

OUR COMMUNITY

FASHION • TALENT • RESILIENCE

Q1 NEWSLETTER • FEB 2022



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Kingston, Jamaica



876-678-8242



hello@transwaveja.org



@transwaveja



EDITOR'S NOTE



When I think of *our community*, I constantly think of our superb talents and how we've been able to fashion a life of resilience in spite of the many odds against us. In 2021, a lot happened... it was truly a rollercoaster but despite, the many falls, we rise and we endure.

Through our advocacy both on the ground and in the media and our constant work to meet the needs of our TGNCNB siblinghood, TransWave continues to forge ahead in this pandemic in love and spirit of true liberation.

This newsletter provides just a small glimpse & update of all we did in 2021.

WALeo

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



2021 has been a challenging year as we collectively recover from the losses we have experienced after the pandemic. As we continue with our efforts towards a new normal, let us never forget to love on and appreciate our loved ones.

As we approach 2022, I'm manifesting the continued presence of Transwave as a safe space devoted to promoting the health, wellness and visibility of our beautifully diverse trans community.

Noelle Nelson,
BOARD CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am most proud of just how elevated our work has become. The team who are mostly new to their roles understand my vision for the organization, the community and Jamaica as whole and are doing their best to achieve it.

My hope is that the organization continues to grow in strength and that it's work continues to expand and grow in ways that can truly meaningfully impact the lives of trans Jamaicans.

*Renae
Green,*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


Community Kaana

I want all of my beloved cousins to have the respect, resources, and support to conjure "the something else" -- the new anti-capitalist, decolonized world. It has been a blessing to watch staff and members do a lot of that in 2021 and I hope to deepen my relationship to you all and collaborate in 2022!

BIANCA CAMPBELL,
FORWARD TOGETHER

I hope the team can reflect and celebrate all the amazing things you have made happen by your deliberate work, not in taking up space but in transforming it. I continue to manifest a thriving and well-resourced community as you engage in your present work and carve out a liberated future for trans and gender non-conforming Jamaicans. You are all already a dream realized.
I wish you all a TRANStastic 2022!

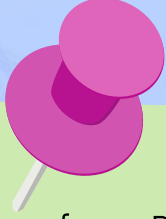
NEISH MCLEAN,
ACTIVIST/FOUNDER OF TRANSWAVE



Greetings and Green tingz, I envision Transwave inside conversations all over Jamaica where there needs to be a shift in the outdated perspective on life. In 2022 I see Transwave being a safe space for even more trans, gender non-conforming, and two-spirited kindreds. I see this organization, in 2022 contributing to shifting the norms and allowing us all to take up space in the workplace, in autonomous homes, in the streets, in public spaces of recreation, and in our local media. I see Transwave facing what isn't hate, but fear. In 2022 I see Transwave expanding on what they're already doing.


AFÉ ABENE, JAMAICA

Community Kaana




Blessings and greetings from Portland, Oregon I'm sending love to all my fellow Caribbean siblings at TransWave and beyond in the diaspora. for this upcoming year, I hope all receive twice-fold in return the compassion, care, and grace with which you bless the world. I see your faces everyday in my little phone and I am inspired by the urgency and purpose which drives your work. I hope to meet you all someday and share in placid laughter. thank you for this year!!

BITTER CAMARI,
OREGON



TransWave JA works to free us from the shackles of centuries of downpression of our Black bodies - both cisgender and and transgender. I celebrate TransWave moving into a space of love for 2022, continuing to spread trans joy, trans freedom and trans liberation. across the diaspora.

CAMPBELL X, FILM MAKER/DIRECTOR, UK



"What I hope for in 2022 for TransWave is nothing but financial, political, and cultural growth. I hope that TransWave grows, develops, and succeeds in ways that the organization has only imagined. I pray that all the organization's dreams and goals become ultimate realities. TransWave does so much for transgender and gender expansive communities in Jamaica and beyond, by cultivating safe spaces where transgender people and gender expansive people are centered, included, affirmed, and celebrated. I am so grateful for TransWave and the brilliant leadership of the organization. Thank you so much for all you do!

JAIMEE A. SWIFT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BLACK WOMEN RADICALS

2021 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY LAUNCH EVENT



Kingston, Jamaica - On December 10, 2021, we celebrated Human Rights Day under the theme "EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights."

