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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUSTICE FOR BANKO BROWN.

Say his name: Banko Brown. Banko Brown was a beloved community member and activist, a joyful and caring person. Banko had found his chosen family in San Francisco, the city he grew up in. What he did not find in his 24 years of life was essential infrastructure to meet his basic human needs: safety, housing, and food. Banko was repeatedly denied access to these fundamental human rights; he was unhoused for over 10 years and was on a waiting list for housing at the time of his murder; he was murdered over \$14 worth of snacks he was trying to shoplift from a corporation valued at over \$97 billion. Banko was murdered for trying to survive.

Banko's death speaks to the enduring violence against trans youth - especially trans youth of color - and the systems of oppression that continue to deny people of color and LGBTQIA+ people their basic human rights. While the attorney general's office reconsiders whether or not to charge the Walgreens security guard who killed Banko, it is important that we honor Banko's memory and his fight for justice beyond the carceral system. Through his activism as a community organizer at Young Women's Freedom Center, Banko advocated for housing rights for trans youth, and fought to end the criminalization of and violence against trans youth of color. If Banko would have had access to affordable and stable housing, nutritious food, and bodily autonomy and safety, he would be alive today.

Reproductive justice means ensuring that all individuals, families, and communities are able to live free from violence with access to complete autonomy over their lives, bodies, and vast systems of community care. Reproductive justice is housing justice. Reproductive justice is economic justice. Reproductive justice is food justice. Reproductive justice is community care for transgender people and people of color. In a system that prioritizes profits over the lives of our community members, collective care is the way forward. We must care for each other, show up for the most vulnerable folks in our communities, and continue to build towards a future where every person has their needs met and their rights respected in loving community.

Our hearts go out to Banko Brown's loved ones, community, and to our beloved familia at the Young Women's Freedom Center who are grieving Banko's devastating loss while continuing to fight for the rights and wellbeing of gender expansive youth in California. Read [Young Women's Freedom Center's statement](#) of demands including holding Walgreens and San Francisco



accountable for Banko's death; housing and safety for Black, poor, and trans youth; and investment in Black and trans youth. #JusticeforBankoBrown

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California Latinas for Reproductive Justice is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas/xs to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality and families. We build Latinas'/xs' power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at www.californialatinas.org.

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