

NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 3



TRANSWAVE JAMAICA
July - September 2025

A WAVE OF UNBREAKABLE LEGACY

This quarter was one of pride, reflection, and joy as we officially marked our 10th anniversary in August 2025 under the theme, “A Wave of Unbreakable Legacy”. Ten years ago, a small group of trans Jamaicans came together with one shared dream: *To build a country where transgender and gender-diverse people could live openly, safely, and proudly.* Today, that dream continues to thrive, ripple by ripple, through every program, partnership, and life touched by TransWave’s work.



Our tenth anniversary is more than a celebration! It’s a powerful reminder of endurance and progress. In a global climate where funding for trans-led initiatives has declined, TransWave continues to rise above the tide. Our persistence speaks to a community that refuses to be erased, a movement that continues to lead with courage and compassion, and a decade that stands as a living testament to what happens when trans people are empowered to lead.

From mutual aid and psychosocial support to cultural celebration and historical documentation, Quarter 3 reflected the full spectrum of our mission, vision and position: advocacy, empowerment, and love in action.

COMPASSION IN MOTION

Mutual Aid Program

Thanks to the ongoing support of GiveOut and Rainbow Railroad, our Mutual Aid Programme continued to meet urgent needs for members of the transgender community facing economic and housing instability. This quarter, we distributed 18 care packages across Kingston and St. Catherine and provided housing assistance to four individuals alongside medical support for two others.

Each package and grant of support represented more than just ‘aid’. They served as lifelines. The program has proven vital for trans Jamaicans navigating systemic barriers to healthcare, employment, and safety. Although the demand for assistance continues to grow beyond available funding, TransWave remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that no one in our community is left behind.

As one team member expressed, “Even when resources are stretched thin, we show up for our people; because our community’s survival depends on it.”

Healing Together

Psychosocial Support & Community Lyme

TransWave continued to prioritize mental wellness through our Psychosocial Session and Community Lyme, hosted with support from Rainbow Railroad. The introduction of this space brought together 32 participants for an evening of reflection, open dialogue, and shared care. Guided group activities and self-care discussions helped participants build personal resilience, manage stress, and connect deeply with one another.



The session that took place was described as “refreshing and empowering” by attendees. It reaffirmed the importance of emotional wellness as part of advocacy and reminded everyone that healing is a collective act.

The success of this session lays the foundation for a more immersive residential psychosocial wellness retreat later this year, as TransWave continues to nurture both the hearts and minds of the trans community.

WE
CAN
DO
IT



Empowering Queer Enterprise

The Pink Pages Directory

**QUEERTEGO AND
TRANSWAVE
JOINED FORCES ON
OUR QUEER
DIRECTORY
PROJECT.
INTRODUCING:**

P  NK PAGES

(MOU) and launched a public call for business submissions, resulting in fourteen confirmed listings thus far. These businesses, spanning fashion, beauty, wellness, art, and professional services, represent the vibrant talent within our community. The Pink Pages will become Jamaica's first searchable online directory dedicated to queer-owned and allied enterprises, linking

Economic empowerment remains a central pillar of our vision for liberation. This quarter saw exciting developments in the Pink Pages Directory, our collaborative project with QueerTego aimed at spotlighting trans and queer entrepreneurs across Jamaica.

Together, TransWave and QueerTego finalized a Memorandum of Understanding

PRESENTING

P  NK PAGES

Safe. Visible. Verified.

GET LISTED TODAY —
LINK IN BIO



Empowering Queer Enterprise

The Pink Pages Directory

consumers to inclusive services while building pathways toward financial independence and visibility.

Visibility is power, and economic empowerment is essential for freedom. Those interested in being featured can apply at transwaveja.com/pinkpages.



Strengthening Regional and Global Bonds

Partnership Engagement

This quarter, TransWave Jamaica continued to fortify our relationships with regional and international partners who share our mission of advancing the rights, visibility, and wellness of transgender Jamaicans. Through ongoing collaboration with organizations such as Rainbow Railroad, GiveOut, Equality Jamaica, QueerTego, and TranscendX, we maintained vital connections that support both advocacy and direct community impact.

