

# 4FRONT



Dear 4FRONT Community,

After more than a decade of dedicated work, we are reaching the conclusion of this chapter in 4FRONT's journey. This decision has been made with deep reflection and careful consideration - balancing what is best for the organisation, our team, and the community we serve. In the coming months, we will be bringing our work to an intentional close, honouring the impact we've made and the relationships we've built along the way.

4FRONT began as a spark - one 16-year-old girl's grief turned into action - and grew into a powerful community challenging injustice, building peace, and reimagining healing and safety. What started as a response to harm became a collective force for youth-led justice, community healing, and resistance against systemic oppression. Since 2012, we have created spaces where young people impacted by violence, trauma, racial injustice, and the criminal legal system have found care, solidarity, and the power to create change in their lives and communities. From launching Jahiem's Justice Centre to challenging the criminalisation of our communities, 4FRONT has been more than an organisation - it has been a testament to what is possible when those most affected are empowered with love, defiance and radical imagination.

Grahame Park Estate has been the heartbeat of our work - a place where many of our team grew up, where relationships were nurtured, and where we created spaces to heal, connect, and grow. But it has also been marked by deeply entrenched social issues and constant change, shaped by aggressive gentrification and the withdrawal of social support, leaving little for young people.

Now rebranded as Heybourne Park, the estate is partway through complete demolition under large-scale 'regeneration' plans, erasing

not just buildings but the histories and communities rooted here. Much of our work over the last decade has emerged to fill the gaps left by this neglect, holding space to meet young people's needs through times of profound change.

As the demolition of Grahame Park progressed, it became increasingly pressing for us to consider the future of our work. Facing the reality of having to wind down Jahiem's Justice Centre in 2026, in preparation for the destruction of the block it sits at the bottom of, we knew this space would always be temporary.

Our work is rooted in Grahame Park, and we've used this place as a lens - a microscope - to unearth the depths of what happens within a community. We've brought the issues young people face to national attention and collaborated with other grassroots groups as part of a wider movement for community healing, transformative justice, and racial equity across the country.

As we reflected on the future beyond Grahame Park, we recognised that continuing national advocacy without being grounded in the daily realities of young people in our community wouldn't align with the spirit of how we've campaigned to date. Our work has always been anchored in real, lived experiences - and without that connection, we would risk losing the heart of what 4FRONT has stood for.

Confronting the reality that 4FRONT would not evolve beyond our community service work in Grahame Park, we began to consider what it would mean to wind down intentionally and responsibly. Acknowledging the challenges of sustaining this work, we've made the difficult decision to bring the closure of Jahiem's Justice Centre forward and to wind down our operations while we still have the capacity to do so with care and integrity.

This marks the end of a chapter, reflecting the evolving realities of community support, activism, funding, and leadership sustainability.

Sustaining this work has come with immense challenges, from resource limitations to the emotional demands of frontline advocacy. This decision has been deeply considered, shaped by personal, structural, and systemic factors. It comes from a place of integrity, care, and responsibility - to our mission, our team, and the communities we love. Leading this work has required navigating relentless demands, often without the broader support needed for grassroots, Black-led organisations to thrive. We've held space for grief, conflict, and systemic injustice while often having little space for our own healing. We must now honour our limits. This transition allows us to celebrate the depth of what we've built, ensuring we move forward with intention and respect for all we've achieved.

### **Prioritising Care and Honouring Our Roots During This Transition**

With the support of our partners, we're prioritising the well-being of our 4FRONT community and honouring the roots of our work by thoughtfully allocating our remaining resources. Our focus is on supporting both our members and team during this transition while ensuring that the impact of our work continues to grow beyond 4FRONT.

For our members, we're providing support packages that include services and resources to help them navigate this period of change and continue their growth beyond 4FRONT. This reflects our ongoing commitment to their care, ensuring that those most impacted by our work feel supported and held through this process.

For our team, we're allocating funds for closure packages to provide financial support and resources as they transition beyond 4FRONT. Over the years, our team has been dynamic - members have become staff, and many who have been part of 4FRONT have gone on to make meaningful contributions in various spaces, grounded in the experiences shaped through this work. We are confident that, with support, they will continue to carry forward the spirit of 4FRONT in new and impactful ways.

For our roots, we are dedicating resources to ensure that the lessons, relationships, and transformative work we've cultivated are not just remembered, but continue to grow. Our work has always been rooted in community, resistance, and healing. As we transition, we aim to nourish these roots by sharing reflections, documenting our journey, and supporting initiatives that carry forward the spirit and values that have defined 4FRONT.

Our goal is to end this chapter with the same integrity, care, and purpose that has guided our work - honoring the people, communities, and principles that have shaped 4FRONT's story, and ensuring that the seeds we've planted continue to take root and flourish.

