



TRANSWAVE JAMAICA.

PROMOTING TRANS HEALTH AND WELLBEING

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2020



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INTRODUCTION

Established in August 2015, TransWave Jamaica is the first non-profit organization, solely dedicated to promoting transgender health and wellness. Our work seeks to address the cross-section of issues affecting trans-Jamaicans and improve the health, wellness and social outcomes for the community.

Our advocacy is focused on awareness-raising, promoting diversity and excellence within our community and advocating for policy change while providing a safe space for our community to network, share and build solidarity.

Mission

To promote change which results in the social inclusion, recognition of rights, and legal protection of the transgender and gender non-conforming community.

Vision

To see a Jamaica where transgender and gender non-conforming persons are included, affirmed and enjoy all of the universally recognized human rights.

Strategic Priorities

1. Media and community presence
2. Staffing and organizational infrastructure
3. Wellness and access to gender-affirming medical care
4. Political platforms and gender-affirming legislation
5. Building coalitions and meaningful collaborations



ADMINISTRATION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE Transwave will develop an organization infrastructure in alignment with mission and impact.

OFFICE SPACE

The organization secured a lease for an office within the New Kingston area. Furniture and office supplies were donated to the organization.

PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

Two laptops were purchased for the organization.

STAFFING

Three full-time staff and one part-time were retained while three part-time staff were hired in 2019.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A board of directors was established and formalized in 2019. The board members are: F.J. Genus (Chair), Sharlene Jarrett, Nastassia Robinson, Ashley Gordon and the Executive Director, Neish McLean.

SUSTAINABILITY

Eight Proposals for funding submitted with three proposals approved for funding.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff benefited from networking and capacity building engagements through participation in 5 events locally, regionally and internationally.



FINANCES

DONORS & GRANT PARTNERS

In 2019, we received funding from 9 entities:

1. International Trans Fund (ITF)
2. Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
3. UNAIDS
4. Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC)
5. GiveOut
6. MPACT
7. The Global Fund
8. Stonewall
9. Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (RFSL)





POLICY & ADVOCACY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TransWave will collaborate with stakeholders to develop legislative initiatives that support self-determination of TGNCNB persons.



MAJOR EVENTS



On June 25, 2019, our Trans Health and Wellness Conference was held under the theme 'Promoting Inclusiveness and Equality'. Over 100 persons were in attendance. The conference centered the experiences of trans and gender non-conforming Jamaicans while providing a platform to highlight and advocate for inclusive and progressive trans policies and services.



On November 20, 2019, our Trans Day of Remembrance Panel & Candlelight Vigil was held under the theme 'Remembering Our Loss, While Paving the Way To Our Future'. Over 40 persons were in attendance.



POLICY & ADVOCACY [CONT'D]

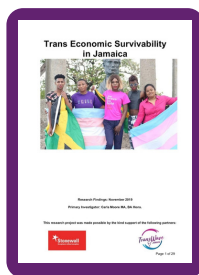
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RESEARCH & WRITING

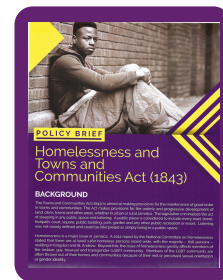
In 2019, we undertook a series of activities under research and writing, a key component of policy & advocacy. In addition to the 3 papers published (two at the 2019 Homophobia Conference and one presented at the ILGA World Conference in New Zealand), we published research and policy briefs:



On November 29, 2019, we published our first research report for 2019. This report gives a purview of our conversations with 4 organizations about the employability of trans persons in the Jamaican private and public sectors.

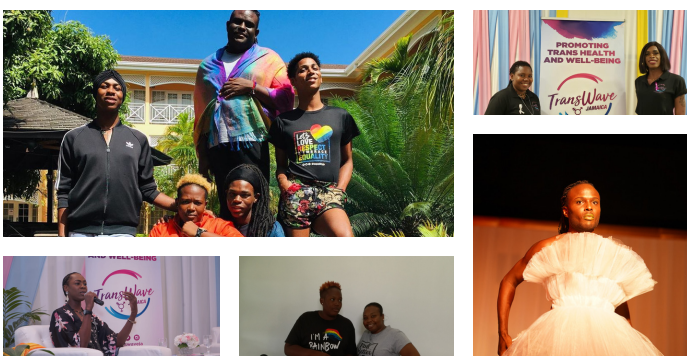


On December 8, 2019, we published our second research report for the year. The research aims to understand employment histories and experiences, perceived impact of trans identity on job availability and unemployment, perception of levels of unemployment among trans persons, and other thematic areas related to access to employment for trans persons.



This policy brief was a joint initiative with J-FLAG. The policy brief explored the 1843 Homelessness, Towns and Communities act.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



In 2019, there was an appointment of 5 ambassadors who represented the organization in over 30 engagements. Our ambassadors represented us at various stakeholder and advocacy meetings; signature events including our annual fashion show and our TDOR events. Our ambassadors were also instrumental in the execution of our visibility campaigns last year.



OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TransWave will improve trans persons' access to employment and essential public services while reducing violence through the creation and promotion of inclusive and affirming spaces in families, schools and community institutions.

- 41** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS ATTENDED/HOSTED
- 18** REFERRALS AND LINKS TO SERVICE AND SUPPORT
- 12** SUPPORT GROUPS HOSTED
- 4** PERSONS SUPPORT THROUGH TRANS EMERGENCY FUND

EVENTS



SUPPORT GROUP DINNER
30
PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE



GENDER FREEDOM 2.0
80
PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE



SUPPORT GROUPS
16
PERSONS ON AVERAGE IN ATTENDANCE



EMPOWERMENT SESSIONS
16
PERSONS ON AVERAGE IN ATTENDANCE



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

STRATEGIC Transwave will increase visibility and awareness of trans people and issues
OBJECTIVE affecting trans people through social and traditional media

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Transwave operates across 5 platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube and Issuu, respectively:

 +1.3K LIKES +801 POSTS	 +836 FOLLOWERS +801 POSTS	 +488 FOLLOWERS +1.2K TWEETS	 +27 SUBSCRIBERS +5 VIDEOS	 +334 READS +5 PUBLICATIONS
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NEWSLETTERS



On Trans Day of Visibility (March 31, 2019), we published our first newsletter for the year. This edition was about safe spaces for trans Jamaicans.



On September 5, 2019, we published our second newsletter. This was a part of our 4th anniversary celebration.



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS [CONT'D]

STRATEGIC Transwave will increase visibility and awareness of trans people and issues
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CAMPAIGNS



#ReclaimJA



#TransPrideJA

TRADITIONAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, we published 6 letters to the editor/op-eds. The general thematic areas of the letters/op-eds written were tolerance/respect, visibility and access to basic needs for trans persons. We also appeared on radio 4 times,

WEBSITE

Our website was revamped. In 2020, more additions and changes will be made to make our website a resource hub.



@TRANSWAVEJA

GOT ANY
QUESTIONS?

E-MAIL US AT
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