Our partnerships extended beyond the Caribbean this quarter, marking TransWave's growing presence on the global stage. Lamar and Sheré represented TransWave Jamaica at the Survivor Wealth Summit in Los

Strengthening Regional and Global Bonds

Partnership Engagement

Angeles, an international gathering that centered economic justice and financial resilience for survivors of gender-based violence. During the summit, Lamar participated in a panel hosted by FreeFrom, where they shared insights on TransWave's community-based strategies to promote economic empowerment, mutual aid, and trans-led resilience in Jamaica. This platform provided a unique opportunity to highlight the intersectional realities of Caribbean trans people and the importance of survivor-led economic movements.

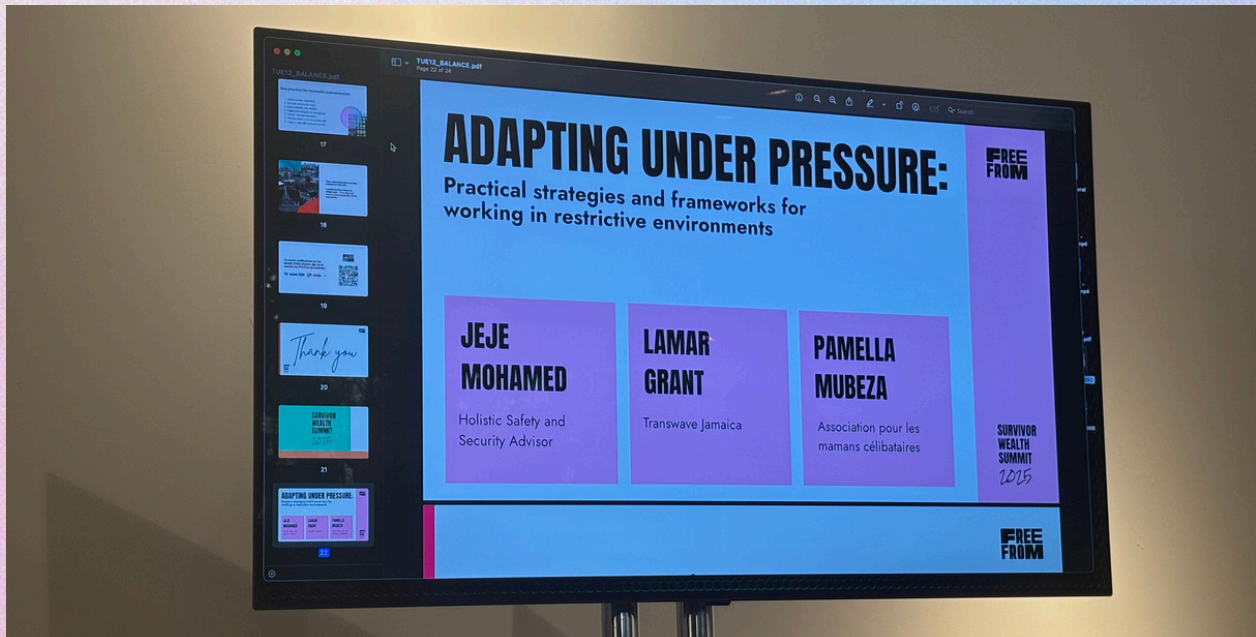


Later in the quarter, Sheré was invited to participate in a panel and webinar in collaboration with the Black Feminist Fund, contributing to an important discussion on Black feminist organizing and trans femme-inclusive advocacy. These engagements not only amplified Jamaican trans voices but also positioned TransWave as a key thought leader in intersectional feminist and regional human rights spaces.



Strengthening Regional and Global Bonds

Partnership Engagement



From left, Pamela Mubeza, Jeje Mohamed and (right) Lamar Grant standing with Julia Uyttewaal, the Director of Research & Evaluation from FreeFrom.

Both events were deeply enriching, opening doors for future collaborations, funding opportunities, and movement-building partnerships.