### **What We've Built Together**

As we come to the end of this chapter, we stand with deep pride in everything we've built and held together. 4FRONT has been more than an organisation - it has been a living, breathing community. It's been about people, relationships, and the transformative power that emerges when care and collective action come together.

4FRONT has been a refuge in a society that often denies young people the space to simply be - a place where pain was met with compassion, anger with understanding, and hope was not just felt but actively nurtured. Here are some moments that reflect the heart of our work.

We've created consistent, safe spaces where young people have embarked on deeply personal journeys of self-discovery. These haven't just been services - they've been lifelines. Through trust, care, and connection, we've supported young people to unpack trauma, rebuild their sense of identity, and find strength in their vulnerability.

We've shown up when it mattered most. Whether sitting beside someone in a hospital after an act of violence, supporting through a mental health crisis, or holding space in the aftermath of trauma, our

commitment has been unwavering: to offer care without judgment.

We've held space for repair, not just intervention. In moments where harm could have escalated, we've reached out, listened deeply, and created paths back to understanding. These have been acts of love, rooted in the belief that relationships can heal.

We've walked alongside families and young people through unimaginable loss, with grief as both our companion and our teacher. We've held vigils, honoured lives lost too soon, and created spaces where the weight of loss could be shared - where tears were not hidden but held with tenderness. Through this, we have supported young people in navigating the deep and complex trauma of losing friends, family, and community members to both interpersonal and state violence.

When talking became too heavy, we turned to art, music, and creativity as another way to process pain. We created spaces where young people could write, make music, and create - where grief, anger, and survival could be expressed without needing to be explained.

More than just a building, Jahiem's Justice Centre has been a home. A place where young people have found warmth, food, and belonging. Often, it's been the small moments - a warm welcome, a cup of tea, sharing music, or a quiet conversation - that have meant the most. Our community dinners have been more than just meals; they've been about connection. In a world that isolates, gathering around a table has been an act of resistance - where sharing a meal, laughter, and conversation has strengthened our sense of community and reminded us of our shared humanity.

We've stood shoulder-to-shoulder with young people navigating the harsh realities of the criminal legal system, housing instability, school exclusions, and state violence. Advocacy hasn't just been about challenging systems - it's meant showing up when most needed.



We've been there in courtrooms, at police stations, in prison visiting rooms, and on the streets, stepping in before harm could escalate. Every action has been a commitment to one truth: no one should have to face injustice alone.

We have centered community education, creating spaces to imagine new possibilities and embrace knowledge as a tool for freedom. Through it all, our members have learned, grown, and stepped up - not just for themselves but for each other. They have developed as leaders, taken on responsibility, supported their peers, shared knowledge, and built collective power. In doing so, they have shaped this community and given us hope for the future.

Our work has been rooted in love, resistance, and the radical belief that healing and justice can be made possible, even in the harshest conditions.

### Looking Ahead: Reflections, Celebrations, and Legacy

As we move through this transition, we are creating space for reflection, celebration, and learning. In the coming months, we plan to share more about the lessons we've learned - both the triumphs and the challenges. We'll reflect on what has worked, what we would have done differently, and what we hope others can carry forward.

We'll also be holding spaces to celebrate everything we've achieved together. This is a chance to honour the community we've built, the lives we've touched, and the impact we've made. We want to gather, share stories, and mark this transition with the same care and intention that we've tried to bring to all of our work.

4FRONT began as a small idea - born from the grief of a 16-year-old girl - and grew into a bold, powerful community that has shaped and strengthened a wider movement. Our work has always been rooted in honouring those who came before us. We've seen ourselves as part of a deep lineage of resistance, healing, and community care - a lineage that stretches back through generations of people who

have fought for justice, not always with organisations or titles, but with love, courage, and unwavering commitment.

Now, as this chapter closes, we join that history - becoming part of the cycle of movements that rise, evolve, and make space for what comes next. Our work doesn't end here - it lives on in the people we've supported, the lessons we've learned, and the seeds we've planted. We know others will pick up this work, take it to the next level, and build on the foundation we've laid. That's the nature of movements - they don't belong to one organisation or one moment in time. They're carried forward by many hands, across generations.

We are deeply grateful to our entire 4FRONT community - our members, team, partners, supporters, and funders. Your belief in this vision has sustained us, and it has been an honour to journey together. This is not the end of the fight for healing, justice, and freedom. The lessons, relationships, and spirit that 4FRONT has nurtured will live on in the movements we have strengthened and the futures we have dared to imagine.

**Thank you for being part of our story.**

With love, care and hope,  
**4FRONT**





Dear 4FRONT Community,

I write this letter carrying both deep pride and deep sorrow - from the depths of my spirit, where joy and loss sit side by side. After more than a decade of building, resisting, healing, and dreaming together - 4FRONT will officially wind down this year. This moment marks the end of a profound era - and the beginning of something new.

