

The Honorable President Joseph R. Biden
The Honorable Vice President Kamala D. Harris

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC

June 22, 2022

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

We, the undersigned civil and human rights organizations, write to express our deep concern for Brittney Griner. We stand together in support of Brittney, now wrongfully detained in Russia for over 124 days. An American hero, wife, daughter, sister, friend, teammate, anti-bullying advocate, Olympian, and WNBA superstar, Brittney continues to endure inhumane treatment, deprived of contact with her family.

We join Brittney's family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones in deep appreciation of your Administration's ongoing efforts to secure her freedom. The U.S. Government has acknowledged that Brittney is essentially a political pawn in classifying her as wrongfully detained. While these have been critically important measures, we now urge you to make a deal to get Brittney back home to America immediately and safely.

Initially detained in Russia on February 17, 2022, Brittney was to begin her off-season work for the Russian Euroleague club, as she has done for several years. Like many WNBA athletes, Brittney plays abroad during the offseason both for the love of the sport and to supplement her income because of the significant pay gap even the best WNBA athletes face.

Beloved around the world, Brittney is a three-time NCAA All-American, ESPY award winner, seven-time WNBA All-Star, All-WNBA selection, two-time Olympic gold medalist, four-time Euroleague champion, a seven-time Russian League Champion, a WNBA champion and recently was voted to the WNBA's 25th Anniversary team, representing the top 25 players in the WNBA's history. Throughout her distinguished career, Brittney has always given back, leading efforts to provide shoes to people experiencing homelessness in Phoenix, volunteering with bullied kids, and advocating for kindness and inclusion.

This month our nation honors America's diverse journey towards freedom, equality, and justice for all with the observation of the Juneteenth Federal holiday, the 50th anniversary of landmark Title IX legislation, and LGBTQ+ Pride. Brittney's intersectional identity embodies this celebration of America's strength and diversity. As a celebrated world-class athlete, she also demonstrates the uniquely unifying power of sports. Brittney's ongoing detention threatens the sanctity of sport and the safety of all athletes traveling to compete internationally.

President Biden and Vice President Harris, we urge you to make a deal to bring our teammate, wife, sister, hero, and friend Brittney Griner home swiftly and safely.

Signed,

AAPI Women Lead
African American Policy Forum
All Out Action Fund, Inc.
Asian Prisoner Support Committee
Athlete Ally
Athletes for Impact
Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative (BJKLI)
Color Of Change
Council for Global Equality
Girls Inc.
GLAAD
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education
Network (GLSEN)
Higher Heights For America

Human Rights Campaign (HRC)
IllumiNative
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Lambda Legal
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
LIFE Camp, Inc.
Mijente
National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People (NAACP)
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
(NAACP LDF)
National Action Network
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Civil and Human Rights
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

National LGBTQ Task Force
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Soccer League Players
Association
Power of Sport Lab
Power Rising
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
The Inclusion Playbook
UltraViolet
Women's National Basketball Players
Association (WNBPA)
Women's Sports Foundation

**WE
ARE
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