

Trans Day of Remembrance & Trans Day of Resilience

Resource Booklet by Queer Student Union & Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement
at Lewis & Clark College in November 2020



Art by Ethan Parker

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1. Welcome!

Content warning: mention of death

Hello! This booklet was created by trans and non-binary people for those who are trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, hold any other gender identity that is not cis, and/or those who are currently questioning their gender identity.

The purpose of the booklet is to give space to both individually and collectively mourn our dead on Trans Day of Remembrance and to celebrate our community, its achievements, and its future on Trans Day of Resilience. The booklet was made possible by a collaboration between the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement and the Queer Student Union at Lewis & Clark College.

We hope you enjoy the booklet and please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments to multicultural@lclark.edu or qsu@lclark.edu.

In community!

**If you would like mental health support at any time while reading this,
please reach out:**

Trevor Lifeline: 1-866-488-7386

Trevor Chat: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/>

2. History of the Trans Day of Remembrance

Content warning: mentions of murder, violence, and transphobia

Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. This event is held in November, to honor Rita Hester, a Black trans woman who was murdered on November 28th, 1998. Like most anti-transgender murder cases — hers has yet to be solved.

Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender, each was a victim of violence based on bias against transgender people.

It is essential to acknowledge that transphobic violence is inherently connected to race, gender, class, and other aspects of identity. This is reflected in the disproportionate instances of violence against trans women of color, and Black transgender women in particular. We also must acknowledge that many of those who were victims of violence were sex workers.

However, there is danger in positioning trans women and transfeminine bodies of color as legible only in the aftermath of their deaths. We need to make a concentrated effort to feature transgender people in stories about a variety of topics, not just violence. Transgender people are musicians, writers, siblings, teachers, accountants, neighbors, and more.

Transgender Day of Remembrance serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that the current media doesn't perform. And it publicly mourns and honors the lives of our siblings who might otherwise be forgotten. Through the vigil, we express love and respect for our people in the face of national indifference and hatred.

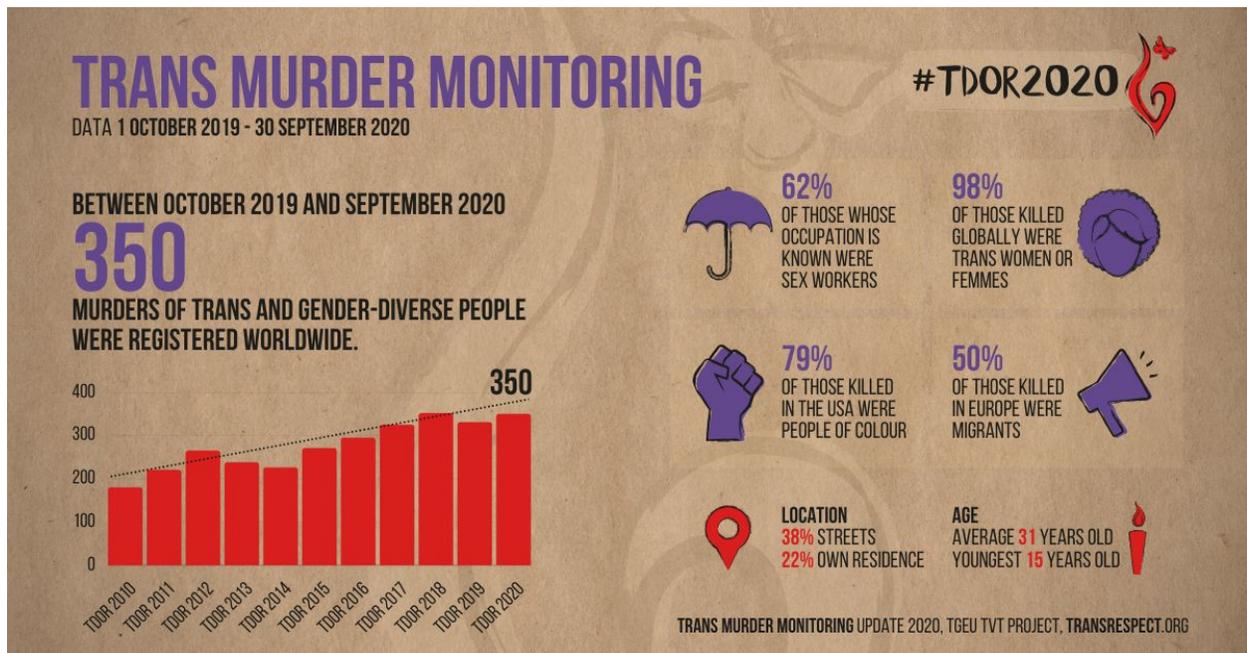
Scholar Sarah Lambly said: "None of us are innocent. We must envision practices of remembrance that situate our own positions within structures of power that authorize violence in the first place. Our task is to move from sympathy to responsibility, from complicity to reflexivity, from witnessing to action. **It is not enough to simply honor the memory of the dead—we must transform the practices of the living.**"



Art by Shea Coco

3. Those we have lost this year

Content warning: mentions of violence, murder, and COVID-19



For an updated list, summary tables, and other infographics, please check the [Trans Respect Website](https://www.transrespect.org).

The names of those we have lost this year:

Paola Araujo	Lorena Vicente	Brighiit Mirón
Rony Gonçalves	Brianna “BB” Hill	Pedrita
Soledad Fernández	Lina Marcela Jiménez	Daphine Kauane
Michelly Almeida	Granados	Michelle “N”
La Diva	I. D. da Silva	Gisella Corvalán
Vidalia Molina Delgado	Chicho Chirinos	Mónica de la Torre
Julia	Anahy Miranda Rivas	Jerrika Rivas Ruíz
Deborah Carranza	Bruna	Victoria Pineda
Hamsa	Bruna Soares	La Pompis
Romanic	Paula Santos	Sarita
Michelly Faiffer	Jade Camila Diaz	Pedrita

Carol	Jennifer Ávila	Joyce Berlim
Coral	Selena Peixoto	Dorete Lopes Leal
Rafaella Sales	Sapna	B. Mimbela del Águila
Isabelly Prado	Andressa	Sabrina Sampaio
Monica Coelho	Vitoria dos Santos	Valera
Alejandra	Hans Acevedo	Nicol
Rosa Granados	Brenda Landázury	Thabata Oliveira Blus
Mufa Álava	Giselle Katrine	Mamta
E. L.	Tamara	Nenem
Nicole	Paulinha	Katarina Ariel
Marcelle Brandina	Kimberley McRae	Isabelle Oliveira
Veronica de Oliveira	Briyit Michelle Alas	Monique Matias Chagas
Lorrana Martins dos Santos	Fabiola	Bruna Karla
Nikki Kuhnhausen	Ana Clara Lima	Ritchely Silva
Yahira Nesby	Ajita Bhujel	Lara Argento
Cristi Conde Vásquez	Hilary Medina	Gaby
Kendall	Leticia	Gabrielly Vandergue
Andrea Nayhelli	Morgana Ribeiro	Jessyca Sarmiento
Julie Berman	Shakira	Bruna Andrade
Luciana Robledo	Bruna Oliveira	Maria Eduarda Aires Dias
Alice Nóbrega	Mari de Bastos Lima	Alexa Murder
Mia Perry	Wedylla Brenner Darack	"La Chachis" / "La Tocha"
Ely Pimentel	Roberta Barbajal	Ali Mamani Huamani
Dustin Parker	Isabelle Colstt	Meenu
Nare Mphela	Samantha do Valle	Alexia Freires Pereira
	Guadalupe	Alexa Negrón Luciano

Yampi Méndez Arocho	Rayka França	Fernanda de Souza Paiva
Karly Sasha Chinina	Musa	Nina Pop
Palomino	J. F. do Nascimento	Luz Clara
Patsy Andrea	Martins	Helle Jae O'Regan
Tita	Mira	Teresa C
S. Coronel Guerrero	Sasha Santos	Fábia Oliveira
Talita	Ana Karen Velasco	Heerawas
Ludmila Nascimento dos	Castelán	Jayne Thompson
Santos	Johanna Metzger	Robertina Santos
Isadora	Luana Alves	Harini
Stephanie Cardona Matías	Leca do Bera	Paula
Valeria Belem	Penelope Diaz Ramirez	Jesusa Fidel Ventura
Vijji	Paloma Salas Jiménez	Reyes
Monika Diamond	Mafer Marbella Santos	Karlotta
Rafhynha Pimenta	Leticia	Tony McDade
Britany	Oscar	Cryslaiibe de Manaus
Paloma	Layla Peláez Sánchez	Alejandra Monocuco
La Marquesa	Serena Angelique	Michael
Kelly	Velázquez Ramos	Fernanda Antelo
Daniela Saucedo	Eduarda	Selena Reyes-Hernandez
Karla Valentina N	Leto	Valentina Ferrety
Naomi Nicole "La Soñaré"	M. D. Alberto	Jade
Lexi	Natasha Lobato	Grampoula
Luisa Sandoval Lemus	Diamante	Keila Nunes
Jennifer Alcantara	Marianne Andreolli	Luanny Kell
Fabiola Pereira Andrade	Jade dos Santos	Riah Milton

