

BLACK QUEERS SWEDEN

THE POET JAMES Baldwin once said: “To be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a rage almost all the time.” This is exactly how we feel. In rage against what we see as a threat against justice for people of colour in Sweden and elsewhere in Europe. Our activism and struggle against all kinds of oppressions is partly the result of our experiences and our lives as Black queer people in Sweden. We do not seek to educate white people regarding matters of racism, it is not our job. We do not seek to educate people regarding homo- and transphobia or sexism.

Our activism is first and foremost done through the very act of living our lives as carefree Black people. But simply by doing so in a white-dominated society, we face many challenges, at times endangering our lives and the lives of many others. We can honestly say what we would like to change and challenge in society, in our daily encounters at work, in academia, in culture and art. We can also honestly say that we sometimes do not know how to bring about those changes. But we organise. We write. We shout. We resist. We refuse to give in to a status quo in which racism, sexism, and homophobia continues to be excused by the white, heterosexual majority. We refuse to take shit in any form. We are a part of a growing global movement, a struggle that seeks nothing less than a revolution, a real change.

In 2016, we created Black Queers Sweden, which is a separatist, feminist, intersectional, and anti-racist group and movement by and for black

Afro-Swedish LGBTQ+ people. This Black queer movement in Sweden began in August 2015, then with another name under another organisation. Black Queers Sweden was formed to make the movement completely independent. In addition to being a support for Black LGBTQ people, and a safe space, the organisation critically calls the whiteness of the wider LGBTQ movement into question while also challenging the heteronormative aspects of the wider anti-racist movement. We organise meetings, offer support and help, and share experiences, resources, and advice. These things are vital and important to our community.

Through its mere existence, Black Queers Sweden has become one of our outlets for disturbing and challenging the status quo in society. Thus, we continue to stand in solidarity with people facing injustices on a daily basis.

We stand in solidarity with our Muslim siblings, facing an ever-growing islamophobia. We stand in solidarity with refugees, seeking safety and a better life and who are met by closed borders. We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter movements around the world.

BLACK LIVES MATTER! BLACK QUEER LIVES MATTER!
BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER!

**SAMUEL GIRMA *and*
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