

TransWave Jamaica

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2018



@TRANSWAVEJA

OVERVIEW

About TransWave

Events

Projects

Traditional Media Engagement

Online Media Engagement



ABOUT TRANSWAVE

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

**35 PERSONS
ATTENDED**

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.

T-SHIRT SOCA LYME

A black and white photograph showing a group of people gathered around a table, engaged in a t-shirt-making activity. They are using various tools and materials like glue, fabric, and stencils. The scene is busy and collaborative, with several individuals focused on their work. The background shows a window and some other people, suggesting an indoor community space.

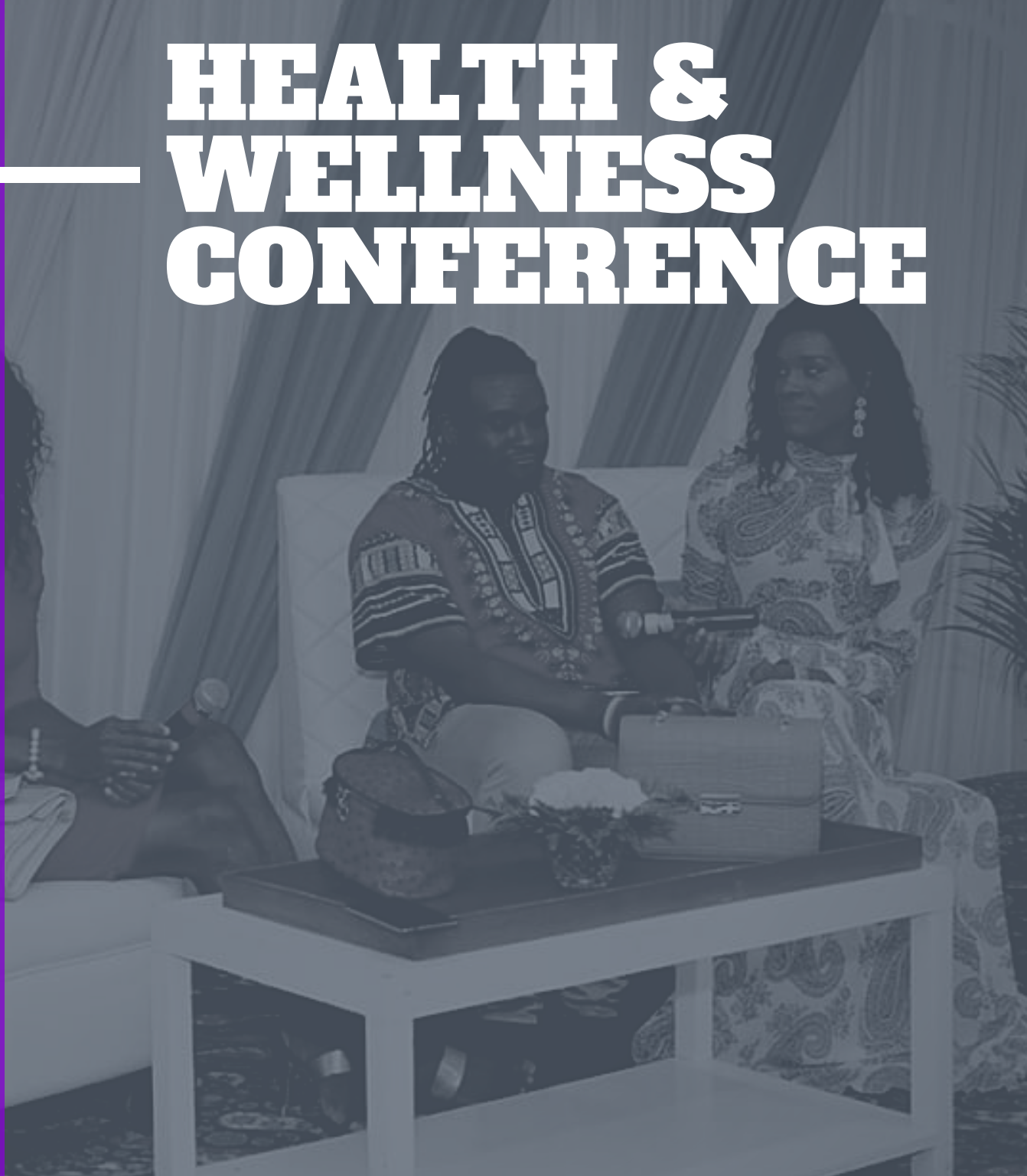


T-SHIRT SOCA LYME

**151 PERSONS
ATTENDED**

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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS CONFERENCE