It's difficult to put into words the magnitude of this moment - the depth of emotion, the spiritual weight, the profound sense of loss, and yet, the undeniable power held within it. I have spent almost 13 years of my life - pouring my heart, soul, and every fibre of my being into 4FRONT. It feels surreal to stand at this threshold. My heart is overflowing - with gratitude, with grief and with love too big for words. These words come from a place of raw truth, held in the tension of celebration and mourning. As I write, I'm holding the weight of all we've been - and all we've become.

The decision to move toward closure was never one we took lightly. It came after months of deep reflection, honest conversations, and a reckoning with what it truly means to struggle, to lead, and ultimately, to let go.

The story of 4FRONT didn't begin with paperwork or a strategic plan. It began with pain. It began when my friend Marvin was murdered in 2010. I was 15, broken by grief, and desperate for a way to stop the cycle of violence ripping through our lives. What started as a personal response to loss became a collective movement for healing, justice, and transformation. I had no roadmap. No funding. Just a fire in my chest and a refusal to accept that this was all our lives could be.

This organisation has accompanied me from childhood to adulthood. I was just a teenager when 4FRONT began - grappling with grief, searching for answers, fuelled by rage and love in equal measure. I didn't know then what this path would require of me. I just knew I couldn't sit still while our communities were being torn apart.

This has been my only job. I've grown with 4FRONT, and 4FRONT has grown with me. I couldn't have imagined where this journey would take us. 4FRONT became my teacher, my mirror, my anchor. It held my coming of age, witnessed my becoming, and shaped the woman I am today. Every lesson I've learned - about power, pain, purpose, and possibility - has been forged through this work. Through late nights and long fights. Through breakthroughs and breakdowns. Through the quiet, unseen moments when I had to find strength I didn't know I had. I've been stretched, tested, lifted, and almost broken - more than once. But through it all, we created something beautiful. Something powerful. Something that mattered. Now, as I step into a new chapter of life, I do so with the grounding that 4FRONT gave me. I carry its lessons, its legacy, and its love. Always.

Only since beginning the journey toward ending have I truly begun to grasp the depth of what I created - and what we built together. It has shaken me to my core. I am humbled beyond words and honoured to have walked this path. My heart is full and broken at the same time. I am bursting with pride while carrying a grief so deep it's hard to name.

This has been my life. And in these past few months, I've been part of some of the most raw, vulnerable, and powerful conversations I've ever had - held by a community that has grown through love, struggle, and solidarity. A community built slowly, intentionally, over more than a decade. Together, we've unearthed just how much we mean to each other. The depth of our care. The strength of our bonds. The chosen family we've created.

And at the heart of it all - Grahame Park. My home. My hood. The place that shaped me, raised me, and gave life to 4FRONT. I carry this estate in my bones. I carry every corner, every face, every memory. The love I have for this place is fierce and forever. And as I've witnessed it being stripped away by the violence of gentrification

- replaced by sterile buildings with no roots in the soil they've been planted on - I've felt a particular kind of grief, one that sits beside the pride. Because what we built here, against the odds, in the cracks of a system designed to forget us, is nothing short of extraordinary. This work, this journey, this organisation - it came from the heart of the hood. And it will live on in the hearts of everyone who was touched by it. 4FRONT is Grahame Park's legacy just as much as mine. And no matter what happens to the buildings, the spirit of this place - the power of our community - will never be demolished.

Leading this work has been both an honour and a profoundly personal journey. In recent years, I've come to understand my own neurodivergence - not just as an identity, but as a lived reality that has shaped how I connect, lead, and survive. That realisation has been both liberating and painful. Trying to meet impossible expectations in a world that doesn't see or support neurodivergent minds - while holding grief, trauma, and the weight of this work - became unsustainable. Eventually, I had to listen to myself. To honour the toll it took on my health, my nervous system, and my spirit. I had to pause. To try and heal. To return to my own centre.

The grief hasn't just been personal. It's collective. It's communal. We've lost people - to death, to prison, to systems designed to destroy us. We've honoured Marvin Henry, Jahiem Legister-Hall, Anthony Adekola, Chris Kaba - and kept all those whose lives have been cut short in our hearts. We've held each other through it all: the vigils, the funerals, the sleepless nights. We've shown up for each other in moments of deep crisis, offering love, care, and safety in a world that offers us none. And yes, we've made mistakes. There's so much I would do differently with the hindsight I now hold. But I've always tried my best. And through it all, we've built something that has changed lives.

