trans), and was moderated by our Deputy Director, **Mauri Balanta**.

Together, we explored how structural racism, transphobia, and restrictive migration policies intersect to limit rights and how trans communities continue to build resistance and political power across borders. This conversation reaffirmed our commitment to advancing **trans liberation, migrant justice, and the autonomy of gender-expansive communities** as integral to our broader struggle for justice in the Americas.

AFRORESISTANCE

**LIBERACIÓN TRANS
Y JUSTICIA MIGRATORIA**

DESAFÍOS PARA LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE PODER Y
AUTONOMÍA POLÍTICA DE LAS COMUNIDADES TRANS
Y DE GÉNERO EXPANSIVO.

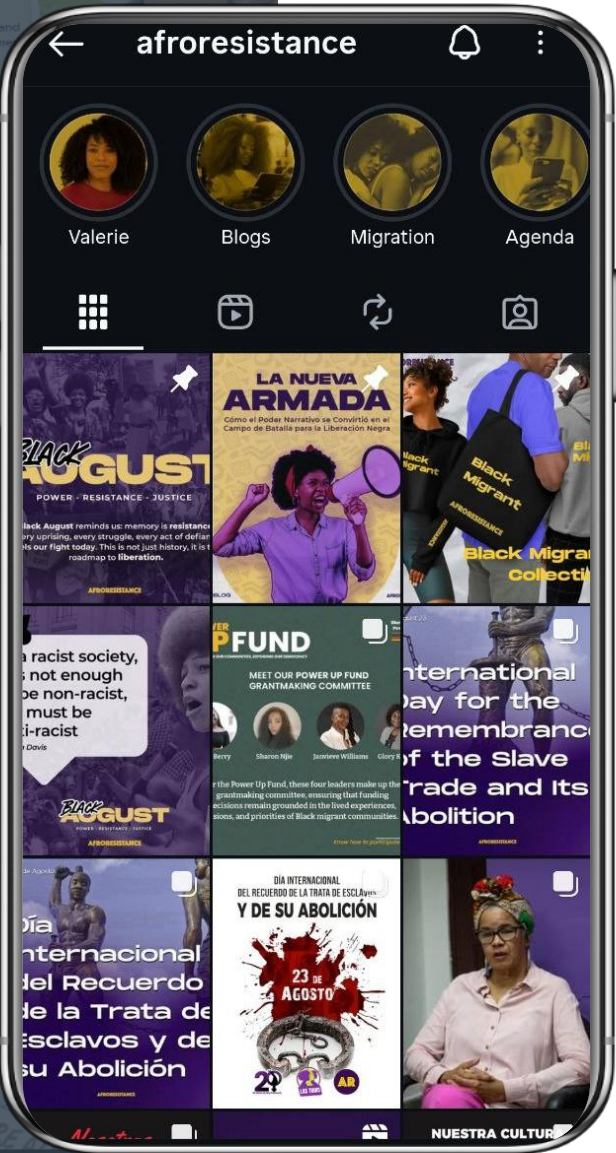
**MIÉRCOLES
18 DICIEMBRE | 2:00 PM**

 **LIVE** 


ANEIRY ZAPATA


EMEM MAURUS


VENUS TEJADA



Social Media Insights

Digital Power as a Tool for Liberation

Our communications strategy prioritized **storytelling, movement building, and transnational solidarity**, ensuring that our content not only informed but also inspired action. Engagement across platforms reflected a growing interest in AfroResistance’s mission and a deepening commitment from our audiences to stand with us in the fight for racial, gender, and migrant justice



Reach: 253,000



Followers: 11,134



+4 Digital Resources



In Memory of Valerie Summers

This Annual Report is also a tribute to the life and legacy of our **Race and Gender Coordinator, Valerie Summers** who passed away in 2025.

Valerie was more than a colleague—she was a visionary leader, a fearless activist, and a beloved member of our community.

Throughout 2024, her contributions were invaluable. She represented us in national and international spaces, raised her voice for **trans liberation, racial justice, and human rights**, and carried the struggles of Black trans women into every conversation with courage and conviction. Her work strengthened AfroResistance and left a lasting impact on all of us.

May she REST IN POWER

Closing Statement

As we close 2024, we stand proud of the struggles we have joined, the voices we have amplified, and the communities we have walked alongside. From the frontlines of the **Darién Gap** to international forums on **gender, racial, and migrant justice**, our work this year has reaffirmed one truth: **our power lies in collective resistance and solidarity across borders.**

We know the challenges remain immense systemic racism, patriarchal violence, extractivist economies, and hostile migration policies continue to threaten our lives and futures. Yet, we also know that every action, every call, every gathering, and every voice raised brings us closer to building the world we imagine: one where **Black women, migrants, and gender-diverse people live with dignity, safety, and freedom.**

Looking ahead, we carry the lessons of 2024 as fuel for what is to come. We remain steadfast in our mission to educate, organize, and empower, and we invite you our allies, partners, and communities to continue this journey with us. Together, we will keep transforming resistance into action, and action into lasting change.



THANK YOU

STORIES, STRUGGLES, AND STRATEGIES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE ACROSS THE AMERICAS