Dominique “Rem’mie” Fells Ketlin Essi Granlund Ariadna Ojeda Brian “Egypt” Powers Paulina Ariadna Brandy Carolina Brown Márcia Shokenna Bastos da Silva Aysu Mammadli M. R. Saravia Babalu Brayla Stone Anel Valenzuela Lady Gaga Marceli Souza Fernanda Machado Eilyn Catalina Veronica Ferreira Lima Merci Mack Shaki Peters Vicky dos Santos Vida Borges de Melo Bree Black	Yandra Karony Santos Mateus López Mejía Summer Taylor Kaushik Sunil Narayan Kar Carol Eleoterio da Silva Leidy Padilla Daza Scarlet Cáceres Cristal Romero Matos Soraya Oliveira Marilyn Cazares Tiffany Alves Medeiros Leona Bombom Rhyanna Mabelly Spanick Manuela de Cassia Steffany Dior Pablo Iván F Monic Martínez Exón Vélez Tiffany Harris Doroty Balbino de Lima Queasha D Hardy Denisse Torres Cristhal López Aja Raquell Rhone-Spears	Raiane Rodrigues dos Reis Josselin Brenda Venegas Ayquipa Luisa Ávila Henao Samira Paloma Alice Garrefa Brigit Leticia Costa Vanessa Solorsano Kee Sam Barbara Ellen Samantha Rosales Barrios Anushka Bhavani Francesca Galatro Emily Taylor Piya Dani Rodrigues Patricia Dumont Julie Torres Claudinha Leite Bernadete Lorena María del Luján Riquel
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Luara Redfeld	Katherine Rosmery	Aerrion Burnett
Isabella Pedrozo	Duvall	Barbie Macon
Angoori	Gabriela Cruz Pimentel	A. V.
Britani Jacqueline	Ekta Joshi	Brenda Sanchez
Brandy Cortez	Leslie Alejandra Ferreti	Juliana Giraldo Díaz
Jeanine Huerta López	Giovana Perez	Sandra Beatriz Rangel
Nida Choudhry	Kathlyn Aviles	Francesca Cornejo
Branca Aldama	B. E. Álvarez Hernández	Mia Green
Melody Barrera	Gul Parana	Rayssa
Brenda Levi	Saad	Donna Nierra
Mireya Rodriguez	Nem	Michellyn Ramos Vargas
Chiara Duarte	Susana Criado Anton	Michele
	Jardiele Santos	

And those who remain unnamed

And those whose bodies are never found

And those whose murders are never reported or investigated

And those who we lost to COVID-19 because it is systematic state inflicted violence to leave

Black trans women alone in hospitals and incarcerated to die.

Every single person on this list has people and a community that loves them. They deserved to live their bright futures. May their strength, love, and resilience remain in the collective memory of our community. They are not forgotten.

4. Grieving as a community

“how do you live when you know that the world would rather you dead?
you find & make your kin. you mourn the dead & fight like hell for the living. you refuse to go
do quietly. you wail like the wind is yours. because maybe it is. you have always been that
which they do not see. but feel.”

(Alok Menon in “The Double Standards of Transmisogyny”)

In whatever form works best for you, you can reflect on any of the following prompts:

- What emotions are you going through right now? In what ways are you expressing them?
- What is going through your mind when you read the quote from Alok Menon’s piece?
Is there any particular part that stands out to you? If so, why?
- Where do you find & make your kin?
- How are you mourning the dead? And how does that feel to you?
- In what ways are you fighting like hell for the living? And what does that mean to you?
- How should we as a community process the collective grief we hold? Where are spaces and times to do that?

5. Mental Health

If you need mental health support, please reach out:

Trevor Lifeline: 1-866-488-7386

Trevor Chat: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/>

Trevor Text: Text START to 678-678

Basic Rights Oregon – 503-222-6151

Has resources explaining Oregon Health Plan coverage for trans health care and assists with reporting discrimination.

Talking about trauma and grief, particularly when it is collective and generational, is not easy and can take a toll on you.

Here are some tips for maintaining your mental health while discussing such important topics:

1. Explore your identity.

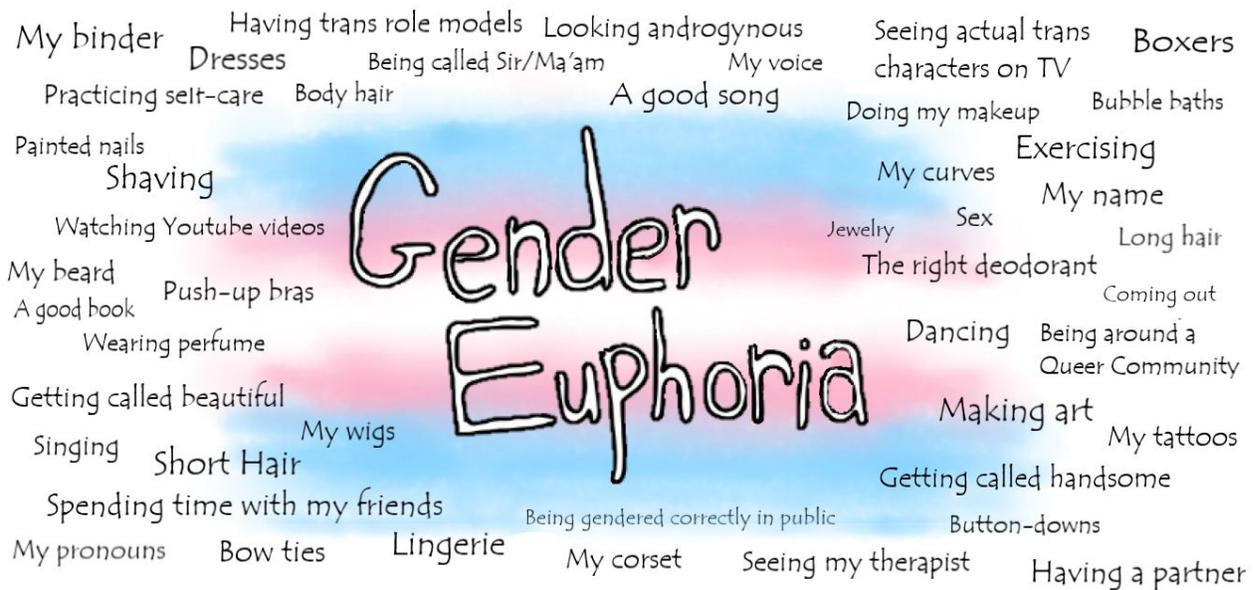
- a. Browse online catalogs and pictures, do some fun quizzes, or watch videos to find out what you really like, what your style is, what kind of people you're attracted to (if any), and what kind of people you identify with or are more curious about.
- b. This is a perfect time to do some exciting soul-searching and learn to know more about yourself.
- c. Picture your ideal self in your mind. What kind of person would you really like to be? What skills would you have? How would you look? Where would you live ideally? What things is this person able to accomplish? How are they different from you at the moment? What steps can you take right now to start going in that direction?

2. Take good physical care of yourself.

- a. Physical self-care is just as important as mental health care and the two are greatly intertwined.
- b. Hydrate! (We are basically just emotional plants...)
- c. Eat nourishing meals.
- d. Do what you can to get enough sleep.
- e. Exercise in ways that make you feel good if that is an option for you. Find something you enjoy doing! It can be anything from golf to dancing to trampoline. You might like weight-lifting, going for a run, or just walking your dog.

3. Come up with creative methods to express your gender.

- a. Explore ways of expressing yourself that feel right to you. Try out different outfits, get a haircut, put on make-up, etc.
- b. There are lots of different forms of self-expression, both subtle and pronounced.
- c. What makes you feel good one day, might feel less good another day. That's alright! There is no right way to express yourself.



4. Speak to an affirming therapist.

- a. Remember to contact as many services as you need to get help! Don't give up just yet if the first option doesn't work out.

5. Practice grounding yourself.

- a. Try out meditation or deep breathing exercises.
- b. Create a list of things that help you instantly feel better when you do them (such as being with friends, listening to music, dancing, going outside, playing with your pet, reading, watching comedy, exercising, etc.) Keep this list at hand and when you feel anxiety building up, refer to this list, and start doing those things.

6. Keep supportive company.

- a. Spend time with people who respect you and make you feel good about yourself.
- b. If you are in a position where you don't have people physically around that support you, there are many wonderful online communities as well.

7. Spend time doing things you love.

- a. It can be really hard to prioritize scheduling free time. Saying you are busy doesn't have to mean you literally have allotted all of your time into working, but can instead mean that you are giving as much of yourself that you are currently able to give and can still leave time for self-care.
- b. Everyday: Schedule a small amount of time (20-30 mins) doing something that helps you relax.
- c. At least once a week: Schedule a few hours specifically devoted to doing something you enjoy.
- d. This can be doing anything from doing old and new hobbies, learning something new (like a language or an instrument), playing with animals, watching TV, listening to music, singing, dancing, hanging out with friends, etc.

Do Something! (COVID Edition)

Adapted from University of Michigan Counseling & Psychological Service (CAPS)

Do something: Choose connection.

1. Host a virtual Netflix party. Google chrome has an [application](#) that lets you watch Netflix with friends.
2. Have a dance-off with friends and have a live virtual dance party.
3. Play online games together like Minecraft. [Discord](#) is a platform you can use to play and chat with friends at the same time.
4. Cards Against Humanity or Checkers more your speed? Have a [virtual game night](#) and use Google Hangouts or Facetime to chat while playing.

5. Go old school and phone a friend (but maybe text them first and give them a heads up).
6. Pets are benefitting from our increased time at home. Share some of your best furry friend's antics with others online.
7. Host a dinner party or charades with friends over Facetime or Google Hangouts.
8. Start a personal/public blog, website, or podcast.
9. Find a penpal or write handwritten letters to friends/loved ones.

Do something: Choose the arts.

1. Explore [art museums](#) from around the world virtually .
2. [Art-viewing](#) can help with social and psychological support for people caring for those with mental health challenges. Just do it virtually for now, though.
3. [Virtual concerts and Broadway shows](#) to watch during the COVID-19 shutdown(s).
4. Express your feelings through creative writing, painting, drawing, photography, clay, listening and/or playing music, or experimenting with a new baking recipe.

Do something: Choose music.

1. Free virtual concerts.
 - a. Rolling Stone: [In My Room concerts](#): (3 concerts a week)
 - b. NPR's [Tiny Desk concerts](#) for the arts (Harry Styles, Chika, Taimane, Coldplay and more):
 - c. Live virtual [concerts](#) from NPR ranging from Experimental to Jazz and Americana to everything in between

- d. Compilation of classical music and opera on-demand as well as live streams from the [Guardian](#) and [Classic FM](#)
2. Make a music video.
3. Create a variety of playlists highlighting different moods or activities (e.g., I'm rearranging my living space playlist or an exercise playlist).
4. Learn a new instrument or practice one you already know!

Do something: Choose movement.

