



Q2 newsletter

REGIONAL AFFAIRS





Q2 NEWSLETTER

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

I am so happy and grateful to our ambassadors who have given of themselves and their time to support the work of not just TransWave but the trans community in Jamaica. I am hopeful that together we can chart a way forward for trans people living here and that our leaders will understand that we are deserving of love and respect same as anyone else. I long for a Jamaica that recognises and values the lives every Jamaican LGBTQ or not.

Renae Green



DEAR READERS,

This collection of stories and people is all about the ethos that has guided us this quarter: connection and community. In this edition, we focus on the events that have led us to come together to talk, collaborate, engage and laugh. This edition is community-centered, as is our work and events such as the Transcendence regional conference and Mr and Ms Queeribbean. To the people who have lent their stories, craft and creativity to this quarter and this publication- thank you.

TransWave xoxo



COLLABORATION



TRANSCENDENCE CONFERENCE

The Transcendence regional conference took place May 16th to 20th in St. Lucia, with the aim of elevating the rights, well-being and emancipation of gender diverse people in the Caribbean. The conference was conceptualized, planned and executed through the collaboration of the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), TransWave Jamaica and Butterfly Barbados. The regional conference was the first of its kind in the Caribbean and represented a monumental moment for collaboration among trans people in the Global North and South.

The six-day conference was prefaced with the arrival of the speakers, participants and community members from across the region.

The jam-packed days were filled with sessions from activists and international and regional organisation representatives.

The conference provided an opportunity for unique conversations between stakeholders, funders, community members and other participants. This immersive conference allowed participants to feel a sense of synergy and connection within the community in a way that affirmed their place.

The first day of presentations focused on the theme: Promoting Individual and Community Health and Well-Being. This discussion was chaired by Didi Diva Queen Legend from Equals Barbados. Following the full and fruitful conversation, Nala Toussaint provided the keynote address.



TRANSCENDENCE CONFERENCE

On the second day, Raven Gill, Executive Director of Butterfly Barbados led a discussion on the theme: Protecting our Rights, Celebrating our Dignity. This discussion was aimed at examining the various laws and policies relating the housing, migration, employment, education, property, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and democratic participation of transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people in the Caribbean. Afterwards, Pepe Julia Onziema from SMUG provided the keynote address for the day.

Transcendence continued on day three with the theme: Securing Justice, Promoting Resilience and Building Movement.

This discussion was chaired by Daniel Daphness from ECADE. In addition, Rikki Nathanson from Outright Action International gave the keynote address.

The conference was concluded by Transcendence: Mr and Ms Queeribbean (Kings and Queens) where contestants from across the regional participated and represented their countries- Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St.Kitts and Nevis, St.Lucia, Guyana, St.Croix.



MR AND MS QUEERIBBEAN

TRANSCENDECE: MR AND MS QUEERIBBEAN

The regional conference in St. Lucia was concluded by the highly anticipated Mr and Ms Queeribbean. The pageant brought together transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people from across the region to showcase their talent and skills, while representing their country's unique culture.

Transcendence was the first of its kind to bring together transgender Caribbean people in a way that respects and affirms their identities. The pageant was organized through the teamwork of Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), TransWave and Butterfly Barbados. The territories represented were Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Guyana, St. Croix. The contestants in the King category were: Xavier (St. and Nevis), TJ/Max (Guyana), Vernel (St Lucia), Sage (Jamaica), Andie (St Croix). The contestants in the Queen category were: Amoncè (St Kitts), Jada Spark (St Vincent & the Grenadines), Candy Coco Chanel (St Lucia), Kymico Allen (Jamaica).

Contestants competed in the following segments: Introduction/ Cultural Wear, Talent and Swimwear and Question and Answer. Sage dazzled the judges with his performance and won the Mr. Queeribbean title! Similarly, Jada embodied poise, style and grace and was successfully crowned Ms Queeribbean!



MR AND MS QUEERIBBEAN

Other sectional prizes included 'Best Cultural Wear' that was won by Jada and Sage. 'Best Talent' was also won by Jada and Sage. Kymico's fabulous swimwear style landed her the 'Best Swimwear' prize, along with Sage who snagged that award in the kings category. Both Sage and Jada continued to excel, winning the 'Best Formal Wear' prize for their regal, and sleek attires for the category. Lastly, Amonce shone during the interview segment, winning the prize for 'Best Interview' along with Sage who provided a thoughtful and brilliant answer to his questions.



Overall, the placement for the Queens were as follows: 2nd runner up- Jamaica (Kymico); 1st runner up- St Lucia (Candy) and the Queen- St.Vincent and the Grenadines (Jada). The placement for the Kings were as follows; 2nd runner up- St Lucia (Vernel); 1st Runner up- St Croix (Andie) and the King- Jamaica (Sage). Sage (Jamaica) and Candy (St. Lucia) also snagged the People's Choice award.

Congratulations to all the contestants for participating beautifully in the pageant. Thank you for sharing your unique personalities and showcasing the diversity of the trans community across the Caribbean. You are all Kings and Queens!



COMMUNITY CORNER



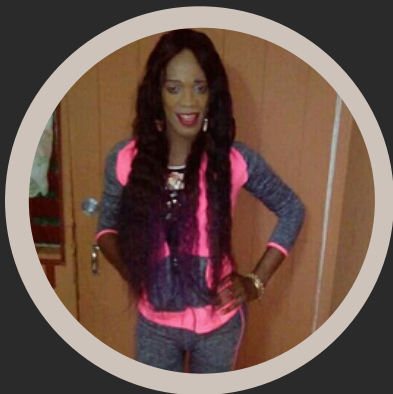
GLYNNDEVON BRYAN

"It's okay not to agree with my life, not to agree with who I am but it's not okay not to respect me"



DOM

" Regardless of if you understand or even if you want to try to understand why someone is the way they are, why they live their lives the way that they live, it doesn't make it okay for you to bully or shame them for it. People should be able to live their lives freely and happily"



RODESHA

"People like me deserve chances, deserve rights, deserve a life like everyone else"



THANK YOU
FOR READING!



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