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UN IN ACTION

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LGBT Homeless Youth

There is an estimated 500,000 homeless youth in the United States. 40 percent of them identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender (LGBT.) This feature tells the story of Kellen, a transgender man enrolled in the Ali Forney Center, the largest community centre for LGBT homeless youth in the country.

VIDEO

AUDIO

KELLEN WALKING IN THE STREET KELLEN: (In English) M

"I My name is Kellen. I'm 19. I like reading. I like going to art museums in the city, painting or drawing. (8")

KELLEN ON CAM

I moved out of my parents' house because I was seeing a doctor in whom I confided and he told my parents without my permission. Things were just

KELLEN WALKING IN THE STREET *really tense and there was a lot of yelling. I just felt like it was the right time to leave. (15")*

It was hard being out of my parent's house because I lived there my entire life and that was the first time that I was on my own. It was also difficult hopping around and sleeping on people's

SIGN OF THE ALI FORNEY CENTER *couches, not having a stable place to be in. So I came here through the suggestion of a friend."*

SHOTS OF THE CENTER

(19")

TEXT ON SCREEN

Kellen is a transgender man enrolled in the Ali Forney Center, the largest community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender (LGBT) homeless youth in the U.S.

There is an estimated 500,000 homeless youth in the U.S. 40 percent of them identify as LGBT.

CARL SICILIANO,
Executive Director, The Ali Forney
Center

FOOTAGE OF THE ALI FORNEY
CENTER (Credit: The Ali Forney
Center)

CARL ON CAM

FOOTAGE OF ALI (Source: The Ali
Forney Center)

FOOTAGE OF HARLEM (Source: The
Ali Forney Center)

CARL ON CAM

CARL: (In English) M

“The Ali Forney Center is the largest organisation in the United States and, in the world, dedicated to homeless LGBT youth. We primarily focus on providing housing to young people who have been kicked out of their homes because of homophobia and transphobia. But we have a really broad array of services to really help young people be healed, to help them be safe, to help them get off the streets but also to help heal them from the harm of homelessness and rejection. (29)”

The genesis of the Ali Forney Center is the death of Ali Forney which happened 20 years ago. Ali was a gender nonconforming homeless youth who, at the age of 22, was murdered back in 1997. At that time, there was no kind of safe shelter in New York city for homeless LGBT youth. I don't think at that time there was any kind of safe shelter for LGBT youth in the entire country. (26)”

We are living in a time where more and more people feel free and able to express themselves

FOOTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE
(Credit: The Ali Forney Center)

as being LGBT. Unfortunately, as much as the acceptance is growing, there are still many people in every society who tend to be very hostile to LGBT people. When your parents are like that, it is very unsafe to come out of the closet when you are a teenager, when you are still reliant on your parents for economic support. So what we see happening all over the United States and all over the world is that more and more young people are coming out of the closet and unfortunately, huge numbers of them are being rejected by their families and forced to the homelessness.” (45”)

CARL ON CAM

KELLEN: (In English) M

“The Ali Forney Center has helped me a lot with housing and employment, and I am definitely a lot happier now than I was a year ago. I am in a much better place. (10”)

SHOTS OF THE CENTER

SHOTS OF KELLEN IN THE
CENTER

Hopefully in the future, I have either been in college or graduated already. My number one career goal is to be a curator at a museum in the city so you have to go to college for that. (13”)

KELLEN ON CAM

My relationship with my family now, it gets worse and better. My mom right now is pretty good. We text every day. I am not talking to my dad currently because things are kind of difficult with him. I don't feel comfortable going back to their home at this point. (16”)

SHOTS OF KELLEN PAINTING

KELLEN ON CAM

I want them to know that I am OK, as OK as I can be. I am doing well and this is not like a phase, and I am happiest in this form than I was before.”

(15”)

KELLEN WALKING IN THE STREET

CLOSE UP OF KELLEN

KELLEN ON CAM

PHOTO OF RAINBOW CROSSWALK
BY UN FREE & EQUAL

TEXT ON SCREEN

UN Free and Equal, a global public education campaign for LGBT equality, raises awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination, and promote greater respect for the rights of LGBT people everywhere.

Promoting respect for human rights is a core purpose of the United Nations.

UN LOGO

MUSIC

Around 4AM by One More Time from Artlist
00:10-01:20(1’10”)

Muir by Kevin Graham – Sierra from Artlist
01:15-03:07(1’51”)

Around 4AM by One More Time from Artlist
03:06-04:15(01’08”)