1. [Stretching and movement](#) can help with anxiety and sleep.
2. Choose from a variety of [free-trial workout](#) streaming services.
3. Suggestions on ways to [stay active](#) during COVID-19.
4. Free virtual classes through the [YMCA](#), no membership required.

Do something: Choose helping others.

1. Donate to local food banks.
2. Find ways to help young students who depend on school lunches.
3. Buy a gift certificate to a local small business or restaurant.
4. Check-in on your neighbors, friends who may be more vulnerable.
5. Practice physical distancing.
6. Share information responsibly and support those who create good information.
7. Practice patience, kindness, and understanding.

Do something: Choose nature.

1. Breathe the fresh air and take in what is around you.
2. Exercise your green thumb by purchasing a low maintenance plant or have someone gift you with a baby plant (succulents are great).

Plants are a great way to brighten up your workstation and improve [well-being](#).

Do something: Choose self-care.

1. Acknowledge your feelings. David Kessler, a grief expert discusses how COVID-19 may be bringing up feelings of [grief](#) and anticipatory grief and provides strategies for coping.
2. Practicing the "Apple" technique can help decrease anxiety and worries:

Acknowledge: Notice and acknowledge the uncertainty as it comes to mind.

Pause: Don't react as you normally do. Don't react at all. Pause and breathe.

Pull back: Tell yourself this is just the worry talking, and this apparent need for certainty is not helpful and not necessary. It is only a thought or feeling. Don't believe everything you think. Thoughts are not statements or facts.

Let go: Let go of the thought or feeling. It will pass. You don't have to respond to them. You might imagine them floating away in a bubble or cloud.

Explore: Explore the present moment, because right now, in this moment, all is well. Notice your breathing and the sensations of your breathing. Notice the ground beneath you. Look around and notice what you see, what you hear, what you can touch, what you can smell. Right now. Then shift your focus of attention to something else - on what you need to do, on what you were doing before you noticed the worry, or do something else - mindfully with your full attention.

3. Being present eases anxiety and worry. Try 1 or all 52 [free mindfulness exercises](#).

Do something: Choose deep breaths.

1. [CALM](#) app--free meditations, stories, music, and yoga.
2. More free mindfulness [meditations](#) and talks by Dr. Tara Brach on a variety of topics from anger to fear to compassion and caregiver resources.

Do something: Choose cooking.

1. How about experimenting with some [new recipes](#)? Share your creations on social media and/or have a live cooking challenge with friends.

Do something: Choose laughter.

1. Take time for some stress relief. [Laughter](#) can be one of these ways and has been associated with psychological health benefits.

6. Moving Forward

“While grieving the loss of our siblings is important, hope is something i rarely allowed myself to feel. amidst the constant & relentless assault on the people i am & the people i love, the routine & systematic policing of gender non-conforming life, the callous drone of misattribution & misrecognition - hope felt unrealistic, misguided, maybe even painful. hope meant going outside & saying today is going to be the day i won't be harassed (& then it happening. again. & again. the disappointment its own wound). hope meant today is going to be the day that people will defend me (& then meant being left behind empathy's embrace). but, when i meet you — my audiences, my potential friends — when i meet the students resisting the gender binary, the lovers cultivating compassion for themselves & everyone, the organizers ensuring that everyone is safe, the bipoc trying to remember another way to live, the heartbroken ready & willing to cry in public with me. when i meet you the people concerned with my safety & vitality beyond the stage i experience a kind of internal blooming as in “look outside it is cold but when i speak, here is spring.” in here there is a garden growing in the depths i thought there was no potential for life. which goes to say i am learning that it is both possible to be honest about the reality of pain & injustice while also feeling the reality of something else. these states of being are not mutually exclusive. i am clenching my heart with one hand & reaching out for yours with the other. i am hurting (& i am ready to heal). i am hurting (& i am ready to heal). love & need you! X”

Written by Alok Menon: <https://www.alokvmenon.com/blog/2019/7/5/on-hope>

In whatever form works best for you, reflect on any of the following prompts:

- Is there any aspect of Alok Menon’s writing that stands out to you? If so, why?
- They are writing “it is both possible to be honest about the reality of pain & injustice while also feeling the reality of something else,” what is your reality of pain & injustice?
What reality of something else do you feel?
- What does moving forward from grief mean to you personally and what could it mean for our community?
- What type of community do you need to move forward?
- They are writing “i am hurting (& i am ready to heal.)” Do you feel like you are ready to heal? What does healing encompass?
- They are writing “i experience a kind of internal blooming as in “look outside it is cold but when i speak, here is spring. in here there is a garden,” what is your personal metaphorical garden or how can you create such for yourself?
- Where do you see growth in the community?
- What are things that you want to experience in the community?

In the piece [“Black Trans Women Are Solving The Epidemic Of Violence, Support Us,”](#)

Raquel Willis writes:

“Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) has become like a holy day of obligation, a day of mourning and tragedy, a day for trauma to be resurfaced hourly, particularly for the Black trans sisters who are most at risk for violence. And a disappointing routine has also emerged, one in which these narratives are shared ad infinitum with no call to action on actually solving the problem, and not even a sliver of hope. But let this TDOR be different. Let us hold honoring those taken, and those powerful Black trans women who hold up a banner of hope for their communities every day [...]. Despite this increased visibility on the murders of Black trans women, there still is very little investment in those who are living and fighting to make conditions for their community better. While the names of our slain sisters are peppered in talking points from supposed allies, there is major resistance (due to a frothy mix of racism, misogyny, and transphobia) to trusting and developing the efforts of Black trans women [...]. On this TDOR, as we honor the 20+ trans women of color, mostly Black trans women, who have been taken far too soon, let’s elevate and support the work of the women who are still here. Black trans women deserve to exist. We deserve to heal. And our leadership must be prioritized if we are ever going to be completely liberated from the shackles of ignorance and hate that society has placed on us.”

Willis highlights how often on Trans Day of Remembrance, the violence towards Black trans women is acknowledged but nothing is done to eradicate it and to uplift Black trans women while they are alive.

We cannot continue doing this without also contributing to Black trans women’s deaths. In order to start taking action, we must understand power, privilege, and intersectionality.

7. The Fundament of our Community: Intersectionality

Raquel Willis explores her experience with intersectionality in the piece [“Where’s All This Energy For The Attacks On Black Transgender Women?”](#):

“[...] As long as I’ve been an activist and community organizer, I’ve witnessed the disparity of concern that is placed on some people’s brushes with violence over others. When a cisgender Black person, typically a heterosexual man, is attacked or murdered, I can depend on the larger Black community to commiserate. I’ll see signs held with their names at marches, viral hashtags, mentions by public figures, and a demand for change to make conditions better for them. With Smollett, the privilege of celebrity also pulls stronger on the heartstrings of the community. If he weren’t a wealthy, famous, and attractive man, it’s highly doubtful that he would have become a trending topic.

When Black trans women are brutalized, I have mostly come to expect silence from nearly every group that we’re part of. After we are diminished and marginalized in our lives, should we then be murdered, we can expect careless investigators and police officers releasing inaccurate names and genders and an endless justification for our deaths, suggesting we were ‘tricking’ our assailants or that we made bad life choices that placed us in a precarious situation. The hierarchy of whose lives actually matter is clear.

There was no outpouring of social media posts when [Dana Martin](#), a 31-year-old Black transgender woman was murdered earlier this month. As more [reports](#) come out about Candice Elise Pinky, a Black trans woman who was chased with a gun and shot in broad daylight in Houston last week, I’m curious to see if, with this widespread concern for Black LGBTQ+ victims, her experience will be elevated as well. And what about the next inevitable attack on a Black trans woman? Will we continue to be erased and ignored from the various communities and movements that we’re a part of?

Similarly, when I think of the LGBTQ+ community at-large, I think of the decades of inaction around the brutality that trans women of color have faced. Every day, I see large non-profit organizations and privileged white queer people invoke the brilliance of Marsha P. Johnson with no regard for the fact that she was allegedly murdered under circumstances similar to recent Black trans victims like Martin, who was found shot multiple times and left for dead. And if there does happen to be a response from groups or organizations, it's simply the documenting and sharing of information about the attack — not a deployment of resources to support the Black trans organizers working on these issues every day.

Many people find it difficult to see that violence is intersectional, and that we must analyze it with nuance, understanding that various oppressive systems create the conditions for a specific instance to occur. This is why we often see initiatives that focus on alleviating threats of violence for one specific, marginalized identity group at a time: white cisgender women, white LGBTQ+ people, Black cisgender men, and on and on. So when a Black transgender woman like Gibson is murdered, people can't grasp that she was not only murdered for her gender, but also her race, her sexuality, and her socioeconomic status.

I saw myself in Gibson's experience because she was also a Black trans woman. But we shouldn't have to have the exact same identities to be concerned about others. A major problem with the cisgender public is that there's a reluctance to truly comprehend our experiences even when we're actually living and breathing. If a Black trans victim's story does gain some traction, they are inevitably reduced to just a number or a statistic, rather than acknowledged as a human being with loved ones and dreams that they left behind.

To adapt the words of James Baldwin: The reality of being a Black transgender woman in this country is to be in mourning almost all of the time. I don't have the luxury of choosing which group I care about each day. I ache for the Michael Browns, Tamir Rices, Rekia Boyds, and the Gemmel Moores, but I also ache for the Mesha Caldwells, Keanna Mattels, and Sasha Walls.

It's not uncommon for me to read posts from other Black trans women about the difficulty of making it through the days when we learn that another one of our sisters was slain. We check in with each other via text or phone call, just trying to feel less alone in our mourning because we know that transmisogyny renders our experiences as less than others.

