

TEN QUARTERLY



Happy. Healthy &
Supported:
How to Find the
Support You Need

Parenting a
Transgender
Daughter
Supporting Family.
No Matter the Cost

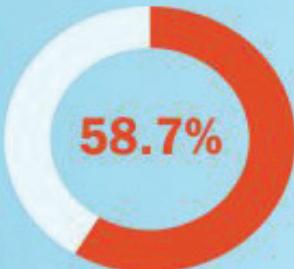
TDOR 2018:
Remembering
those we've lost
through violence

WHY TRANS PEOPLE NEED MORE VISIBILITY

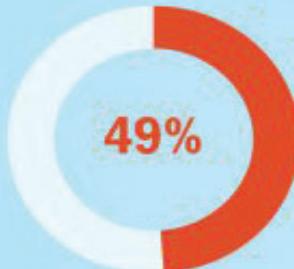
With more visibility comes more understanding. These statistics can and will get better as trans people become more visible in our society.



80% of trans students feel unsafe at school because of their gender expression



of gender non-conforming students have experienced verbal harassment in the past year because of their gender expression, compared to 29% of their peers



of trans people reported physical abuse in a 2007 survey

The Gender, Violence, and Resource Access Survey found that



of trans people have been raped or assaulted by a romantic partner

Trans people of color are...

6X more likely to experience physical violence when interacting with the police than white cisgender survivors of violence



of trans people have attempted suicide



1 in 5 transgender people have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives



1 in 8 have been evicted due to being transgender

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For more information,
go to transstudent.org/graphics

TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources

Infographic Design by Landyn Pan

Editor's Letter



Sarah Flowers is the Founder & Executive Director of the Transgender Visibility & Education Network and the Senior Editor of the TVEN Quarterly magazine. A graduate of the University of California - Davis, Sarah has spent the last 25 years researching transgender topics and issues simply because she wanted to learn more about who she is as a transgender woman.

Aside from devoting all of her time to TVEN, Sarah also enjoys spending time with her wife, Amy, and their two kitties, Chewie & Hunter. As much as she loves reading a good book, she also loves writing them and is currently in the middle of writing 7 novels, each in a different genre. She has also been known to have fun with calligraphy, rock climbing, singing to the radio, and cruising around on her motorcycle.

As I sit here editing the final draft of this issue of the TVEN Quarterly magazine, I am reminded of the highs and lows of my journey thus far as a transgender woman. I remember all of the struggles and hardships I endured as a child and young adult in the 1980s and 90s who had no words to describe what I was feeling in my heart about my gender identity. I remember surviving nearly being murdered in the sixth grade because I acted differently than all of the other boys in my school. I remember enduring a solid year of near daily mental, emotional, and physical abuse at the hand of most of the Jr. High School I was attending and then being mere moments away from committing suicide because of that abuse. And I remember internalizing all of that ignorance and transphobia for more than twenty years as a coping mechanism to try to hide who I really am from the world around me.

The hardest part of all of that was the denial of who I was and am. Even though I outwardly denied my transgenderhood to the world, I embarked on a lifelong quest to learn as much about my transgenderness and the global transgender community as I could. When I reached the beautiful age of 39 I made the most incredible decision of my entire life. I decided that I could no longer hide the fact that I am a transgender woman and that I had to share my authentic self with the rest of the world. After more than 20 years of hiding who I was and being so isolated from the world for so long, reaching out to others in the early stages of my transition were some of the hardest months of my life. Luckily, I met an absolutely amazing woman who opened up an entire world of friendship, familyhood, and support that I never knew I could ever experience, let alone that even existed.

That first supportive friendship opened so many doors to me as a transgender woman and I am proud to share those open doors with you, our readers and friends. In this issue of TVEN Quarterly we share numerous ways that you can both find the support that you need, as well as how you can be a source of support for others. After researching transgender topics and issues for nearly a quarter of a century, it gives me such a warm hearted feeling to be able to share all of those resources with you through our website and Facebook pages and through the pages of the quarterly magazine. But these resources aren't limited to benefiting only transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, but also our families, friends, allies, coworkers, politicians, medical staff, and everyone else who has an interest in helping or working with the transgender community. With all of these resources and sources of support at your disposal, we encourage you to seek them out whenever you may need them, especially in your times of need. Please share them with others as often and as widely as you can and know that you will always have a loving and supportive friend in me and the Transgender Visibility & Education Network.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah J. Flowers".

Faithfully Yours!!
Sarah Flowers
Editor in Chief

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Transgender Support

Happy, Healthy & Supported!

