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STATE OF NEW YORK }
} s.s.
CITY OF NEW YORK }
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I, **Isaac Kevin Otchere-Somuah**, do hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that the following facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

My name is Isaac Kevin Otchere-Somuah. My current address is **840 Shore Road, Apt 5C, Long Beach, NY 11561**. My phone number is **929-633-4227**. I am a Lawful Permanent Resident. Attached is a copy of my government-issued ID.

I am writing this affidavit on behalf of **Stephen Bampoe Mensah** in support of his Application for Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and protection under the UN Convention Against Torture.

I have known **Stephen Bampoe Mensah** since **October 2013**. We first met through a mutual high school friend in Ghana, and over the years, we have built a close friendship. Stephen is one of my very close friends, and we have stayed in touch regularly.

I have personal knowledge that Stephen is an advocate for LGBT rights in Ghana and works for an organization that provides healthcare services, including STI testing and treatment, to the LGBT community. Given the hostile environment for LGBT individuals in Ghana, this work has made him the target of threats. Stephen has confided in me that he has received multiple threats because of his involvement in this organization.

As a fellow Ghanaian, I am aware of the dangerous climate for LGBT individuals in the country, especially with recent political developments. A proposed law currently pending in Parliament would criminalize LGBT rights and activities, worsening the already hostile environment. I believe that Stephen's safety is at serious risk if he were to return to Ghana, given the threats he's received and the political climate.

In my opinion, **Stephen Bampoe Mensah** would be subject to severe harm, persecution, or possibly even death if he were deported to Ghana. For that reason, I strongly recommend that his application for asylum be granted, allowing him to remain in the U.S., where he can be safe from harm.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at the address provided above

Sincerely,

Date: <u>09/28/2024</u>

Isaac Kevin Otchere-Somuah

Signature: LSOACSOM MOH