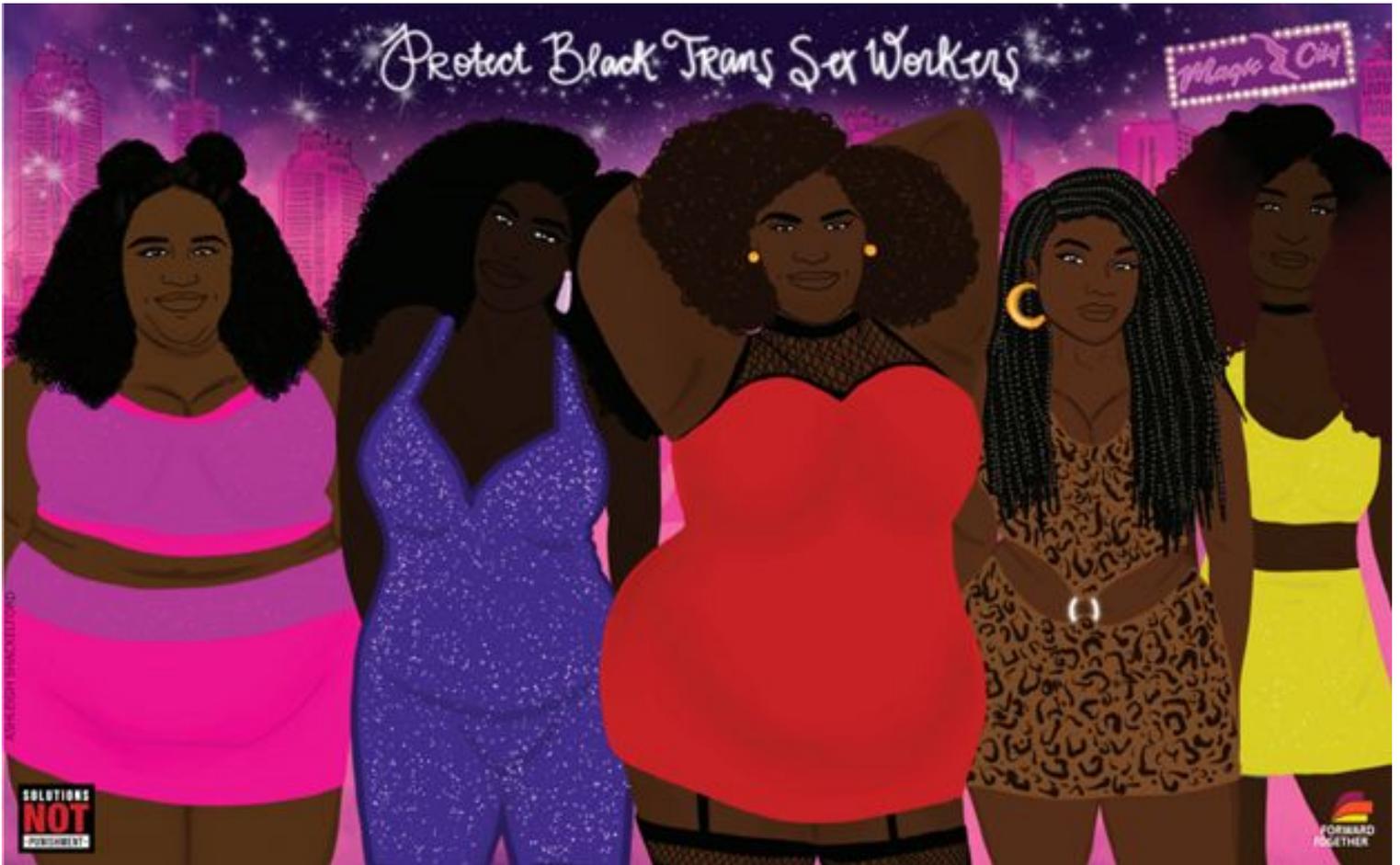
The forces against all marginalized people are overwhelming, and doesn't seem to be letting up in this political climate of brazen bigotry. Just as we call out the white supremacists or the homophobes, we need to call out the transmisogynists and hold them accountable for their particular brand of terrorism. If we can name that the hateful rhetoric from the current president, his administration, and other conservative politicians has contributed to a culture where the Charleston shooting, the events of Charlottesville, or even this attack on Smollett can happen, let's keep the same energy for naming that the anti-trans rhetoric espoused every day — by public figures and the average person — plays a part in a rampant lack of consideration for trans lives.”

If you are white, please engage with the following questions about this quote:

“Every day, I see large non-profit organizations and privileged white queer people invoke the brilliance of Marsha P. Johnson with no regard for the fact that she was allegedly murdered under circumstances similar to recent Black trans victims like Martin, who was found shot multiple times and left for dead. And if there does happen to be a response from groups or organizations, it's simply the documenting and sharing of information about the attack — not a deployment of resources to support the Black trans organizers working on these issues every day.

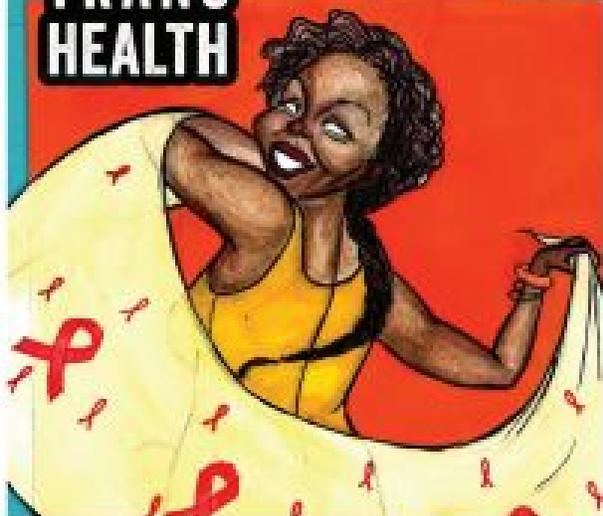
- How do the LGBTQ* and specifically trans organizations or groups you are a part of, center whiteness (individually and collectively)? (Notice the question is not IF whiteness is centered.)

- When and how do you center your own experience as a white trans person in conversations around transphobia and violence?
- Have you actively spent time listening to trans BIPOC, specifically Black trans women?
- In what ways can you actively engage with the “deployment of resources to support the Black trans organizers working on these issues every day?”