How to Find the Support that You Need

by: Sarah Flowers

***"Nobody likes me, Everybody hate me,
Guess I'll go eat worms . . ."***

- Guess I'll Go Eat Worms (children's song)

On the surface, this short children's song seems very simplistic and juvenile. It evokes images of individuals who feel unloved and unwanted, who then make the decision to isolate themselves so they won't get hurt by anyone. But the message in this simple song strikes a lot deeper and harder than it at first appears.

At some point in our lives, each and every person throughout history has encountered moments (both short term and long term) where they have felt like the entire world was against them. This phenomenon is not a new concept. But over the last few decades, and more specifically, the last couple of years, this issue of feeling unloved and unwanted has really hit home within the transgender community.

Since the 2016 Presidential election, members of the transgender community have both seen and experienced various examples of oppression, hatred, unacceptance, and violence; much of which has come from the government and the Presidency itself. Other sources of these oppressions and unacceptance may include, among many others, religious organizations, various cultural systems, employers, the medical community, friends, and even family members.

Along with these oppressions and unacceptance we can be falsely tricked into believing that we as transgender and gender non-conforming individuals are somehow freaks or mutants or socially unclean. We can become convinced that we are completely unwanted and unlovable by those around us, even when logic and reason suggest otherwise, such as the relationship between a parent and child.

It is extremely important to note that no matter how deeply ingrained some of these thoughts and beliefs may be, they are 100% wrong. Members of the transgender and gender non-conforming community are just as worthy of being loved and appreciated as everyone else. We, as both individuals and as a community, are just as capable (regardless of ability or

disability) and valid as any cisgender individual, no matter what any person, government, law, religion, or cultural ideology may profess.

The truly horribly part about being forced to endure these types of oppression and unacceptance is the incredible trauma that is inflicted on the receiver. The transphobias and transmisogynies that are forced on members of the transgender and gender non-conforming community lead not only to ostracization, abuse, and violence (to include sexual assault and murder), but they can also lead to the pervasive aggravation of various forms of mental illness. While violence of any kind that is directed at the transgender community or at individuals within the transgender community is absolutely reprehensible, they are more often than not short lived, even when they ultimately lead to the death of a member of our community. The aggravation of mental illnesses as direct result of these oppressions and unacceptance, however, can quickly become so pervasive that they haunt and traumatize a person for the rest of their lives and in some cases this can even lead to a person seeing no other escape from the pain other than suicide. As a transgender woman who has survived decades of mental and emotional abuse, to include transphobia and transmisogyny, who has survived nearly being murdered in the sixth grade, and who has survived nearly committing suicide, I want to assure you that while life may not always be easy or even safe, it will always get better.

No matter where you are in life or in the world, I cannot encourage you enough to keep an open heart and know that there will always be someone out there who would love to hold your hand, give you their wings (listen to Rachel Platten's songs "Stand By You" and "Better Place"), and go eat some yummy gummy worms with you. This person or persons might be a family member, a friend, a classmate, an organization like the Transgender Visibility & Education Network, or sometimes it might even be a completely random stranger.

If you can't readily think of a specific person that you can turn to for help, we suggest visiting your closest LGBTQIA+ Resource or Community Center or a nearby Gender Health Center. If you have access to one, talk to a therapist who has

training in and or specializes in gender or transgender therapy. Your online friends via social media or even possibly some of your coworkers or classmates might be wonderful sources of support. The process of coming out as transgender or gender non-conforming is always a scary prospect and it is always made easier when we have someone who is already so very supportive to be there when we are able to find the courage to open the doors of that proverbial closet.

If, however, you are unable to find someone whom you can trust with your heart, there are resources such as the Trans Lifeline, the Trevor Project, and the National Suicide Hotline who are always ready and waiting to talk to you and support you. And the best part is that these options are completely free and you will never have to worry about any oppression or unacceptance (especially with the Trans Lifeline) because they have been in your shoes and they are trained to be able to offer and recommend resources in your local area that can further help you in your times of need.

The most important thing to remember is that there is always someone you can turn to for help. If you aren't able to find the resources or sources of support that you need, I invite you to email me through the Transgender Visibility & Education Network at info@transgenderven.com. Legally, I must include that I am not a trained (or untrained) therapist or medical professional, but I would love to listen to your story as a loving and supportive friend. And if need be, I will research and suggest as many options as possible that are close to you where you can find the additional help you may need. But at the very least you will always have a loving and supporting friend and sister in me.



866.488.7386

The nation's only, around-the-clock crisis intervention and suicide prevention lifeline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Call us toll-free, 24/7.

