OVERVIEW

About TransWave
Events
Projects
Traditional Media Engagement
Online Media Engagement
Established in 2015, TransWave Jamaica is the country’s first non-profit organization solely dedicated to focusing on promoting the health and well-being of the transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary communities.

At TransWave, we take a holistic approach to advocacy, addressing not only the socio-political issues we face, but also the mental, emotional and physical health of our community through our various initiatives.
6 SIGNATURE EVENTS

T-Shirt Soca Lyme
Trans Health & Wellness Conference
Pre-Pride Scavenger Hunt & Lyme
Gender Freedom: A Fashion Show
Mobay Lyme
TDOR Candelight Vigil & Movie Night
Our T-Shirt Soca Lyme was held to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st). The event was held at Rainbow House on March 30. This was one of our more successful events, with strong representation from the trans community.
Our Trans Health & Wellness Conference was held on May 21st under the theme, "Re-imagining Trans Health & Wellness". There were a myriad panel related to media & visibility, research, mental health and wellness, sexual and reproductive health and medical transition.

151 PERSONS ATTENDED
The Pre-Pride Scavenger Hunt & Lyme was held on July 21 at Rainbow House. Many persons came for the hunt, and stayed for the lyme!

30 PERSONS ATTENDED
Our inaugural fashion show was held on September 1st, in celebration of TransWave's 3rd anniversary (August 27). There were 4 design categories: Swimmear, Wakanda, Preppy Realness and self-made TransActive tee designs from the models.
GENDER FREEDOM
A FASHION SHOW
In our aim to increase rural engagement, a pop-up lyme was held in Montego Bay at the Altamont West in September 2018. On the evening of September 15th, an entire room of trans persons and allies engaged us and were thoroughly entertained.

40 PERSONS ATTENDED
Our final event for 2018 was the TDOR Candlelight Vigil and Movie Night held at Rainbow House on November 20. Attendees watched The Danish Girl and subsequently, we remembered the trans lives lost to acts of violence through the candle lighting exercise.

25 PERSONS ATTENDED
TRAININGS

Sensitization Session with Children's First.

2 Day Training with iFlex
A wide array of topics were discussed with the facilitator, including safety, identity, love & relationships and more.

On average, 15 persons attended our support groups.
In May 2018, our trans ambassadors programme launched with a cadre of 6 ambassadors after TransWave Teach Training.

Ambassadors have committed time to event planning, social media, writing and supporting other events/activities.
TRADITIONAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

2 RADIO SHOWS

7 LETTERS/OP-EDS
In September 2018, team TransWave appeared on Love & Sex, with Dr Karen Carpenter on Nationwide 90 FM to discuss trans love and relationships.
WE WROTE ABOUT TRANS-INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE, TOLERANCE, AND RECOGNITION OF TRANS IDENTITIES.
ONLINE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT
SOCIAL MEDIA

1,144 FOLLOWERS

4,105 LIKES

1,479 FOLLOWERS

INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK

TWITTER
On Trans Day of Visibility, we executed a visibility campaign showing the resilience of trans persons and trans allies.
Our #MyTransID series was started in October of last year. The campaign aims to help persons foster an awareness of the recognition trans persons deserve.

For Trans Awareness Month, we produced a series of IEC materials and videos for our social media pages.
I am who I say I am.

#TRANSWAVEJA

#MyTransID
Our #TransTalkJA series was launched in April 2018.

So far, 12 videos have been uploaded to our YouTube Channel. Participants in the series have spoken on different topics including pronouns, gender recognition, respect, and more.
Our headers were changed for Trans Awareness Month and videos sensitizing persons of the issues trans persons faced were shared.

For the month, there was a total reach of 164,773 persons across all platforms.
On August 27, 2018, we produced our 3rd Anniversary newsletter.

The newsletter featured articles from our trans ambassadors, staff and others.
On May 21, 2018, Transwave Jamaica and its partners held the first ever Trans Health and Wellness Conference. As the first of its kind within the Caribbean, the conference will go down in history as a momentous day for the trans community. The conference was both trans led and trans focused and featured panel discussions and presentations from members of the community. The event was supported not just by members of the community but also allies, academia, healthcare professionals, representatives of government and others.

The panelists and presenters represented the diversity that exists within the community and spoke on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, media and visibility, transitioning and other forms of trans specific health care, and data gaps within the region. One panelist Ms. Ashley Gorden or Ashley as she affectionately called spoke about what it’s like to be an openly trans woman living in Jamaica in the public eye. Ashley being a known fashion blogger spoke about how she navigates spaces as well as the challenges and triumphs she has gained. This for many trans persons present was truly inspiring as it shows that it is not impossible for the community to live and navigate spaces within Jamaica.

The conference gave a great look at what is being done in Jamaica, and what can be possible for the Caribbean with regards to trans inclusive and trans sensitive healthcare as well as holistic wellness initiatives. As a community, we are hopeful that the efforts of all of us will result in policy and legislative changes that afford full rights and inclusion to all trans people.

FASHION FORWARD

Outfit: Dress 
Outfit Designer: Ashley Gorden

On May 28, 2018, Transwave Jamaica appointed 3 ambassadors as part of their programming to ensure organizational sustainability. The three ambassadors are Anika Weep, Denise Green, and Jasmin Phillips, all known for their work within the community. The ambassadors are armed with skills from social media, event planning and management, writing and community mobilization.

The TEAchi Training from the 21st to the 30th of May, 2018, helped me to improve my skills in designing programmes and events for the organization, grant writing, and developing our team’s capacity while improving on presentation competencies. At the end of the training, I was prepared to take on the work as an ambassador.

Primarily, I have been focused on social media for Transwave, whether it is posting content, developing content and scanning the web for content to post to other our growing audience on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. In this role, I have been able to interact more with our community and learn more by reading their stories in order to see more of what is out there. I am particularly excited for the future of Transwave’s social media as I believe it is more necessary to meet the needs of trans and gender non-conforming people, as it is often not easy to express yourself or feel comfortable. Social media has always been a means of telling our stories and believe that digital spaces allow us to exist and be our authentic selves while doing so.

I am currently working on events like the fashion show that will be fun and I hope that persons within the community and also enjoy the show. The future of Transwave is bright from my perspective as an ambassador and I promise to make my mark. Cheers to 3 years of monumental work, happy anniversary TransWave!

A MENTAL MOMENT

Finding Safe Spaces & Support

by Darrone Cox

The reality of transgender experiences remain unknown. Whether or not gender identity is the root of prejudice or failure to understand the experience, the mental health of transgender people continues to be underrepresented. This is especially true in mental health services and supports. As a result, many transgender people feel isolated and alone in their struggles.

Many people of transgender experience often possess with gender dysphoria, a mental disorder characterized by unhappiness with one’s sex/gender. I have also been in the practice that transpeople are also more likely to develop mental health problems and this may happen because of discrimination and stigma that still exist for transgender people. Advocate efforts and education campaigns should be encouraged especially in schools and corporate settings to mitigate the effects of differences can go a long way in reducing the pathologization and normalize the many people of transgender experience battle with on a daily basis.

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 27, 2018
LOOK OUT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES IN 2019!

hikes
5K

yoga
dance

HEALTH & WELLNESS CONFERENCE

RURAL POP UP LYMES

TDOR VIGIL

FASHION SHOW

conflict resolution
EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

financial management

public speaking

SUPPORT GROUP
LOOK OUT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Advocacy
- Sensitization Sessions
- Workplace Conversation Series
- Research Project

Media & Communications
- Newsletter
- YouTube Series
- Interviews
THANK YOU