To commemorate Human Rights Day (December 10), TransWave Jamaica launched Gender Recognition Legislation: An Approach to Advocacy. This model legislation document provides a legislative approach to gender recognition that caters to the needs and concerns of trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming persons living in Jamaica. In alignment with Strategic Objective 1 of our National Trans Health Strategy, we are working towards a Jamaica where gender recognition legislation, policies, and systems for trans and gender nonconforming Jamaicans are established across all sectors by 2025.

This launch was the first step in opening the discussion to policy makers with the sole aim that one day it will all be realized.

According to Renae Green, Executive Director of TransWave Jamaica, "the gender recognition framework which [was] launched will show what gender recognition legislation could look like for Jamaica and possibly the region as a whole. Trans people are deserving of respect and dignity and this document takes one step closer to achieving this."

In addition, we showcased other aspects of research pioneered by the Policy, Advocacy & Research team in 2021, such as our National Trans health Strategy Advocacy Plan as well as our 2021 Human Rights Violation Report, which played crucial parts in the development of the gender recognition legislative approach.

The event was supported by our partners from UNAIDS, UNFPA, the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), The Equality Group and other important dignitaries. We thank you all for standing in solidarity.



#TEAMTRANSTASTIC2022





2021 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION REPORT | STATISTICS

This report outlines the human rights violations experienced by the trans community between the period of June 2021- November 2021. These violations were recorded using the Caribbean Vulnerable Community Coalition Shared Incident Database (SID).



DENIAL OF EQUAL TREATMENT

One in seven (14%) respondents reported that they were denied equal treatment or service in a public place in the past year because of being transgender.



VERBAL ASSAULT

Nearly half (46%) of respondents reported that they were verbally harassed in the past year because of being transgender.



PHYSICAL ASSAULT

Nearly one in ten (9%) respondents reported that they were physically attacked in the past year because of being transgender,



SEXUAL ASSAULT

87% of respondents have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime.

In addition to the SIDS database, through research we shed light on the extent of discrimination faced by trans people in different areas of life including employment, education, healthcare, housing, and other services.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



TransWave In the News

A ROUND UP OF ALL THAT HAPPENED IN 2021!



We're Going Virtual!



creatingchange.org

NEWS A&E OPINION WILTON MANORS GAZETTE CONNECT SFGN IN PRINT THE MIRROR THE GUIDE NORM KENT SHOW

Jamaica Reveals New Trans-Inclusive Healthcare



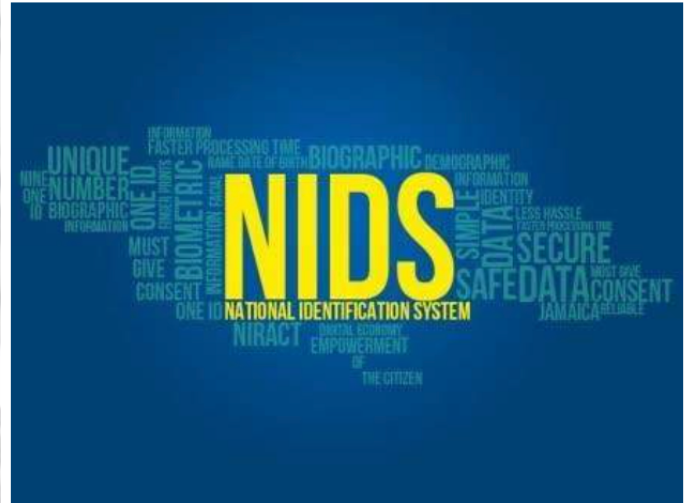
Renae Green, associate director of Policy, Advocacy and Research at TransWave Jamaica. Photo via Renae Green, LinkedIn.

"Too many transgender people stay home and suffer or change who they are to access public healthcare spaces," said TransWave Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy Renae Green.

TransWave Jamaica has created and launched the first-ever trans-inclusive healthcare strategy in the English-speaking Caribbean with support from UNAIDS and the United Nations Population Fund.

After a year of research and planning, TransWave has been able to launch inclusive healthcare so that transgender and gender non-conforming citizens can utilize it. This way, more people will be able to feel safe and comfortable while receiving medical attention.

The healthcare strategy branches out from the traditional cookie-cutter healthcare options. Right now, it is a five-year plan based upon trans rights in Jamaica.



Transwave Jamaica objects to new data privacy law

Sunday, September 26, 2021

8 Comments



Rappler.com and c oda.com, in a weekly technology feature, have highlighted the objection made by Transwave — a non-government organisation (NGO) engaged in transgender advocacy — to the latest version of legislation to facilitate a digital national identification system in Jamaica.

