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.

MX Leo
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
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.

Renee Green,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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and Green tingz, I envision Transwave inside conversations all over Jamaica where there needs to be a shift in the outdated perspective on life.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
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
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.
This paper was produced to identify the advocacy steps that need to be taken to move Jamaica on a path to realizing a vision for gender recognition. Legal gender recognition is understood as merely referring to “laws, policies or administrative procedures and processes which set out how trans and gender diverse people can change their sex/gender marker and names on official identity documents.
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.

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

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

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

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.
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