



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

London / Paris, 15 June 2016

## UK Black Pride and Paris Black Pride Twin in Solidarity

- UK Black Pride will be held on Sunday 26 June at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, London
- Paris Black Pride will be held from 15-17 July at venues across central Paris

**Award-winning UK Black Pride is proud to announce its 2016 festival will be twinned with the inaugural Paris Black Pride festival.**

For more than a decade UK Black Pride has stood apart as Europe's only pride event aimed at African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean-heritage Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people. The success of UK Black Pride stems from its determination to amplify the needs of Black LGBT people who face multiple inequalities including racism, sexism and homophobia across British society and within Black and LGBT communities. UK Black Pride's not-for-profit model has profiled the contributions of Black LGBT people in ways that are inclusive of lived experiences. The visibility that has been created has strengthened Black LGBT people across UK society.

The founders of Paris Black Pride have drawn inspiration from the gains made by UK Black Pride to secure the inclusion of Black LGBT people's experiences in mainstream Pride events and public policy debates. By launching the first Paris Black Pride event, the organisers seek to put a spotlight on concerns about Black LGBT peoples' experiences. In particular, to create dialogue about increasing social inclusion and visibility of LGBT people of colour in France.

As part of the twinning arrangement between UK Black Pride and Paris Black Pride organisers have committed to share best practices about shaping public policy discourse to challenge racism and homophobia. Organisers have agreed to build joint-infrastructure to increase visibility of Black LGBT people in public life. The organising committees have also agreed to cross-promote and attend each other's pride events in a show of solidarity between Anglophone and Francophone Black LGBT people in Europe and beyond.

**Phyllis Opoku-Gyimah, UK Black Pride Executive Director**, said: "Since 2006 UK Black Pride has brought together African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean heritage LGBT communities to build inclusive spaces in mainstream British celebrations of Pride. In this time we have won strong support from Black and LGBT community groups; trade unions, and politicians. We have improved things for Black LGBT people who experience structural inequalities. The theme of UK Black Pride's 2016 festival is *Transforming Our Communities*. We hope this message will also help transform the lives and experiences of Black LGBT friends in France."

**James Davis, Paris Black Pride Founder**, said: "France has one of Europe's largest Black populations and the constitution emphasises the values of liberty, equality and fraternity. Despite this, many LGBT people of colour in France experience double or triple layers of marginalisation because of their race, gender and/or sexual orientation. To make the values of our Republic a reality requires analysis of deep rooted causes of inequality and exclusion. As the struggle for full LGBT equality continues, Paris Black Pride has been launched to give voice to LGBT people of colour in France, and our allies. Paris Black Pride is also excited to partner UK Black Pride to achieve the equality and inclusion that we all desire."



**To attend UK Black Pride festival – which is organised with Pride in London – come along to the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in London between 12:00–21:00 on Sunday 26 June.** The free event features a main stage from where UK Black Pride will blend live music, politics and poetry in an inclusive and entertaining, family-friendly festival of community pride. With comedians, sports activities, education and welfare stalls, as well as world food and drink (or bring your own picnic) it guarantees something for all tastes. Join us!

**To attend Paris Black Pride festival – which is organised with Carré Ponthieu, Pavillon Daunou, and Folies Pigalle – come along to any of the events organised between 15–17 July at venues across central Paris.** The weekend of community-building activities will include debates, film showings, and three long nights of parties at high-profile venues from the Champs Elysées to the Pigalle. Join us!

#### **Notes for editors:**

**There are many ways to get involved in making UK Black Pride 2016 a success:**

1. For UK Black Pride media and sponsorship enquiries email: [pav@ukblackpride.org.uk](mailto:pav@ukblackpride.org.uk)
2. For food or information stall bookings in the community area email: [info@ukblackpride.org.uk](mailto:info@ukblackpride.org.uk)
3. For information about UK Black Pride visit: Web: [www.ukblackpride.org.uk](http://www.ukblackpride.org.uk) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UKBlackPride> Twitter: @UKBlackPride
4. For details about Pride in the Park visit: <http://prideinlondon.org/events/2016/06/26/pride-in-the-park>

**There are many ways to get involved in making Paris Black Pride 2016 a success:**

1. For Paris Black Pride media and sponsorship enquiries email: [parisblackpride@gmail.com](mailto:parisblackpride@gmail.com)
2. For information about Paris Black Pride visit: web: [www.parisblackpride.org](http://www.parisblackpride.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParisBlackPride> Twitter: @ParisBlackPride