TRANS HEALTH & WELLNESS CONFERENCE

**30 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!

PRE-PRIDE SCAVENGER HUNT & LYME

THE CATEGORY IS...
CATEGORY 3

TRANS
wave
CATEGORY 5

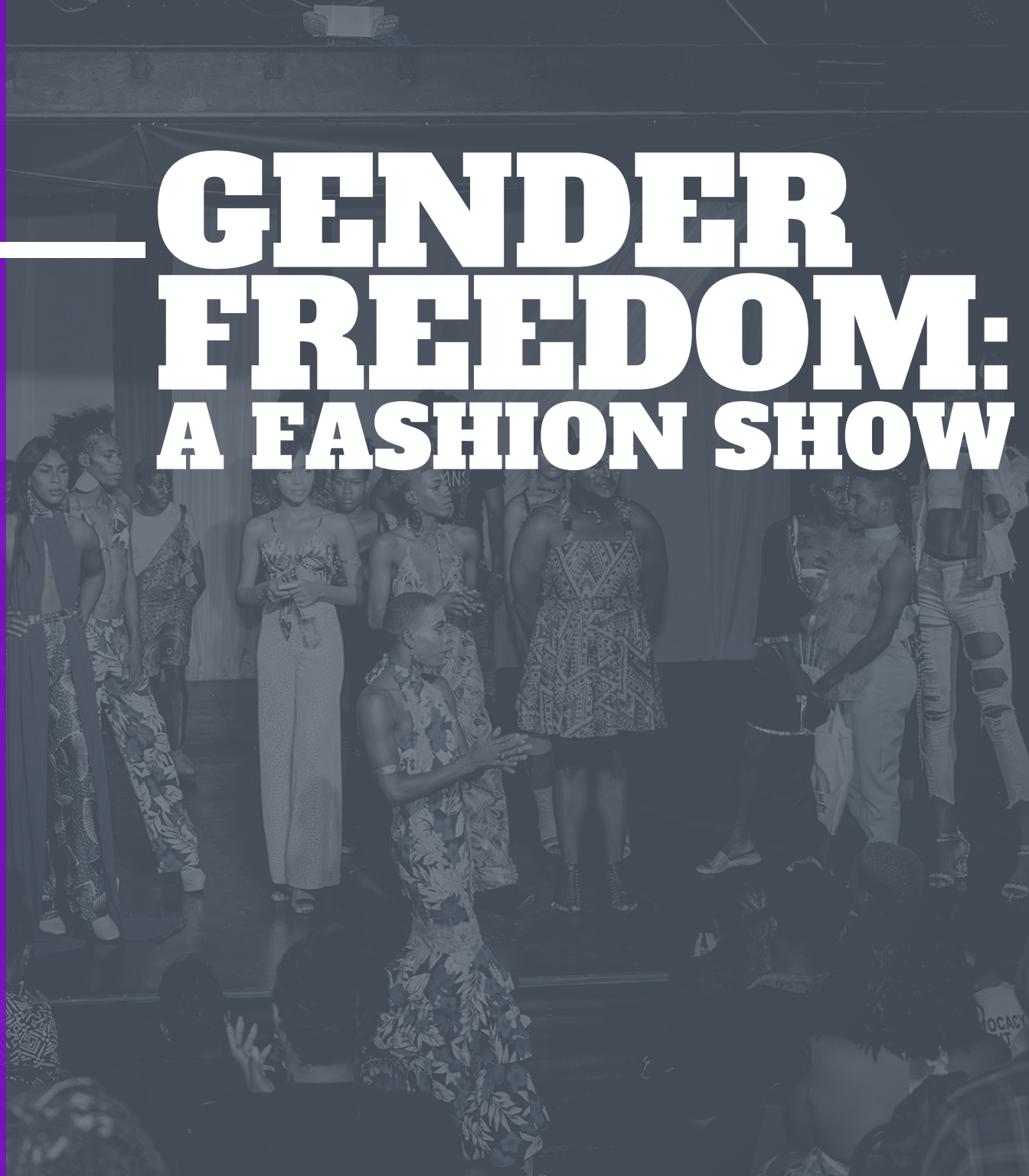
Trans
Pride
CATEGORY 4

FLAGS
CATEGORY 2

**75 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



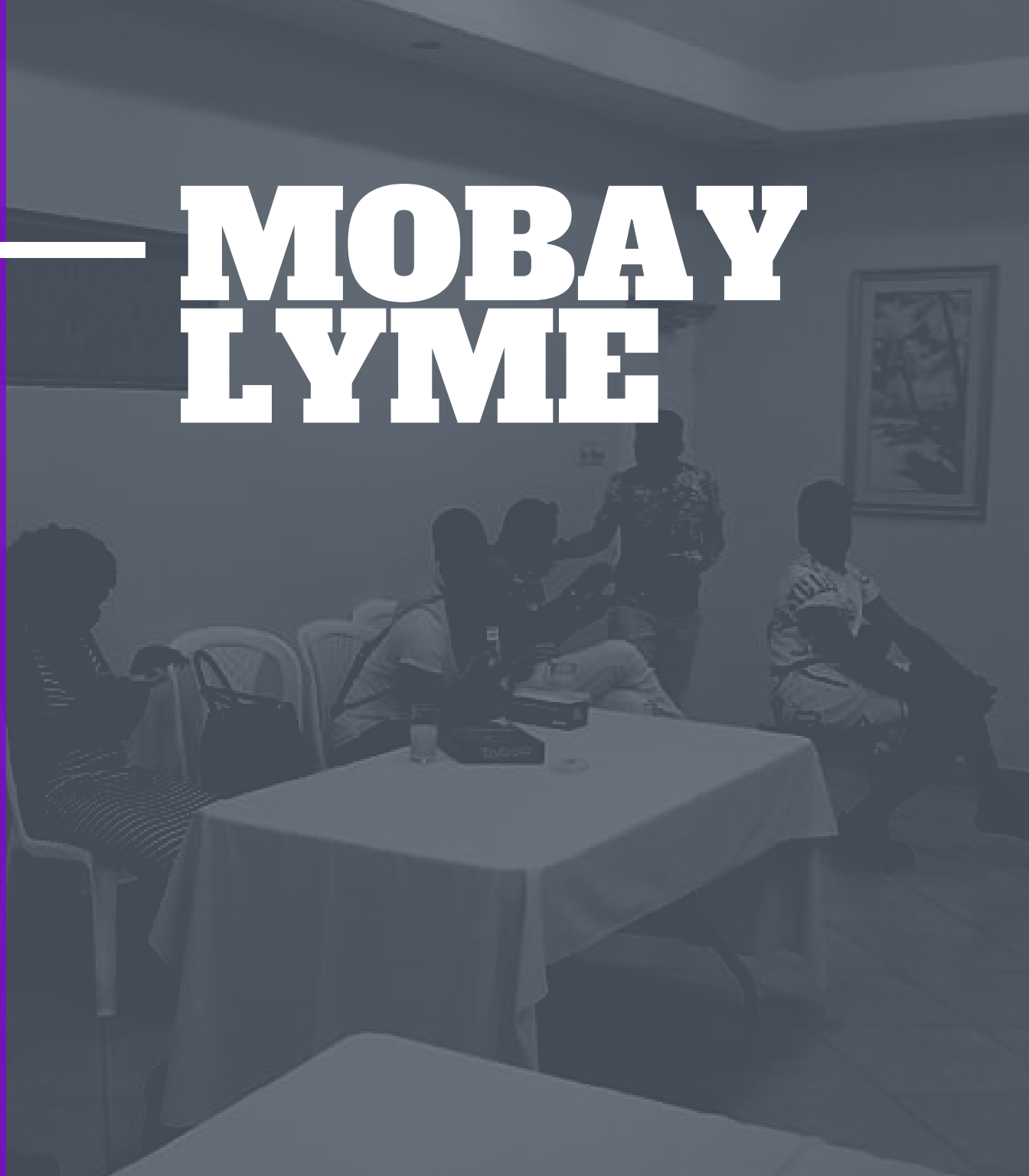


GENDER FREEDOM A FASHION SHOW

**40 PERSONS
ATTENDED**

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.

MOBAY LYME



**25 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.

TDOR MOVIE NIGHT & CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



TRAININGS



Sensitization Session with Children' First.

2 Day Training with iFlex



INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

PROJECTS





SUPPORT GROUP

- 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.



TRANS AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

- 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



— LOVE & SEX

In Septemeber 2018, team TransWave appeared on Love & Sex, with Dr Karen Carpenter on Nationwide 90 FM to discuss trans love and relationships.

Story:      Recommend

Share this Story:      Recommend 24

Published: Saturday | March 10, 2018 | 12:05 AM

ay | November 22, 2018 | 12:06 AM

THE EDITOR, Sir:

We are more than just 'b**ymen' or men in wigs. Transgender Jamaicans are hard-working citizens wishing to make a positive contribution to Jamaica's development.

Sadly, because of a lack of understanding of trans identities and prevailing negative attitudes/actions within the society, transgender citizens are not able to positively impact on Jamaica's development.

If Jamaica is to be the ideal place to work, raise families and do business, all its people should be able to be employed, go to school to get the necessary qualifications

celebrated as International Day of Tolerance. As defined by the United Nations, tolerance is the respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the diversity of cultures, forms of expression and ways of being human. In the context of gender identity, this means having their gender identities respected

mean, trans people continue to face stigma and discrimination based on their assigned or perceived gender identities. This is evident in the case of the recently decided case of McEwan and others v. Guyana where four trans women were arrested and charged with wearing men's clothing for an 'improper purpose'. The courts decided against them. The panel, comprising of the Honourable President and Justices Wit, Anderson, Rajnauth-Lee, and Barrow, ruled against them at a different time and no longer served any legitimate purpose.

THE EDITOR, Sir:

Globally, this week, we celebrate Trans Awareness Week, which recognises transgender individuals and helps persons on the outside to foster an understanding of the issues faced by the community.

To put it simply, transgender, shortened to trans in some instances, refers to persons whose assigned sex at birth (male or female) does not correspond with their gender identity. The term is an umbrella term used to refer to not only transgender women or men, but gender queer, gender non-conforming, non-binary individuals and even

Recently I attempted to get individual health insurance by making several calls to some of the major health insurance agencies. As someone who identifies as a trans man — which means I was assigned female at birth but identify as a man — I encountered some roadblocks that were particularly troubling for me.

My conversations with the agents made it clear that there was no policy that existed to cater to my health needs or to trans bodies, in general. A trans man might have had top surgery (where the breasts have been removed,) but might still require certain reproductive health services, including pap smears. If a trans man selects 'male' on his health insurance application the system will automatically block a range of services that he might still need.