TransWave stands at the forefront of amplifying trans voices from Jamaica and the Caribbean region at large. These opportunities help to propel the movement by carrying those voices with us, across international borders, despite the universal challenges being faced by LGBTQIA+ organisations globally.

The TransWave team would have also met H.E. José Antonio Cabedo, Ambassador of Chile to Jamaica. This meeting saw discussions on our organization's perspectives on the recommendations Chile made to Jamaica during the 2020 Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Collaborating with Equality Jamaica and TranscendX was particularly impactful, laying the groundwork for joint events like the PrideShare Aphrodite Kiki Ball, and aligning advocacy efforts around trans rights and youth empowerment.

Through these partnerships, TransWave reaffirms that collective progress is built on solidarity — and that together, we can create systems of care that transcend borders.



Aphrodite Kiki Ball & Lip Sync Lollapalooza

PrideShare 2025

To commemorate Pride and our tenth anniversary, TransWave Jamaica partnered with TranscendX, a new youth-focused, trans-led organization, for the PrideShare 2025: Aphrodite Kiki Ball and Lip Sync Lollapalooza, proudly sponsored

by Equality Jamaica. Held on Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 6–10 PM at the Rainbow House, this event blended artistry, culture, and empowerment in one electrifying evening that drew approximately fifty participants.

Aphrodite Kiki Ball & Lip Sync Lollapalooza

PrideShare 2025

The night opened with the Kiki Ball featuring four categories — Face, Sex Siren, Runway, and Vogue Battle — each celebrating trans and queer excellence in beauty, confidence, performance, and creativity. Judges Glenroy Murray, Mali Dust, Neko Kelly, Anika, and Deighton presided over the competition, with Gaza serving as MC and DJ Ravas setting the energy with ballroom-inspired mixes.



Aphrodite Kiki Ball & Lip Sync Lollapalooza

The Lip Sync Lollapalooza saw sixteen contestants battle across four rounds, performing to songs by icons like Lady Gaga, Tessanne Chin, and Whitney Houston. Winners took home trophies, a crown, and cash prizes totaling JMD \$35,000, while attendees enjoyed food and drinks catered by a proud community ally.



The event's success reflected the vibrant culture and joy of Jamaica's trans and queer community. As one participant beautifully said, "The Aphrodite Kiki Ball reminded us that our culture, and our joy, is resistance."

Documenting Our Past,

Inspiring Our Future

The Transgender History of Jamaica Book



THE TRANSGENDER HISTORY OF JAMAICA

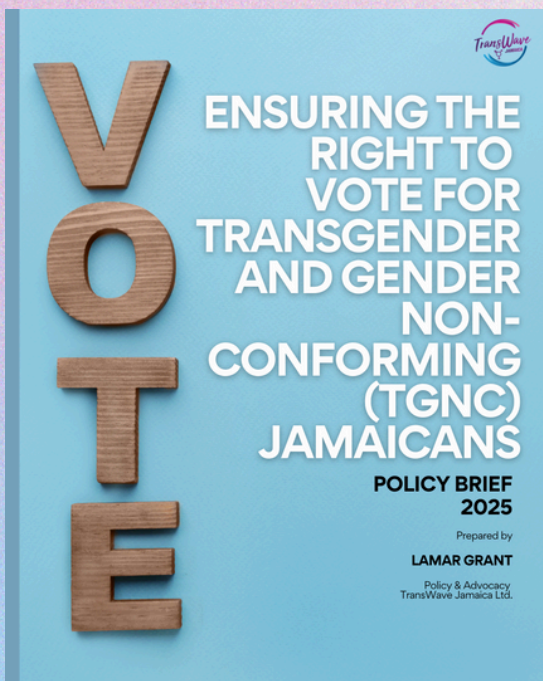
AUTHORS:
Tenement Yaad Media
Jamaica

A cornerstone of this quarter was the ongoing development of The Transgender History of Jamaica, a landmark publication funded by the UNDP. This project marks the first comprehensive documentation of Jamaica's transgender movement, tracing its evolution from the 1970s to the present day.

