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**STEPHEN MARLEY & GHETTO YOUTHS FOUNDATION**

**announce**

**THE JO MERSA MARLEY LEGACY FUND**

*A charitable initiative created to honor Jo Mersa Marley's extraordinary spirit – his great generosity, his passionate dedication to artistry, and his unwavering love for family and humanity*

**MARCH 12, 2026, KINGSTON, JAMAICA** – Stephen Marley is proud to announce the launch of a new charitable initiative in honor of his son, Joseph “Jo Mersa” Marley. The newly coined **JO MERSA MARLEY LEGACY FUND** will celebrate the spirit and legacy of Joseph, ensuring that his voice and vision carry forward for generations to come.

Beloved by his family, deeply respected by the global music community, Joseph was a source of strength and unity – evident in his musical catalogue and his personal message of togetherness. His commitment to uplift young people was based in a deep connection to his roots and underlined by his unparalleled commitment to family.

**THE JO MERSA MARLEY LEGACY FUND** will support youth access to music and culture, wellness and inspiration. “This charitable initiative will honor Joseph, his legacy, and his spirit,” said Stephen Marley.

For more information, or to make a gift in honor of Jo Mersa Marley, please visit:

[www.ghettoyouthsfoundation.org/jomersa](http://www.ghettoyouthsfoundation.org/jomersa)

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## **ABOUT JO MERSA MARLEY**

**Joseph "Jo Mersa" Marley** (March 12, 1991 – December 26, 2022) was a Jamaican artist, singer, and producer. He was the eldest son of Stephen Marley and the grandson of reggae legend, Bob Marley.

Jo Mersa grew up surrounded by music. From as early as four years old, he was appearing onstage alongside his father, uncles and aunts. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, he moved to Miami at age 11, where he took interest in his father and uncle's creative process. Although he originally started by producing beats during that time, Jo also learned a great deal about production during his latter tours with the Melody Makers. His first official project titled "Comfortable," was released in Spring 2014 on the Marley Family's imprint Ghetto Youths International (GYI). The single and title track was originally released on the Billboard chart topping GYI album "Set Up Shop Vol 1." From this moment onward, Jo Mersa distinguished himself with a unique voice and unparalleled mastery of lyrics.

According to Jo, it wasn't until discussing the success of the title song that the name of the EP came into view: "We talked about it as a team, me, my father and my uncle Damian and 'Comfortable' was just the most fitting name; the word works on many levels. I am just getting comfortable enough to give you a piece of my mind, comfortable enough so that I can open up and share my views, my thoughts and my heart."

The EP itself features a blend of the young Marley's many musical influences, from pop, to hip hop, reggae, EDM and even dancehall. The EP received a similarly positive response and more than delivered on its promise as an introductory body of work.

Jo inherited his father and grandfather's abundant musical talent and has been greatly influenced by their accomplishments -- but the decision to pursue a career as an artist was completely his own. "My father left it up to me; when I grew up it was my choice which way I wanted to go. From there he said "OK, if that's what you want to do, let's see how motivated you are."

After the release of "Comfortable" in 2014, Jo Mersa Marley took some time to work with several of the giants in the music industry and to hone his own unique sound. He was intimately involved in scoring features on tracks like "Light It Up" on Morgan Heritage's Grammy award-winning album "Strictly Roots," and Stephen Marley's "Revelation II: "The Fruit of Life."

Jo also embarked on working with his brother Yohan Marley again on the single 'Brickell,' and released several singles himself, including as "Nothing's Gonna Harm You," dedicated to his daughter; "Everlasting;" and "Point of View" featuring Damian Marley -- just to name a few.

The success of his first EP found Jo Mersa headlining his own tours or supporting superstars like his father Stephen Marley, Collie Budz, and Morgan Heritage on the road. Jo Mersa released his sophomore EP "Eternal" in 2021 to great acclaim. The seven-track project features the likes of

Busy Signal, as well as label mates Kabaka Pyramid and Black Am I. This body of work offers an exciting glimpse and manifestation of the promise and potential shown from earlier efforts and the legacy he represented. As a complete body of work, “Eternal” has a light narrative arc that is connected through the sonic progressions, and tracks like the storied “Guess Who’s Coming Home.” The EP speaks on a variety of topics -- from growth, to justice, romance and even alternative medicine. Jo Mersa Marley created a meaningful look inside of his mind and spirit with this work.

Joseph “Jo Mersa” Marley’s legacy lives on through his incomparable lyrics, his exemplary musical catalogue, and his love for family.

**“What you love is what you protect, your blessings you should not neglect.”**

**– Jo Mersa Marley**

#### **ABOUT GHETTO YOUTHS FOUNDATION**

Founded by Stephen, Damian, and Julian Marley in 2007, Ghetto Youths Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing support to communities in need, everywhere.

*Let the hungry be fed, the naked clothed, the sick nourished, the aged protected, and the infants cared for...*