Currently there is no acknowledgement of gender identity on these forms, which would allow trans people to distinguish between sex and gender. For a trans woman — someone who was assigned male at birth but identifies as a woman — who might have had a vaginoplasty (lower surgery where she now has a vagina) and selects 'female' on her health insurance application form, the system will automatically block a range of services that she might need, including a prostate exam.

There exists in Jamaica a diverse group of people who are trans-identifying with varying healthcare needs and currently the service offering falls short, leaving trans people to make critical and possibly detrimental decisions about their health and

WE WROTE ABOUT TRANS-INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE, TOLERANCE, AND RECOGNITION OF TRANS IDENTITIES.

ONLINE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

SOCIAL MEDIA

1,144
FOLLOWERS

INSTAGRAM

4,105
LIKES

FACEBOOK

1,479
FOLLOWERS

TWITTER



#TDOV

On Trans Day of
Visibility, we
executed a
visibility
campaign showing
the resilience of
trans persons and
trans allies.



#TDOV
MARCH 30, 2018



#MyTransID

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



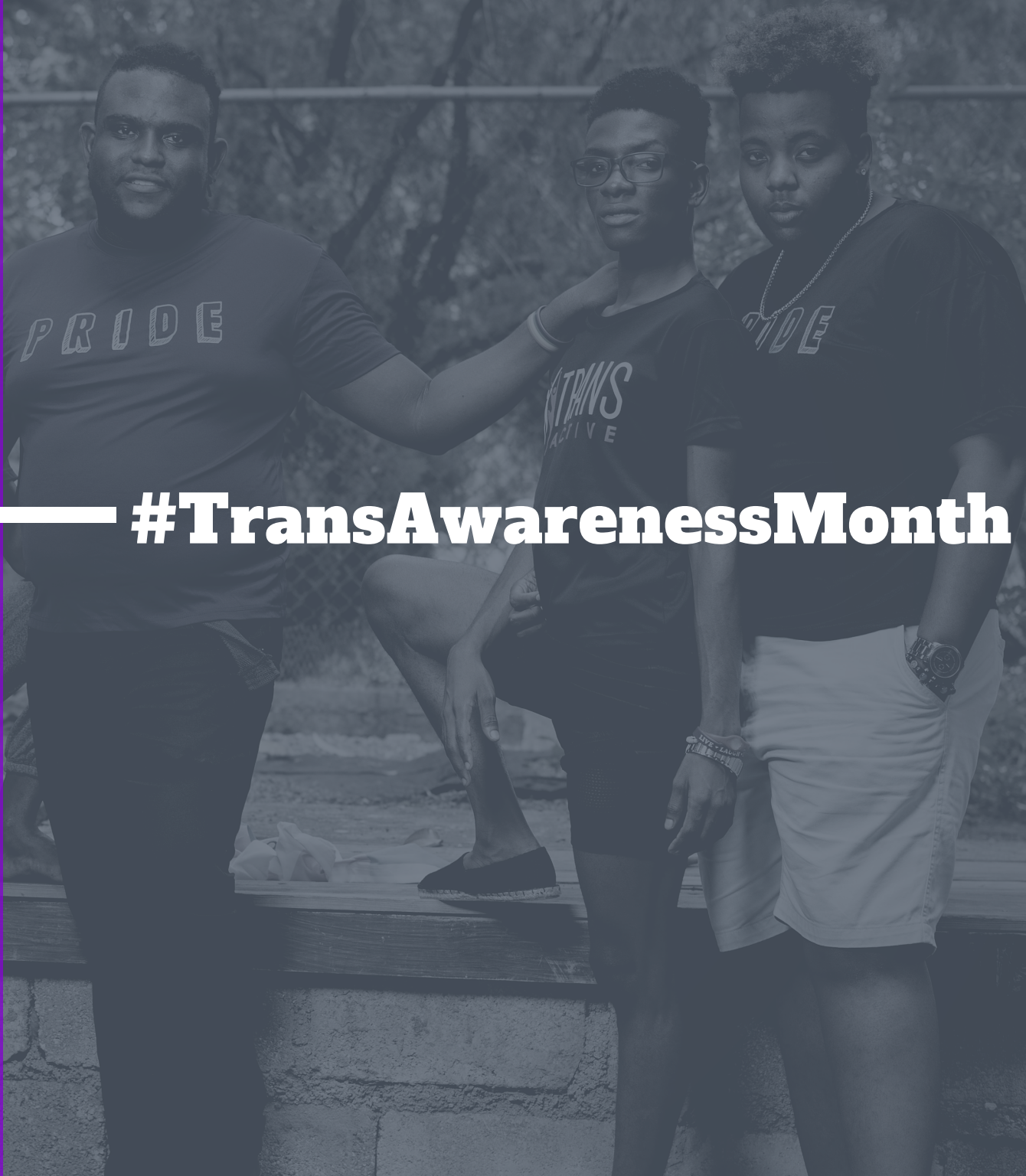
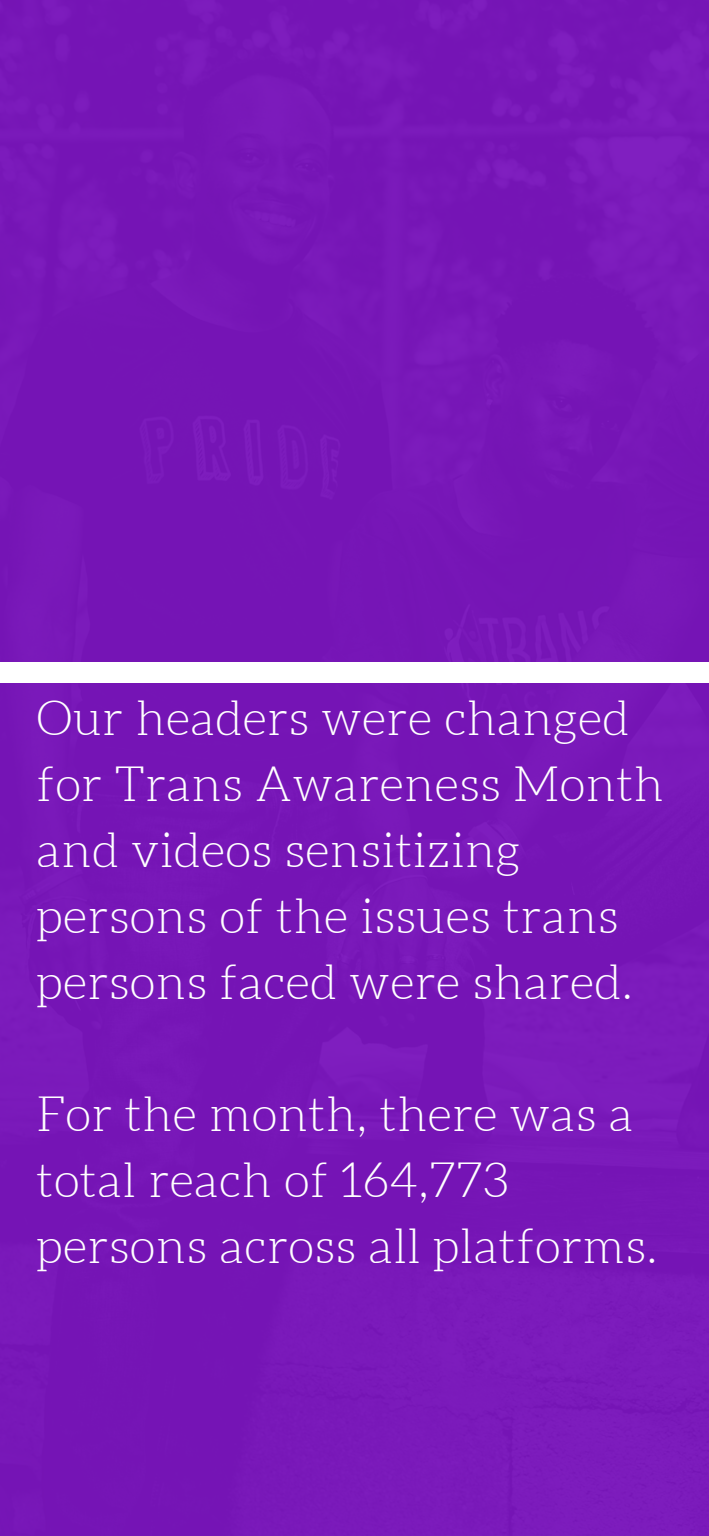
#MyTransID



