



ERIN GREENE



Organisation: Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CARIFLAG) and the Bahamas Human Rights Network

Erin Greene is a Bahamian human rights advocate for women, immigrants, incarcerated people, and the LGBTQ+ community.

A gay woman, Greene has worked with a number of organisations for LGBTQ+ rights in the Bahamas, where there are no laws criminalising it, but there are also no laws preventing hate speech or discrimination, and same sex unions are not recognised in any form.

In 2001, she organised the country's first Pride event, after several years of activism starting in the 90s.

"People will do what they want. That's what makes the world work. I think as part of the human experience, if you can respect that and honor that, when you can wrap your ego around that, then you can begin to learn about a world where everybody deserves rights, and there's no question about whether people deserve rights or not. Even within that, you can't force that realization upon anybody. That's a thing that people come to themselves at different times in their lives." (BahamasLocal.com, August 2011)

In 2003, she joined the Rainbow Alliance of the Bahamas as a spokesperson and became their eventual president before the group shut down in 2008.

In 2007, she founded CariFLAGS and the Bahamas Human Rights Network, and was also named the Director of Advocacy at the Society Against STIs and HIV between 2013 and 2014.

Greene has faced heavy backlash for her work, including death threats, but she continues to work for the rights of LGBTQ+ Bahamians.

"There has been a vast improvement as it comes to LGBTI persons existing in the country. There is now a dialogue, we have a generation that is telling you this is who I am, and either you're going to understand me or you're not." (EWNews.com, July 2020)

Image credit

<http://www.bahamasuncensored.com/erin-greene-speaks-up/>

http://www.bahamasuncensored.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/lgbtissues_ellen.jpg

Bahamas Uncensored, August 2014