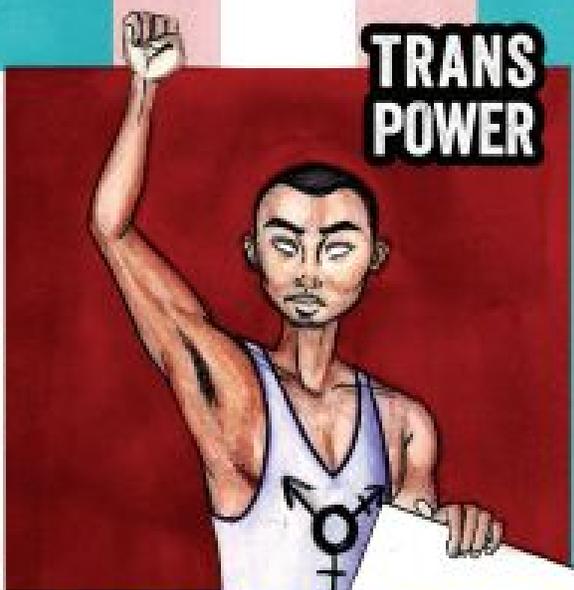


MANY STRUGGLES, ONE FIGHT

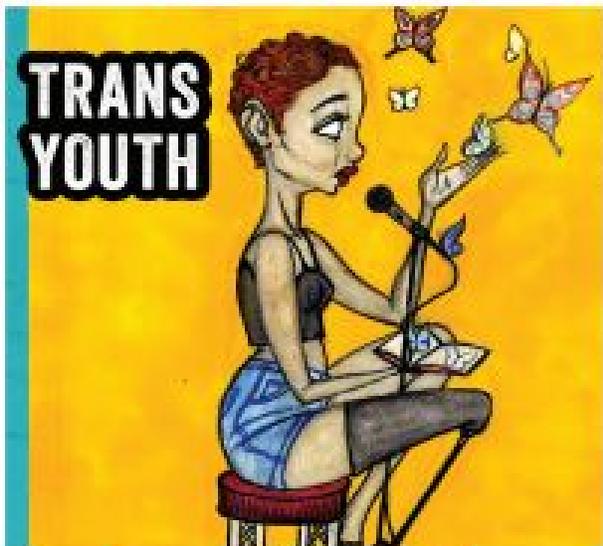
**TRANS
HEALTH**



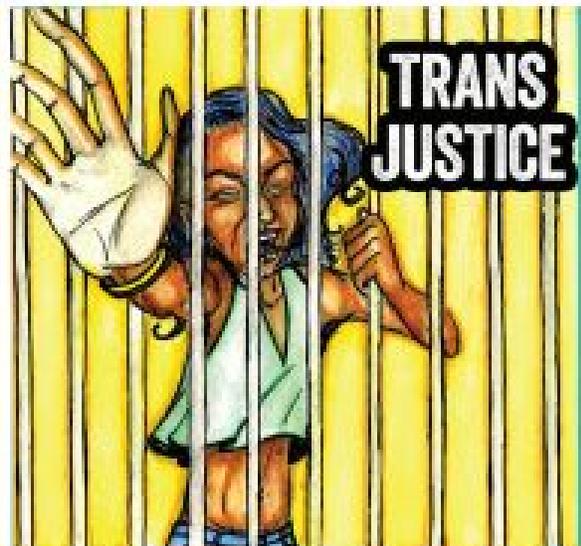
**TRANS
POWER**



**TRANS
YOUTH**



**TRANS
JUSTICE**

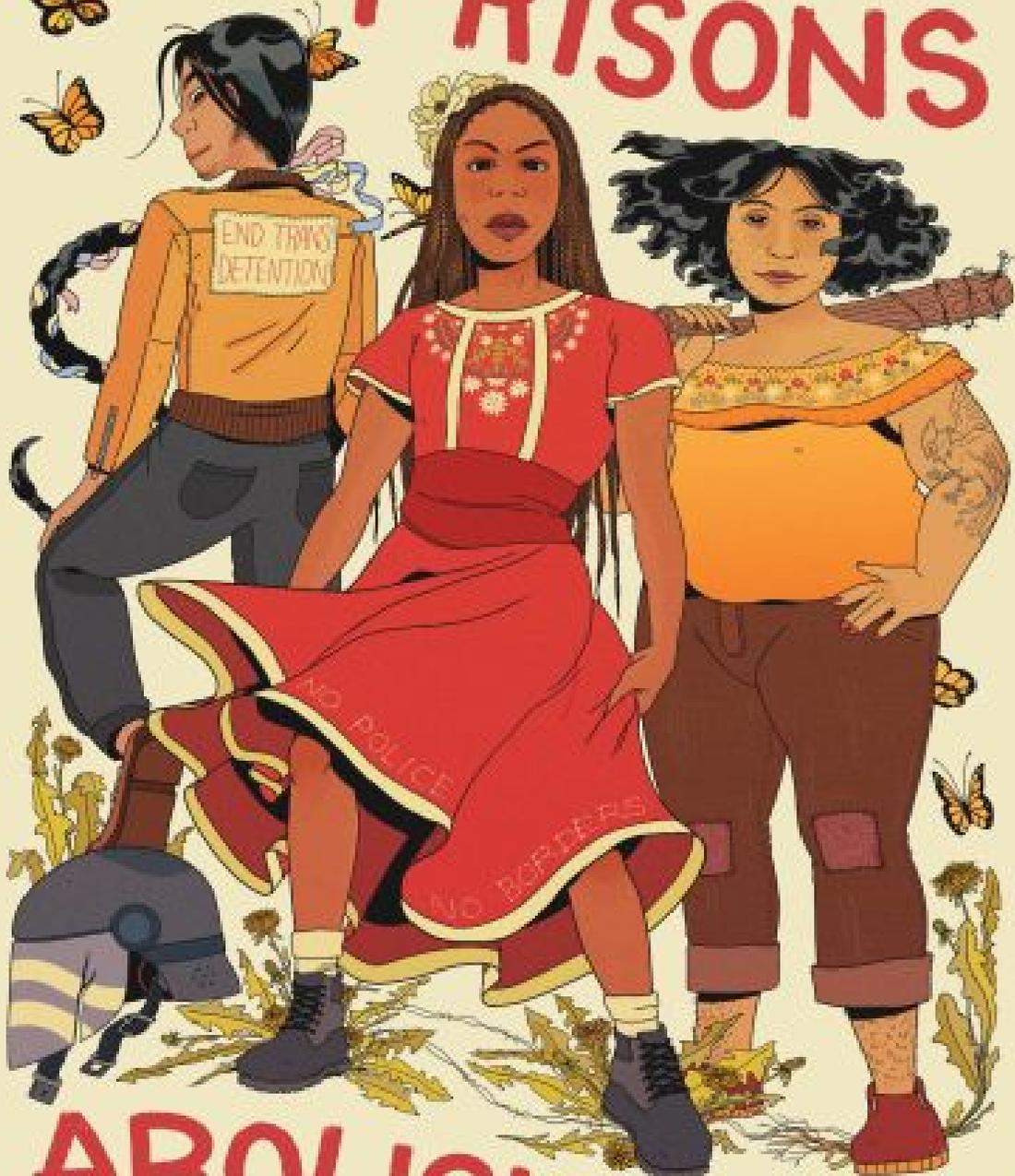


WISSEY BOWEN

 **Transgender Law Center**
Making Healthcare Care Possible


**FORWARD
TOGETHER**

DISMANTLE PRISONS



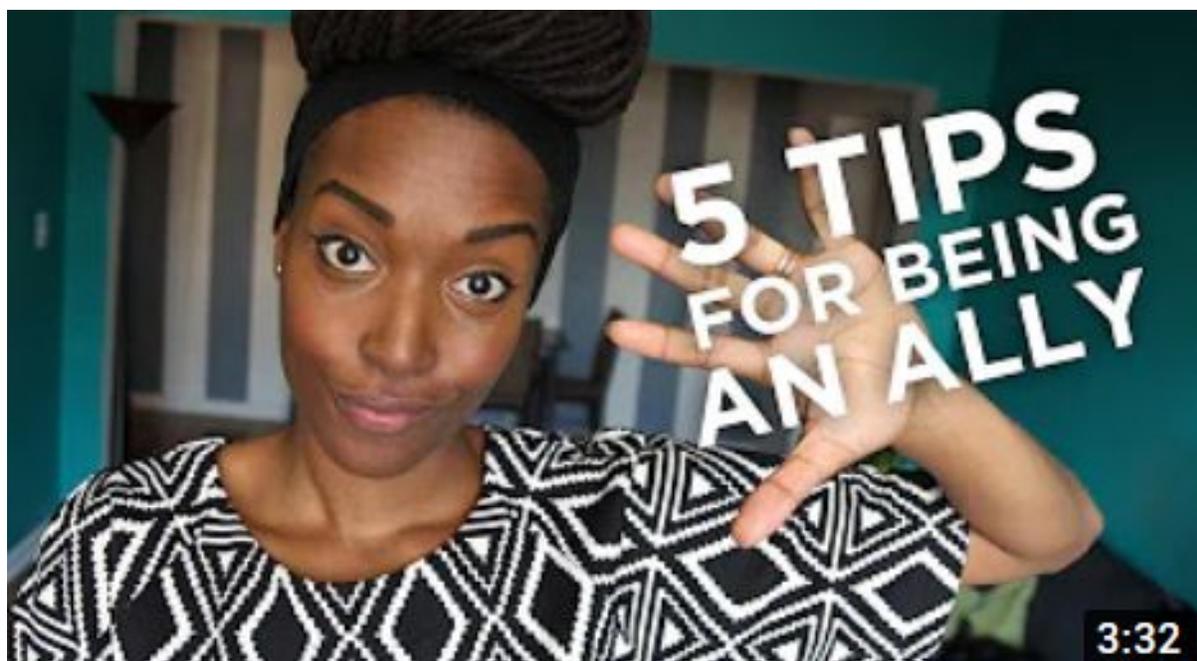
ABOLISH I.C.E.



8. Allyship and Activism

Digging into the importance of intersectionality for our community serves as a good reminder that regardless of our identities, there will always be someone else in the trans community that has another marginalized identity that we ourselves don't hold. As much as we need cis people to be our allies, each one of us also has the responsibility of being an ally to those in the community whose other identities we don't share.

Watch the [following video](#) by Franchesca Leigh (closed captions are available):



In whatever form works best, reflect on the following prompts related to Franchesca's 5 tips:

1. Understand your privilege

- What do you understand under privilege?
- What are aspects of your own personal privilege outside of your gender identity?
- How have your privileges awarded you the option of looking away from certain types of discrimination and violence in our society?

- Think about the following: Race, Ethnicity, Nationality, Sexual Identity, Socio-economic Status, Religion, Disability/Chronic Illness/Neurodivergence, etc.

2. Listen and do your homework

- When do you have the opportunity to learn about other's experiences within the trans community? Do you use these opportunities regularly? If not, what is holding you back?
- When do you put an active effort into listening to other trans and non-binary people with marginalized identities that you don't hold?

3. Speak up, but not over

- What measure can you take to make sure that you are speaking up for people with other marginalized identities within the trans community?
- In which spaces can you advocate for their rights without speaking over them?

4. You'll make mistakes! Apologize when you do

- When was a moment when you made a mistake related to the experience of people with other marginalized identities that you don't hold? How did you react?
- Do you feel confident that the way you reacted was a productive one? If not, check out [this other video by Franchesca Leigh](#) (close captions are available).

5. Ally is a verb

- What concrete actions are you taking to advance the rights of people with other marginalized identities that you don't hold in your communities?
- In what other ways could you get involved with their causes?

To learn more about the history of advocacy in the trans community, reading the following excerpt by Raquel Willis who published her article [“How Sylvia Rivera Created the Blueprint for Transgender Organizing”](#) in 2019.

Content warning: mentions of murder and death

“Two years before her death, Stonewall veteran Sylvia Rivera served as muse for a photography series captured by [Valerie Shaff](#). The black-and-white images feature the outspoken activist dolled up with razor-thin eyebrows, a bold lip, and wind-strewn hair on a makeshift encampment near the Hudson River. A nearly 50-year-old Rivera was living there in protest of the mostly gay- and lesbian-focused organizations and community groups at the time — particularly, [The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center](#) (then known as the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center Inc.), which was mere city blocks away.

Rivera contended that the mainstream LGBTQ+ organizations were ignoring the needs of local homeless youth and transgender people. For her, the LGBTQ+ nonprofit industrial complex had grown into something far different from the initiatives she’d spearheaded throughout her lifetime.

“Sylvia was really for the democratization of our movement. She was unwilling to have an agenda be set behind closed doors by the most elite people in the community,” says Dean Spade, a trans activist and associate professor at Seattle University School of Law. “We see this even now: There are always battles over how homeless people and people with psychiatric disabilities are treated at LGBTQ+ centers and events. The battles over those exclusions are an example of carrying on Sylvia’s work in a deep way.”

When Rivera left the world due to complications from liver cancer in 2002, her work served as a bridge: on one side, the advocacy world dominated by gay men and lesbians who had historically excluded trans people; and on the other, an increasingly more vocal trans

community and an uprising of trans-led organizations. For this next generation of activists, Rivera's groundbreaking creation of Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) and the accompanying STAR House represented one of the first major initiatives centering trans and gender-nonconforming people in our community.

According to [*Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility*](#) edited by Tourmaline, Eric A. Stanley, and Johanna Burton, "Rivera and [Marsha P.] Johnson have especially been invoked by contemporary advocates working to imagine a world beyond today's neoliberal and homonormative social justice landscape." As the volume notes, there were other organizations at the time with varying degrees of radicalism in their politics — the Queens Liberation Front, the Transvestite Legal Committee, and the Transexual Action Organization among them. Nonetheless, STAR has had the most enduring legacy.

This is particularly notable, considering STAR's first iteration disbanded after the 1973 Christopher Street Liberation Day. During the march, which is a precursor to today's Pride celebrations, Rivera and her cohorts were heckled by onlookers and fellow participants, mainly gay men and lesbians who were unsupportive of STAR's organizing efforts. At the time, STAR (and the trans community in general) was deemed adjacent to the priorities of Gay Liberation, and organizers worried their inclusion would send the wrong message to the press and general public.