#TransTalkJA

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.



#TransAwarenessMonth

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.



**ANNIVERSARY
NEWSLETTER**

TRANS Health & Wellness CONFERENCE



Renae Green

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 Gordon or Ash Slay as she is 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 us 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.



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FASHION FORWARD

Bold. Brave. Fearless. We cover our scars with garbs and fashion smiles from sorrow. We celebrate our diversity - breaking through seams, bursting with colour, style and creativity. We showcase ourselves - look at us - moving forward, fashionably.



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A MENTAL MOMENT



Dorraine Cox

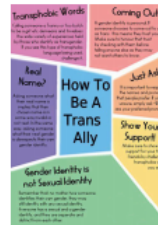
FINDING SAFE SPACES & SUPPORT by Dorraine Cox

The etiology of transgender experiences remains unknown. Whether or not gender identity is the result primarily of nature or nurture is still up for debate. Persons whose gender and sex align are born into a world that is more or less socially constructed for them, but imagine when one's internal sense of gender does not match one's genetic gender, body or gender role?

WHAT THEN?

Many people of trans experience often present with gender dysphoria, a mental disorder characterised by unhappiness with one's given gender. I have also found in my practice that these persons are also more likely to demonstrate other mental health problems, primarily in the area of internalising symptomatology, for example, depression or anxiety.

As the coordinator of Transwave's support group, I have had the privilege of hearing the challenges, concerns and needs of the community from its members. Civil society organisations should be commended for the work they have been doing in sensitising healthcare workers but much work still remains in educating not only professionals but also society at large in order to overcome the discrimination and stigma that still exist for transgender people. Advocacy efforts and educational campaigns should be encouraged especially in schools and corporate Jamaica, as tolerance of differences can go a far way in reducing the psychological trauma that many people of trans experience battle with on a daily basis.



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PAVING THE WAY FORWARD TRANS AMBASSADORS



Mx Williams

On May 28, 2018, TransWave Jamaica appointed 5 ambassadors as part of their programming to ensure organisational sustainability. The five ambassadors are Anika Walsh, Donique Givans, Jourdan Phillips, Xaiden Davis and myself. Ambassadors are armed with skills from social media, to events planning and management to writing and community mobilization

The TEACH Training from the 28th 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 teamwork capacity while improving on presentation competences. 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 cater to 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 stories in order to see more of what is out there. I am particularly excited for the future of TransWave's social media as it becomes more streamlined to meet the needs of trans and gender non-conforming Jamaicans and persons of trans experience regionally or internationally. Social media has always been a means of telling our stories and I 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 allies 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!



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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 27, 2018

LOOK OUT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES IN 2019!

5K



dance



HEALTH & WELLNESS CONFERENCE

hikes

yoga



FASHION SHOW



SUPPORT GROUP

conflict resolution



RURAL POP UP LYMES



TDOR VIGIL

financial management

EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

public speaking

LOOK OUT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Advocacy



- SENSITIZATION SESSIONS
- WORKPLACE CONVERSATION SERIES
- RESEARCH PROJECT

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS



- NEWSLETTER
- YOUTUBE SERIES
- INTERVIEWS

THANK YOU



@TRANSWAVEJA



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