TREVOR chat

A free, confidential and secure online messaging service that provides live help by trained volunteers. Check our website for specific hours of operation.

www.TheTrevorProject.org

RESOURCES

Crisis / Suicide Resources

- **Trans Lifeline**
 - *USA:* 877-565-8860
 - *Canada:* 877-330-6366
- **Trevor Lifeline (a service of the Trevor Project)**
 - *Phone:* 866-488-7386
 - *Text:* Send "Start" To 678678
 - *Chat:* <https://bit.ly/2qUOf1U>
- **GLBT National Hotline**
 - *Phone:* 888-843-4564
- **GLBT National Youth Hotline**
 - *Phone:* 800-246-7743
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline**
 - *Phone:* 800-273-TALK (8255)
- **Crisis Text Line**
 - *Text:* Send "Home" to 741741

Homelessness / Substance Abuse Help

- **True Colors Fund**
 - *Phone:* 212-461-4401
- **Pride Institute**
 - *Phone:* 800-547-7433

Domestic & Sexual Assault Help

- **National Sexual Assault Hotline**
 - *Phone:* 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**
 - *Phone:* 800-799-SAFE (7233)
- **Communities Against Hate**
 - *Phone:* 844-9-NO-HATE

Additional Resources

- **National Center for Transgender Equality**
 - <https://transequality.org/additional-help>

**bit.ly style website addresses were used in place of the actual website address in order to conserve space on the page and to make it easier for you to type in the web address.

Parenting a Transgender Daughter

by: Angela Kemper



Family Support

I've always been an ally as well as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Being the mom of five awesome little people, it has always been understood that the odds of (at least) one of my children identifying as part of the community were probable. Because of that probability, I've made sure that my unconditional love and support for each of them has always been known, and that they are perfectly beautiful, and free to love whomever they love throughout their lives. My only rule is that there is mutual respect given throughout the relationship. It wasn't until recently that I learned how true those odds turned out to be! (Meaning: 3 out of my 5 identify as straight/cisgender.) My alliance with the LGBTQ+ community has become significantly deeper for I'm no longer marching just for myself, but I march for my kids and all others like them.

I am the parent of a transgender youth. I know first-hand the struggles that come with identifying as anything but heterosexual and/or cisgender in the state of Arizona in which my family and I live. A little back story: We have what is considered "low equality" in comparison to other states. An example, I'm from southern California. I remember when I first moved here as a teenager, I was baffled that I didn't have Martin Luther King Jr. Day off from school because it wasn't recognized as an official Arizona holiday yet. My young mind was blown! We are a little "behind in the times" in many ways such as the aforementioned delayed recognition of a significant black historical figure, therefore, it's no surprise to me that we wouldn't have more protections and rights for the LGBTQ+ community. We certainly have come a long way, but we as a state are still fighting for equal rights for all Arizonans in good ol' 2018.

I am sad to say that my child has already been the recipient of disparate treatment as a transgender student at school. It feels terrible. My daughter just wants to be and feel accepted and loved for who she is by everyone. She is for the most part, but then there is the dreaded "bathroom issue;" everything seems all and well except she just wants to be able to use the bathroom like all of the other girls in school, the very same bathroom as her sisters who also attend the same school alongside her. As of today, she is thankfully addressed by her chosen, newly legal name and correct pronouns, but she isn't allowed to use the girls' bathroom. She thankfully isn't forced to use the boys' bathroom – a small triumph, but a triumph nonetheless and we are grateful!! She is therefore instructed to use the "all gender/family" bathroom instead. As her mother, I feel a bit irked, some resentment, and sadness all at the same time. Based on the staggering statistics I read in a Mapping Transgender Equality article, (you can find it at [lgbtmap.org](http://www.lgbtmap.org)), I know that it's

just the beginning of the long, hard road ahead of other road blocks that unfortunately come with the transgender territory. We have a great relationship with leading doctors and psychiatrists that specialize in kids like mine to ensure that she is getting the best healthcare available. With this working relationship with her amazing doctors, we were also given the "ok" to legally change her name. Until recently, I never realized just how many things I took for granted. Our next adventure is to get her a passport with her correct gender marker which will jumpstart her success in getting her a state ID in the same manner. Again, with the resentful feelings – all of these hoops we have to jump through just to get what everyone else gets, that I took for granted just because I'm cisgender.

For now, my husband and I are her voice and her protectors. We make sure she is safe and protected, but when she's an adult out in the world on her own, she runs the risk of being discriminated against by health care professionals and employers, and for being attacked by predators just because she is who she is. Voting for representatives and bills that are for the LGBTQ+ community is so important. In doing so, I hope we will one day see the legal changes necessary for having equal rights for my daughter and all others like her.