In fact, it wasn't just STAR that disbanded. "Sylvia left the movement after the first few years because she had been refused the right to speak after one of the Pride marches," says Randy Wicker, a longtime activist and late-in-life friend of Rivera's. "She left for 20 years."

But in 1992, when she learned of the mysterious death of her friend and fellow organizer, [Marsha P. Johnson](#), Rivera was lured back into organizing work. Some eight years later, a 25-year-old transgender woman named Amanda Milan was killed by two men in the streets of

New York. Milan's brutal murder, which occurred just before that year's Pride Parade, crystallized Rivera's enduring frustrations with the queer community. When [Matthew Shepard](#) was killed, his death prompted widespread outrage, organization, press outreach, television spots, and even legislative attention. Rivera, reignited, refused to let Milan pass without demanding the same outrage.

Following Rivera's lead, the trans community mobilized around Milan's murder, prompting an astounding 300 people to attend her funeral. Rivera, still unafraid to call out the transmisogynistic respectability politics of the cis gay elite, was disappointed that the [Human Rights Campaign](#), now the largest LGBTQ+ advocacy group in the United States, hadn't taken up the often overlooked murders of transgender people as a worthy cause. "Trans people were very angry at the Human Rights Campaign. You don't realize how marginalized trans people were. HRC considered them a fringe group," Wicker remembers. "I don't think they had any understanding of gender identity and issues of freedom and gender expression." Tired of waiting for their reform, Rivera instead remade STAR. Milan's death became a symbol: tears shed transformed into a rallying cry.

Despite continued silencing and erasure from the larger landscape of LGBTQ+ nonprofits, Rivera fought fiercely in the last two years of her life. She continued to publicly excoriate the proposed [Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act \(SONDA\)](#), which had been periodically introduced since the 1970s and failed to provide protections for trans people. Wicker recalls Rivera meeting with the Empire State Pride Agenda on her deathbed, pleading that trans people not be left out of the legislation. Ultimately, they were — and gender identity wouldn't be included in the law until New York Governor David Paterson issued an executive order seven years later.

Within a year of Rivera's death in February 2002, the beginnings of a national network of trans-led organizations began to emerge. [Transgender Law Center](#) was founded in San

Francisco in July of that year by recent law school graduates Dylan Vade and Chris Daly. A month later, Spade exalted the legacy of Rivera in the formation of the [Sylvia Rivera Law Project](#), a multiracial legal aid organization centering trans, gender nonconforming, and intersex people who are low-income. While he was inspired in part by his own discriminatory run-ins with law enforcement and the legal system as a trans man, he also set out to enshrine the radical, intersectional approach to organizing and activism that Rivera utilized throughout her life.

Though often forgotten or completely erased, Rivera's impact far exceeds the lore and legend surrounding her involvement in the Stonewall Riots. Her decades-long commitment to building infrastructure for trans and gender-nonconforming people to thrive has had a lasting impact on the world of organizing, on an almost molecular level. In any instance of trans social justice work, a fair question of measure would be, "What would Sylvia do?"

"Sylvia was a very disruptive person who entered movement spaces and demanded to be heard and wasn't afraid to break the rules, make people uncomfortable, and push for things that were unheard inside some of the white-led gay and lesbian politics that were more dominant," Spade says. "The tradition of those kind of tactics are something we really hold on to by lifting her up and honoring her in all of her depth."

Eight months before her death, Rivera was invited to speak at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, the institution that had once ignored her pleas for support on behalf of the trans community. In a signature moment of righteous defiance, as chronicled by Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes in the Center for Puerto Rican Studies' [2007 CENTRO Journal](#), she said, "The trans community has allowed the gay and lesbian community to speak for us. Times are changing. Our armies are rising and we are getting stronger. And when we come a-knocking — that includes from here to Albany to Washington — they're going to know that you don't fuck with the transgender community." /Raquel Willis

Please also read an excerpt of [this interview of Cecilia Chung](#) who has been a key figure in trans HIV/AIDS activism in the US:

“As a leading Asian American civil rights activist who has been advocating for transgender people for more than 20 years, Cecilia Chung carries a number of firsts under her belt. Her presence on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and the [Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS](#) changed the face of advocacy in those spaces, but these auspicious appointments were a far cry from her humble beginnings [...].

How do you feel about the trans rights movement and how it has changed since you entered it in the early 90s?

I think it’s a very different movement, although fundamentally there are some basic matters that are still the same. When I was coming into the movement, transgender people were dying left and right — not just because of violence, but because of what we later found out was HIV. We weren’t just fighting for our rights, we were fighting for our lives by demanding treatment and more research. We were also demanding to be seen as human beings.

This was all happening while San Francisco was adopting an anti-discrimination ordinance on gender identity. It was also around the time when protease inhibitors were introduced and changed the life trajectory of a person living with HIV. It’s because of these intersections that we have seen an explosion of transgender activism. We went from dying to a thriving community almost overnight. People were able to get better and fight more effectively. I think that environment turned into an incubator for the first and second generation of trans leaders in the contemporary movement.

What tips would you give younger organizers and activists who are now trying to do the work?

For us older activists, we have seen how rights were gained and how rights were lost almost faster than we gained them. Hopefully, it sends a message back to us and our community that we can never get complacent again. We have to really look at the big picture and remember that we don't exist in a vacuum.

How do you take care of yourself? What do you do for self-care?

[laughs] I'm constantly being lectured by everybody about this and it helps me practice and express my gratitude. I don't really take great care of myself, but I know that I have friends that constantly remind me and carry me quite far. What keeps me going is my love for my community. I wouldn't be working so hard if I didn't love them [...].” /Cecilia Chung



Make Allyship & Activism Personal

Now that you have reflected on what being an ally really means and what history activism has had in the trans community, it's time to set some goals for yourself!

Make sure to note your thoughts somewhere that you can come back to again in one month and in three months. A useful framework for goal setting is the SMART method. In the SMART method your goals should be:

S - specific: make them as specific as possible, so avoid generalizations

M - measurable: find a way to check that you were actually able to achieve your goals

A - attainable: ensure that your goals are actually realistic. For example: you won't be able to eradicate transphobia by yourself so find something more attainable

R - relevant: ask yourself if the goal that you are setting is actually going to change something or if it only makes you feel better about yourself. If you aren't sure, you might want to check in with some trans people and ask them about their thoughts

T - time-based: find a concrete time frame for your goals to be done

Using the SMART method, complete the following sentences, and note your thoughts somewhere:

In the next month, I want to be an active ally to other trans and non-binary people with marginalized identities that I don't hold in the following three ways....

In the next three months, I want to be an active ally to other trans and non-binary people with marginalized identities that I don't hold in the following three ways....

If you don't have any ideas here are some suggestions:

- Look at the [“When We Fight, We Win!: Mutual Aid and Solidarity in a Time of Crisis” website](#) and watch their videos/listen to their podcast episodes about Cultural Organizing + Rapid Response in Puerto Rico, Immigrant’s Organizing + Love in the Time of Corona, #FREEOurFamilies! Ending Incarceration and Loving Fearlessly, #StayHomeButNotSilent, Domestic Workers’ Organizing, and Movement Building, Sounds of Resistance, You Can’t Evict a Movement!, Tenant’s Rights + Housing Organizing during Pandemic Times and Reclaiming Our Death Practices. Grief + Death during Pandemic Times
- If you are financially able to, donate to a local Black-led trans group in your area
- Engage with [Critical Resistance’s Abolitionist Toolkit](#) and the [Racial Equity Tools](#)
- Initiate conversations about intersectionality in the trans organizations that you are a part of
- Read the book [“Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex”](#) Edited by Nat Smith and Eric Stanley, Foreword by CeCe McDonald
- Do meaningful volunteering for an organization that serves the houseless trans community in your area
- Read the book [“Felix Ever After”](#) by Kacen Callender, the story of a young Black trans person in the search for love
- If you are not Native American, engage with the [#StandingRockSyllabus](#) to learn about Native American resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline and US settler colonialism
- Take some time to learn about different [core organizing tools compiled by the Southerners On New Ground](#) which they have used to bring Southern rural LGBTQ people of color, immigrant people, and working-class people together in the fight for justice
- Read the book [“I’m Afraid of Men”](#) by Vivek Shraya which explores how masculinity and misogyny affect trans women

- Look at the [Transgender Law Center's Trans Agenda for Liberation](#) and inform yourself about what actions they are taking
- If you are white, study the [“Curriculum for White Americans to Educate Themselves on Race and Racism—from Ferguson to Charleston”](#)
- Have a look at the [Big Door Brigade's Mutual Aid Toolbox](#) to understand what makes mutual aid different from other types of community involvement and why it is so impactful

Whatever goals you set for yourself as an ally to other trans people with other marginalized identities that you don't share, make sure that you do these things wholeheartedly while being as present as possible and with the intention to listen and learn. We encourage you to hold yourself accountable to the goals that you are setting for yourself. We know life happens so just make sure to regularly reflect on what priorities you set in your life and in which circumstances advocacy should and can be one of them.

9. Empowerment, Resilience, & Imagining a Trans Future

Read the following article by [Raquel Willis titled “These Trans Latina Cosmetologists Are Fighting For Their Sisters”](#) which explores community empowerment:

“When Lesly Herrera Castillo was diagnosed with three forms of cancer — brain, colon, and lymphoma — in 2014, she needed a work structure that would afford her more flexibility and support to continue her cosmetology career. She began discussing options with her friends, Joselyn Mendoza and Daniel Puerto, which would lead the trio to revisit a project they had dreamt about for years: [Mirror Trans Beauty Co-op](#), a worker cooperative for trans Latina cosmetologists. “It was hard for me with no hair and my health being low,” Castillo says. “We started planning and it was slow, but every step was precise.”

This wasn’t the first time Castillo had to make a tough decision about her career. Back in her hometown of Hermosillo, Mexico in 1992, Castillo found it hard to land a job after graduating college. Her mother gave her an ultimatum: “Think of what you want [to do for work,] and this will be the last time I help you.” Enrolling in beauty school seemed like the smartest option because Castillo had worked in her older friend’s salon throughout her teenage years, discovering a natural flair for making others feel beautiful. “Sometimes he would have a lot of work and I started receiving requests like, ‘Go and wash this person’s hair,’” she remembers. “I started helping out with blow-drying, or he would mix the color and say, ‘Apply it from here to here.’ I learned by watching.”