One of the things I hold closest to my heart is Jahiem's Justice Centre. That space is so much more than bricks and paint. It is the heart



of our story. We took an abandoned chemist on Grahame Park and turned it into a sanctuary - for healing, for hope, for joy, for resistance. We fought for that space. We brought it to life in the midst of struggle. And naming it after Jahiem - our brother, our bright light, who we lost at just 17 - was one of the most painful and beautiful things we've ever done. His spirit lives in every corner. That centre is a living memorial, a love letter, a reminder that even in the face of profound loss, we can build something powerful together.

When I look back, it's not the headlines or milestones that stay with me. It's the quiet, sacred moments: the late-night calls, the hugs in the kitchen, the laughter that cut through the pain, the deep knowing that we belonged to each other. That is the real legacy of 4FRONT. Not just what we built, but how we built it - with love, with truth, with deep care.

Despite the grief and exhaustion, my commitment remains. My belief in justice, healing, and liberation remains. 4FRONT may be closing this chapter, but the fire we lit together is still burning. And what a powerful, beautiful fire it is.

To every young person we've journeyed with - thank you.

To all those who found safety, power, or healing in 4FRONT - thank you.

To everyone who helped build this community - thank you.

To those who stood beside us - thank you.

To all who shared in our struggle and our joy - thank you.

In the coming months, we will share our reflections, lessons, and community archive. I know these words can never fully capture the depth of what we've built - but I hope what we share offers a glimpse. A glimpse into the love that held us. The struggle that shaped us. The transformation that carried us. A glimpse into the power of connection, of collective care, of community in its truest form.

I hope it reminds us that we belong to one another - and that our responsibility is to keep showing up, again and again. To build, to rebuild. To heal, to resist. And to never stop imagining something better.

Thank you for walking beside me. For believing in this vision. For growing with me.

This isn't the end. It's an evolution.

With eternal love and deep gratitude,

**Temí**

*Founder, 4FRONT*





Dear 4FRONT Community,

It's with a heavy heart that I write this letter to share that 4FRONT will be closing its doors in the coming months. This decision has not come lightly, and finding the words to express the depth of what this journey has meant feels almost impossible. How do you sum up a chapter that has shaped you significantly?

Being part of 4FRONT has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life. I joined in 2018 with a simple goal: to support my community, to heal the hood, to stand against the violence that has scarred our streets and our hearts. I didn't fully know what that would entail, but on this path - through the countless faces, stories, struggles and victories - I found not just purpose, but pieces of myself that I didn't know were missing.

I think of Jahiem often. His loss was more than a tragedy; it was a mirror reflecting the weight so many young people carry - unseen and unspoken. His absence carved a space in my heart that no amount of work could fill. But that grief became a guide. It taught me to show up differently, to be present not just as a leader, but as a human being - flawed, vulnerable and trying my best. It drove me to honour him through action, to create spaces where his friends, and countless others, could find something we all deserve - hope, connection and the belief that we are enough.

4FRONT hasn't just been an organisation, it has been a heartbeat. It was the late-night calls, emergency hospital visits, courtrooms filled with both fear and love. It was the laughter spilling out from workshops, the quiet moments of peace and reflections in therapeutic one-to-ones, the raw honesty in community meetings. We didn't just respond to harm, we dared to reimagine what community could be - beyond survival.

I have always seen my role as a Community Peacebuilder first. This work is hard and often triggering. I've been a mentor, an older brother, a medic, an advocate, a supporter, a creative facilitator, an educator - and whatever our community needed at the moment.



Being a leader meant carrying not just my own pain, but the weight of everyone else's too. I was arrested more than once for standing up for our members, whilst supporting them to challenge the system. I had to fight my own cases against the police - charges that should never have been brought. It was exhausting, but I wasn't alone. We stood together and we won.

Still, the pressure to hold it all together took a real toll. I kept showing up, even when I was struggling, pushing my own needs aside, trying to create space for healing while forgetting my own. But healing isn't about running faster. It's about stopping long enough to feel, to grieve, to rest. And in making the decision to close 4FRONT, I'm learning that sometimes the most radical thing we can do is let go. Yet, even in this ending, there is so much to hold onto. The lessons, the connections, the seeds we planted - they don't disappear when an organisation closes its doors. They live on in the people we've touched, in the movements we've nurtured, in the quiet courage of every young person who dared to believe in a different future because we stood beside them.

To every young person who trusted me with your story, your pain, your dreams - thank you. You've shown me what resilience truly looks like. To every team member who carried this work with me, who showed up even when it was hard, who poured their heart into building something bigger than ourselves - thank you. To our wider community, our partners, our supporters, our critics - thank you for holding us accountable, for believing in us, for walking this path with us.

This isn't the end. It's a transition. The spirit of 4FRONT isn't tied to a name or a building. It lives in us - in the lessons we've learned, the lives we've touched, the love we've shared. And as we move forward, I carry with me not just the weight of what will be lost, but the beauty of what was built.

With love, respect and hope,

**Kusai Rahal**

*Co-Director, 4FRONT*