The publication chronicles the stories of trans pioneers, the advocacy of early organizations, and the growth of our organisation itself, highlighting key events, cultural milestones, and community resilience. During Quarter 3, the project entered its final editing stage, with a planned launch in Quarter 4.

Once published, The Transgender History of Jamaica will serve as a living archive that preserves the voices and legacies that have shaped the fight for trans rights and visibility in Jamaica. As one contributor shared, “Our history is powerful and now, it’s being written by us, for us.”

TransWave continued to strengthen its digital footprint by updating its website with new materials, including recent annual reports, policy briefs, and research studies. These updates reflect our commitment to transparency and knowledge sharing.

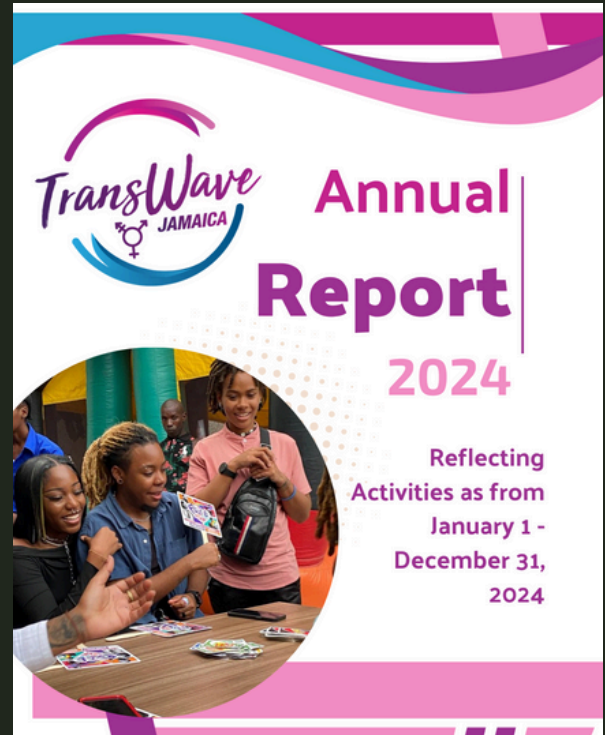


As we enter the final quarter of 2025, TransWave is planning a website redesign to better reflect our growth and vision. This new phase of digital development installs a more accurate communication that celebrates our decade of impact and showcases the community we serve.

Evolving with the Times
Website Management & Digital Expansion

A Decade in Review

We also began preparations for its 2025 Annual Report, which will serve as a ten-year retrospective on the organization's impact, growth, and evolution. The report will highlight achievements across health, advocacy, and empowerment programmes, feature community reflections, and present a transparent overview of our finances and operations.



Scheduled for release within the coming year, this comprehensive report will stand as both a celebration and a roadmap for the next decade. It will honor the legacy of those who built TransWave and inspire continued investment in the organization's mission of equity and empowerment for all transgender Jamaicans.

A MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

As we reflect on ten years of transformation, We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and community members who have walked alongside us. Every achievement, every event, and every life impacted has been made possible because of your belief in our mission.



Yet, we also recognize

that this moment comes amid global challenges. Funding for trans-led work has declined worldwide, forcing many organizations to scale down or close their doors. But TransWave is not going anywhere. We continue to stand strong — resilient, resourceful, and rooted in community.

Join us in ensuring that this wave never breaks.



SCAN HERE



SCAN HERE

As 2025 draws to a close, TransWave looks ahead to the exciting milestones that await in Quarter 4 and beyond. We will launch The Transgender History of Jamaica, unveil the Pink Pages Directory, and continue preparations for our 10th Anniversary Signal Event in November.

The next decade promises a renewed commitment to advocacy, empowerment, and visibility. Ten years in, TransWave remains a force for progress. We stand as a movement built on courage, compassion, and community. Our wave is unbreakable, our legacy unstoppable, and our journey is only just beginning.

LOOKING AHEAD: TO THE NEXT WAVE