Though she had the gift, Castillo (who was not out as trans or queer in those early salon days) never wanted to be a cosmetologist for fear of stigma, “but since there are no opportunities when we’re very feminine, or very feminine gay boys, it was one of the only options.” The early support from her mother goaded her into action: She funded Castillo’s beauty education to the tune of \$40,000. Then, after graduating in 1995 and opening her own salon just years after,

Castillo followed her boyfriend to the United States in 1999, hoping to find more opportunities and jumpstart her medical transition. “One of my goals was to make my dreams come true. I sold my hair salon and arrived to New York with \$25,000 to get [sexual reassignment surgery]. But when I arrived, not everything was as I expected. I started spending the money on different things to survive.”

In New York City, Castillo scrambled to adjust to her new surroundings. It took nearly 15 months before she landed her first stateside job through a friend. She worked at that salon for several years before being fired. Then, on the quest for another job without the connections that initially got her foot in the door, she realized that she’d need a cosmetology license, which she couldn’t legally obtain due to her undocumented status. She began visiting community groups like Housing Works and Make The Road New York (MTRNY), where she found other LGBTQ+ people enduring similar employment issues. Absorbing advice from the people she met, she applied for asylum to get her career back off the ground.

“Something inside of me said, ‘Ain’t nobody telling me no.’ One person I met knew someone who worked in the Department of Licensing for the whole state,” she shares. “They sent me a number to fax. She wanted 10 interviews from my country and all of my documentation and certificates.” After following each step, she received her license about three months later — but the cancer diagnoses loomed in the immediate future.

While in the throes of recovery, Castillo thought of the many trans Latinas she met over the years who had become cosmetologists but lacked opportunities and resources. One of her closest friends, Joselyn Mendoza, fell within that category, but unlike Castillo, she didn’t have the initial familial support. “My family discriminated against me when I was in my hometown, and then [other] people started discriminating against me, too,” she says. “That was part of the reason I migrated.”

Before meeting Castillo at MTRNY in 2011, Mendoza had received a scholarship to study cosmetology and remembers she “fell in love with it after being in school constantly.” Now, she hopes the co-op will provide another route for other trans Latinas to skirt some of the social and professional obstacles she faced, especially those who are undocumented. “The co-op is going to give visibility to the trans community and help end stigma,” she says. “We’re providing a model that is accessible.”

That model, according to the United States Federation of Worker Cooperatives, requires that its worker-members “participate in the profits, oversight, and often management of the enterprise using democratic practices.” It has been regarded as “an effective tool for creating and maintaining sustainable, dignified jobs; generating wealth; improving the quality of life of workers; and promoting community and local economic development, particularly for people who lack access to business ownership or sustainable work options” — all things the longtime LGBTQ+ activist Daniel Puerto has come to champion.

Castillo and Mendoza met Puerto when he was a worker co-op developer at Make The Road New York, a member-based organization focusing on legal services, transformative education, and community organizing. Though he left the organization in 2016, he continued to assist in the incubation efforts of various businesses and believes Mirror Trans Beauty will be pioneering. “We know that Argentina and Quebec, Canada, have some transgender-led worker co-ops,” he says. “There aren’t that many cosmetology co-ops. This is one of the first of its kind, at least here in New York City.”

While their approach to the model is still evolving, at its core, it enforces equal share of the business and earnings for the participating cosmetologists. With a “for us, by us” methodology, they hope to bypass discrimination from cisgender gatekeepers in the beauty business industry. For instance, Jonahi Rosa, who just increased the co-op member count to four, experienced identity policing from a salon manager in her home, Puerto Rico. “[My

boss] didn't take advantage of me, but when she hired me she told me at the beginning of my transition that I couldn't work with [my] hair extensions in," she says. "[She didn't understand that] it was something very important to me that wasn't about being prettier, but it was for my health." For another new member, Jamie Ariza, the co-op and the camaraderie will help other trans women "feel more empowered to work with any kind of people."

With their experiences and aspirations finally converging, the four current members will be busy formalizing their cooperative throughout the rest of the year. They plan to officially commit to being a physical or mobile space by summer 2019. They are also in talks about whether they will incorporate or create a community-based organization that gives back to the community and helps other transgender people go to cosmetology school or start their own worker co-ops.

For now, the four members are conducting weekly meetings, fundraising, and working to recruit six more trans people to join. They are also raising their visibility by volunteering their services for low-income community members and organizations like SAGE and Women's March Alliance in Harlem. As their plans begin to materialize, they are growing more confident in their understanding of the co-op model and what it will provide for their community down the road.

"I feel happy because I think we're going to be the first co-op [like this]," Ariza says. "I hope we can create the same structure in other states. It's a very big dream, and this is just the beginning."

Also read the excerpt from the article ["TransVisionaries: Dee Dee Chamblee Wants Trans Folks to Know Our Own Power" by Raquel Willis:](#)

"In TransVisionaries, trans activist Raquel Willis talks with trans elders who helped kick off and shape the trans rights movement as we know it today.

Dee Dee Chamblee — known to most as Mrs. Dee Dee — has been a pillar in the Atlanta trans community for decades, working with trans women of color who engage in sex work and who live with HIV/AIDS. Her formidable organizing and storytelling skills have galvanized and inspired young activists for years. Originally from Decatur, a suburb of Atlanta, Chamblee ran away from home as a teenager in the early 1970s and found affirmation from local drag legends like The Lady Chablis and Tina Devore.

Chamblee's early experience as a sex worker, as well as her time spent navigating the criminal justice system while being wrongly incarcerated, has informed her work and advocacy. She founded [LaGender Inc.](#) in 2001 to provide local transgender people with education and resources on HIV prevention and intervention, homelessness, mental health, and wrongful incarceration. In the nearly 20 years of its existence, LaGender Inc. has served as a safe haven for trans people interested in social justice and learning the skills necessary for survival in a world that tells them they shouldn't exist.

In June 2011, Chamblee earned the title "[Champion of Change](#)" by the Obama Administration for her decades-long work in advocating for transgender women of color living with HIV and AIDS. Currently, she serves on the Transgender Law Center's [Positively Trans National Advisory Board](#). She continues to carry on the legacy of Southern Black trans resistance through LaGender, Inc. and cares for her movement children with each passing day. We caught up with Chamblee to discuss her activism, childhood, spirituality, and her thoughts on the current iteration of the trans movement.



Picture by Imoto Harney

Mrs. Dee Dee, how did you get into activism?

I got tired of being misgendered and the way they would treat us [trans women of color] while we were trying to access healthcare. I just got tired of it — I didn't want to go with the flow anymore. We had an organization called Outreach and the director there let me start a support group. It inspired me to get my first job as myself after years of sex work, and I became a peer counselor at a clinic. Before that, I thought it was impossible to have a job as a woman when I was pulling tricks because they just didn't grow girls as tall as me and with my [deeper] voice. After that job, I went other places and interviewed, but they kept discriminating against me, so I created my own job. That's how LaGender started. It grew from the [support group] meetings [...].

There's a lot of younger organizers and activists coming up now. Do you have any tips for folks doing this work?

Just follow your heart and passion. Don't accept "no" as an answer if you're passionate about what you're feeling and want to do. You have not been brought into existence just to serve yourself, but to serve others and be a part of the world progressing. Put a smile on someone's face. Give someone a hug and let them know how special they are — it's like a light goes off in their face. You have to let people know that there is no one else created like them under the sun.

Since a lot has changed throughout your life for trans women of color, how do you feel about the movement now?

I'm so proud of y'all. I thank God that I'm able to have lived to see y'all come. LaGender's not my organization — it's for the community. We needed a voice because we didn't exist. I'm proud of Micky [Bradford], Toni-Michelle [Williams], Dean [Steed], and Kleopatra [McGlothin]. And all the children out there in California and across the country. Every day I see another girl going to college or law school. It overwhelms me.

I saw you up there at the Women's March speaking. I felt like that was our Martin Luther King moment. I kept on crying. I couldn't believe one of my girls made it there. I'm grateful for y'all doing what you're doing. It was a sacrifice and there are many that aren't here today that did a lot. So I say thank you to them and to y'all. I want y'all to go on and do bigger and better things.

Well, I thank you so much for your words. You are a Mother of the Movement. After all is said and done, what do you want your legacy to be?

I [want] trans folks to know their spiritual power and that they're more than what their physical bodies are. There is nothing as powerful as the spirit of the trans woman. There's so much power that we haven't harnessed to its fullest yet, but we're getting there. That's always been my ulterior motive. I know once [trans folks] get that connection with their spirit, they will have the wisdom and power to handle anything that comes their way." /Raquel Willis

Both articles you just read highlight how many trans people have found the empowerment, strength, and resilience to persist within the trans community. In whatever form you like, reflect on the following prompts:

- What does empowerment look like to you?
- When do you feel empowered in your own life?
- Where and when can you seek out activities or people who empower you?
- What contributes to your own resilience?
- How can you take care of yourself as a part of your resilience?
- What would you like your legacy to be?
- How do you imagine the ideal trans community in the future?
- How do you imagine the ideal society for trans people in the future?
- What would living in a "trans future" be like?

10. Resources

Support Hotlines and Hate Incidents

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

24/7 hotline, staffed by trained individuals, for those in suicidal crisis or emotional distress

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Crisis hotline: 800-273-TALK (8255); 888-628-9454 (en español)

Crisis Text Line

Free, 24/7 support for people in crisis

<https://www.crisistextline.org/>

Text 741741 from anywhere in the USA to text with a trained Crisis Counselor.