Trans-Dazed

TransWave Jamaica teamed up with J-FLAG to bring two eras of activism to print with an editorial for the **Dazed** winter 21 publication, shot by Luca Khouri and styled by Emani Edwards.



A mere statement is not enough!

Friday, November 12, 2021

Dear Editor,
With the recent article making the rounds regarding Minister of Health Dr Christopher Tufford's statement about having no room for LGBTQ+ discrimination in the health sector, questions have been asked as to whether this assurance is reasonable.

The statement came while addressing a *Gleaner* Editors' Forum looking at issues surrounding access to mental health care by LGBTQ+ Jamaicans last Wednesday.

For years, the marginalisation and discrimination experienced by LGBTQ+ people have contributed to the very barriers in accessing health and social services which, by extension, are exacerbated by the fact that many health-care workers lack the necessary knowledge and abilities to treat with and care for people from the community.



Jamaica transgender strategy looks beyond health

21
a health-care system that has no concept of who a person, or of your unique important questions. Doctors might overlook the solutions you really require. It's been the reality for transgender people in Jamaica. A new strategy seeks to

Mental health providers need training to deal with LGBTQ+ community – Green

Share this Story: Like 1 | Tweet | Share | 2

Published: Friday | November 5, 2021 | 12:05 AM | Christopher Thomas/Gleaner Writer

WESTERN BUREAU:
Renae Green, the executive director of transgender rights group Transwave Jamaica, believes that mental health service providers in Jamaica need more training in how to adequately address the needs of the local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transsexual (LGBTQ+) community, particularly those who identify as transgender.



Trans rights are human rights

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Dear Editor,
Human Rights Day, celebrated on December 10 annually, seeks to honour the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Started in 1948, the declaration stipulates universal values and a shared standard of achievement for everyone in every country. Despite the fact that the declaration is not legally binding in nature, it has inspired over 60 human rights instruments that together provide a common human rights framework today. Since then, the concepts of promoting and protecting human rights have become much more than just a moral imperative, but a critical component in creating societies that are equal, just, and discrimination-free.



Room for discrimination in Rent Restriction Act

Monday, October 11, 2021

Dear Editor,
In November 2020 Parnell Charles Jr, minister of housing, urban renewal, environment and climate change, highlighted the Government's intention to amend the very antiquated and barbaric clauses and provisions of the Jamaica Rent Restriction Act, 1994.

This amendment, however, came into effect late January of 2021 with no provision for members of the LGBT community, who already find it difficult to source adequate housing and continuously face discrimination from their landlords, as well as the wider society.

- The eight project recipients, including the Bureau of Gender Affairs, will implement activities to address social and economic issues arising from the pandemic for the 2021 to 2022 period. The seven local organisations are:
- International Women's Coffee Alliance
 - South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee
 - Grants Mountain Local Forest Management Committee
 - Transwave
 - The Peace Management Initiative
 - Women of Destiny
 - Northgate Youth and Family Development Foundation



Take youth mental health seriously

Share this Story: Like 0 | Tweet | Share | 1

Published: Friday | October 22, 2021 | 12:09 AM

THE EDITOR, Madam:
The discourse surrounding mental health, though seem overdone, remains relevant among the youths in our society. This idea stems from the fact that youths between ages 18-29 are deemed as being most vulnerable/susceptible to experiencing a form of mental illness at some point. Often we tend to centre these conversations around the fact that, yes, mental health is important and it is the lesser privileged citizens that experience it; but have we ever thought about it on the basis of accessibility and availability to treatment and other services?



Executive director at TransWave Renae Green addressing TransWave's launch of three human rights reports at Spanish Court Hotel in St Andrew last Friday.

High levels of human rights violations against trans community

Monday, December 13, 2021

BY BRITNY HUTCHINSON
Observer staff reporter
hutchinson@jamaicaobserver.com

A human rights violation report released by TransWave Jamaica on Friday has indicated that 87 per cent of transgender individuals have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

#TEAMTRANSTASTIC

QUARTER 1 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

POLICY, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

- *WORKPLACE SENSITIZATION SESSIONS*
- *COMMUNITY-BASED LEGAL LITERACY SESSIONS*
- *RESEARCH AROUND CHOSEN FAMILIES*

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

- *WERK! PODCAST SERIES*
- *TDOV CAMPAIGN*
- *SOCIAL MEDIA LIVES*

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- *CFLI ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING & BUSINESS EXPO*
- *EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS*
- *SUPPORT GROUP*
- *HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION REPORTING*





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