The Trevor Project

Crisis intervention and mental health services for those ages 13-24

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Crisis hotline: 866-488-7386 (for those ages 13-24)

National Sexual Assault Hotline

24/7 hotline, staffed by trained individuals, for those experiencing sexual assault or violence

<https://www.rainn.org/> <https://www.rainn.org/es> (en español)

Crisis hotline: 800-656-HOPE (4673)

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

24/7 confidential crisis line for those experiencing domestic violence

<http://www.thehotline.org/>

800-799-SAFE (7233)

Communities Against Hate

National coalition documenting hate incidents

Report an incident at: <http://communitiesagainsthate.org/report>

Report and get help at: 1-844-9-NO-HATE

Health Care, Insurance, and Additional Mental Health Resources

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

National network of mental health care providers, as well as a provider database

<http://www.nami.org/Find-Support/LGBTQ>

Help Line 800-950-6264

National Council for Behavioral Health

National network of community behavioral health centers, as well as a provider database

<http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/>

Psychology Today Therapist Finder

A list of therapists around North America. Once a city or state is selected, there is a filter for therapists working with transgender clients under the 'Issue' area on the left

<https://therapists.psychologytoday.com/rms/>

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

A national database for local professionals and agencies that provide addiction recovery services and mental health care.

<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

800-662-HELP (4357)

National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC)

Clinics around the United States that offer basic health care for those without insurance or experiencing homelessness.

<http://www.nafcclinics.org/>

RAD Remedy

Community-sourced list of trans-affirming healthcare providers

<https://www.radremedy.org/>

Out2Enroll

Resources to help transgender people select and enroll in insurance

<https://out2enroll.org>

TransHealth

Health and guidance for healthcare providers, as well as a list of trans-affirming health clinics in Canada, the United States, and England.

<http://www.trans-health.com/>

Transcend Legal

Transcend Legal helps people get transgender-related health care covered under insurance.

<https://transcendlegal.org/>

TransChance Health

Helps transgender people navigate health care and insurance to receive respectful, high-quality care, and get transition-related care covered

<https://www.transchancehealth.org/>

JustUs Health

Leads the work to achieve health equity for diverse gender, sexual, and cultural communities in Minnesota, including the [Trans Aging Project](#) and a [Trans Health Insurance guide](#)

<https://www.justushealth.mn>

Jim Collins Foundation

Financial support for transition-related expenses for people without insurance or who have been excluded by insurance

<http://jimcollinsfoundation.org/apply/>

Point of Pride Annual Transgender Surgery Fund

Provides direct financial assistance to trans folks who cannot afford their gender-affirming surgery

<https://pointofpride.org/annual-transgender-surgery-fund/>

Community Kinship Life Surgery Scholarship

Provides the trans community with assistance while having a sense of community and kinship

<http://cklife.org/scholarship/>

Transformative Freedom Fund (Colorado)

Supports the authentic selves of transgender Coloradans by removing financial barriers to transition related healthcare

<https://transformativefreedomfund.org/>

Kentucky Health Justice Network Trans Health Advocacy

Works to help Trans Kentuckians access the healthcare they need, as well as reaffirm our autonomy and community

<http://www.kentuckyhealthjusticenetwork.org/trans-health.html>

Legal Resources

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)

National civil rights organization with offices across the United States

<https://www.aclu.org/about/affiliates?redirect=affiliates>

GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders)

Legal advocacy for the LGBTQ community

<http://www.glad.org/>

Lambda Legal

Advocacy and legal support for the LGBTQ community

<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

Legal Services Corporation

A nonprofit that provides a directory of civil legal aid for low-income Americans.

<http://www.lsc.gov/whatlegalaid/findlegalaid>

NCLR (National Center for Lesbian Rights)

Advocacy and legal support for the LGBT community

<http://www.nclrights.org/>

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

Legal support and resources for people who are transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming

<http://srlp.org/>

Transgender Law Center

Advocacy and legal support for the transgender community

<http://transgenderlawcenter.org/>

TLDEF (Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund)

Advocacy and legal support for the transgender community

<http://tldef.org/>

Transcend Legal

Transcend Legal helps people get transgender-related health care covered under insurance.

<https://transcendlegal.org/>

Transgender Legal Services Network (National Center for Transgender Equality)

Over 60 organizations across the country serving trans communities belong to the Network

<http://www.transequality.org/iddocumentscenter/transgenderlegalservicesnetwork>

For legal assistance with the name and gender change process on identity documents in your state, please visit

[NCTE's Identity Documents Center](#).

Incarceration Resources

Black and Pink

Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and 'free world' allies who support each other.

<http://www.blackandpink.org/resources-2/national-prisoner-resource-list/>

Immigration, Refugee, Asylum, and International Resources

Transgender Law Center's Trans Immigrant Defense Effort (TIDE)

Provide TGNC immigrants with legal information and connect them to pro bono attorneys and legal service providers

<https://transgenderlawcenter.org/programs/tide>

National Immigrant Justice Center's LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Initiative

Provides legal services to low-income immigrants who identify as LGBT and those who are living with HIV.

<http://www.immigrantjustice.org/index.php/services/lgbtq-immigrants>

Immigration Equality

The nation's leading LGBTQ immigrant rights organization

<http://www.immigrationequality.org/>

Human Rights First

Help for people who have fled dangerous situations in their home countries to obtain asylum in the United States.

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/asylum>

Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Program

International emergency assistance requests

<https://freedomhouse.org/program/dignity-all-lgbti-assistance-program>

Arab Foundation For Freedoms And Equality

Emergency response in the Middle East and North Africa

<http://afemena.org/contact-us/>

GATE

Works internationally on gender identity, gender expression, and bodily issues

<https://transactivists.org/about/contact/>

Domestic Violence/Abuse Resources

DomesticShelters.org

DomesticShelters.org is a resource list of domestic abuse shelters around the United States.

<https://www.domesticshelters.org/>

National Coalition of AntiViolence Programs (NCAVP)

National network of service organizations working with LGBTQ people who have been victims of domestic violence

<http://www.avp.org>

FORGE

FORGE is a national transgender antiviolenace organization

<http://forge-forward.org/anti-violence/>

The NW Network

Organization specializing in providing resources for LGBTQ victims of domestic violence, they have an extensive "resource clearinghouse"

<http://www.nwnetwork.org>

Nutrition and Housing Resources

Feeding America

National Database of Food Banks

<http://www.feedingamerica.org/>

ShelterListings.org

National database of homeless shelters

<http://www.shelterlistings.org/>

Employment Services/Advice

Many of the organizations listed under Legal Resources also provide employment discrimination resources and support.

Trans Employment Program

San Francisco based employment organization with national resources and connections

<http://transemploymentprogram.org/>

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

Enforces federal protections for LGBT Workers

https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/wysk/enforcement_protections_lgbt_workers.cfm

Workplace Fairness

Workplace Fairness has a list of guidelines and information for transgender people in the workplace

<https://www.workplacefairness.org/genderidentitydiscrimination>

Support and Advocacy Resources

CenterLink

A directory of LGBT Community Centers

<http://www.lgbtcenters.org/Centers/findacenter.aspx>

Department of Justice

List of state and local human rights agencies

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/combatingpost911discriminatorybacklash7>

Equality Federation

Directory of state-based organizations advocating for LGBTQ people

<http://www.equalityfederation.org/members/>

TransParent

For parents of trans youth seeking support

<http://transparentusa.org/>

Veteran Resources

OutServe-SLDN

Legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to bringing about full LGBTQ equality to America's military and veteran communities.

<https://www.outserve-sldn.org>

SPART*A

Advocacy organization and supporter network for actively serving transgender military members, veterans, and their families.

<https://spartapride.org>

TAVA: Transgender American Service Veterans

Advocacy organization that works to ensure transgender veterans receive appropriate care and support.

<http://transveteran.org>

Media Resources

PFLAG Transgender Reading List for Adults:

- <https://pflag.org/resource/transgender-reading-list-adults>

10 Trans and Non-Binary Podcasts

- <https://www.gendergp.com/10-of-the-best-trans-and-non-binary-podcasts/>

Black-Led LGBTQ+ Organizations to know and support:

- **[HOUSE OF GG](#)**

Creating safe and transformative spaces for communities to heal and nurturing them into tomorrow's leaders focusing on trans women of color in the south. houseofgg.org

- **[TRANS JUSTICE FUNDING PROJECT](#)**

Community-led funding initiative to support grassroots trans justice groups run by and for trans people transjusticefundingproject.org

- **[THE OKRA PROJECT](#)**

Collective that seeks to address the global crisis faced by Black Trans people by bringing home-cooked meals and resources to the community theokraproject.com

- **[SNAPCO](#)**

Builds power of Black trans and queer people to force systemic divestment from prison industrial complex and invest in community support snap4freedom.org

- **[TRANS CULTURAL DISTRICT](#)**

The world's first ever legally recognized trans district which aims to stabilize and economically empower the trans community transgenderdistrictsf.com

Local LGBTQ+ Organizations to know and support:

- [Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition](#)

Works to support community efforts to reduce youth suicide and other risk behaviors in the often hidden and historically underserved gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth population. oregonsafeschools.org

- [YWCA](#)

The YWCA of Greater Portland is the local affiliate of one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation. Their aim is to educate the community about racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression to strive for a more equitable world. ywcapdx.org

- [Q-Center](#)

The largest LGBTQ+ community center in the Pacific Northwest, Q Center serves the LGBTQ2SIA+ communities of Portland Metro and Southwest Washington. Provides community-based support for LGBTQ2SIA+ community members seeking connection and resources. Their core programs are: LGBTQ Senior Community, Affinity Groups, Information & Referral, and Fiscal Sponsorships. pdxqcenter.org

- [Cascade AIDS Project](#)

The Cascade AIDS Project, CAP is the oldest and largest community-based provider of HIV services, housing, education, and advocacy in Oregon and Southwest Washington. capnw.org

- [Parents And Friends of Lesbians And Gays \(PFLAG\)](#)

PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. They provide a variety of educational and financial resources. pflag.org

- [Sexual & Gender Minority Youth Resource Center \(SMYRC\)](#)

SMYRC provides a safe, supervised, harassment-free space for sexual and gender minority youth ages 13-23 who participate in positive activities like art, music, community organizing, open mic nights, drag shows, and support groups and receive services including case management, counseling, education, and more. smyrc.org