With all of that in mind, it's particularly frustrating when I hear of people making accusations that transgender/gender non-conforming individuals identify as such for attention or for special treatment. To put it bluntly, they have no idea what they are talking about. In our generally unaccepting society, getting attention for it only makes for becoming an easy target for bullies and anyone else that seeks to harm. Wanting to be seen as an equal human being is hardly seeking special treatment. I don't know a single person that would ask for the mistreatment that this community faces. I certainly didn't, but I wouldn't have it any other way. In fact, I feel happiness that my daughter was born into a family that loves unconditionally, one that so many others are not as fortunate to have. Not only is non-acceptance and rejection hurtful, it's damaging life-long effects are devastating to the individual's overall health and wellness. My heart hurts for those who aren't supported and loved through their self-acceptance, but I hope with all of my heart that they can someday understand that it really does get better, that they're not alone, and that there are people just like me and mine that are fighting for them and for their rights. The fight will end when the need for it ends.

Resources:

<http://www.lgbtmap.org/mapping-trans-equality>

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Rest in Power and Love

Sarah Flowers
Senior Editor

2,981

This number is not just some random number I pulled out of thin air. This number is just as important to me as it should be to you. What is significant about this number is that it continues to grow each and every day. “Why is this number significant and why does it continue to grow?” you may ask.

This is the number of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals around the world who have died from acts of violence since January 1, 2008. This number represents the number of friends and family members we have lost because of ignorance, transphobia, and the rampant hatred of transgender individuals and the transgender community. And this number will continue to grow with no end in sight because ignorance, transphobia, transmisogyny, and other cultural and religious biases continue to go unchecked, leading to ever more violent acts against transgender individuals and our community as a whole.

“The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester’s death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance” (GLAAD.org/TDOR)

“The Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people — sometimes in the most brutal ways possible — it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice.”

- Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Every year on November 20th, vigils are held around the world to honor and remember those members of our

community we have lost to violence since the previous November 20th TDOR vigil. At this year’s TDOR vigil, just two days after the writing of this article, we honor and remember the names and lives of 368 (or more) individuals who have been stolen from us through various acts of violence.

In the list that follows you will notice that there are only 308 entries as opposed to the 368 that I mentioned a moment ago. This is because no list is ever as complete as we would like it to be. Different countries and reporting agencies may report the killings in different ways, sometimes there is no name associated with a body or, in far too many instances, the individuals are misgendered (either by accident or on purpose) or incorrectly named because of their inability (for whatever reason) to have their government issued identifying documents altered to reflect their current chosen name and gender identity.

Even though not every name is included within the list on the following pages, we honor and remember every transgender and gender non-conforming individual we have lost. Some of you may choose only to remember or hold a vigil for those individuals who are from your country or maybe only those that you knew personally. We here at Transgender Visibility & Education Network choose to remember and honor all of the 2,981+ individuals that have been taken from our community since 2008 and all of those who were never included within these various lists.

On this November 20th, we encourage you to join a local vigil or reading of names as a way to honor and remember our fallen family and friends. We encourage you to become active within your communities to bring awareness and visibility to the broader public about the transgender community. To educate not only yourself, but everyone you meet about the needs and desires of the transgender community and the individuals, such as you and I, within that global community.

If you are not able to find or join a local vigil or reading of the names, there is another way to enact a vigil to honor and remember these individuals. Before you start reading through this list of names, find somewhere quiet and without any distractions. As you read the names, don’t just read them in your head, give them power and strength and love by reading them aloud, even if you are all by yourself.

To those we have lost, we remember and honor you. We take up your mantle and carry on in supporting and building our beautiful global transgender community. Thank you for the love and companionship that you were able to share with us. We now pray that for all eternity you are able to rest in power and love.

Argentina

Carolina/Camila Angulo Paredes

Buenos Aires, Argentina
29-Dec-17
shot

Lourdes Reinoso

Tucuman, Argentina
14-Jan-18
stabbed

Ynina

Puerto Madryn, Argentina
30-Jan-18
Unknown

Adriana Estefanía Bonetto

San Jose del Rincon, Argentina
8-Feb-18
stabbed

Cinthia Moreira

Villa Alen, Argentina
22-Feb-18
decapitated/dismembered

Sol Gómez

Santa Fe, Argentina
7-Mar-18
Unknown

Julia Ponce

Buenos Aires, Argentina
23-Jul-18
Unknown

Yanelis Rodríguez

Argentina, Argentina
31-Aug-18
Unknown

Bangladesh

Sonia Akter
Morrelganj, Bangladesh
31-Dec-17
Unknown

Brazil

L. de Souza Pereira

Manaus, Brazil
23-Nov-17
beaten

Unknown Name

Uberlândia, Brazil
28-Nov-17
shot

Milena

Arapiraca, Brazil
1-Dec-17
stoned

Andressa Xoda

Pauladas E Tiros – Salvador, Brazil
3-Dec-17
shot

Eduarda Figueiredo

Porto Seguro, Brazil
3-Dec-17
shot

Júlia Volp

Florianópolis, Brazil
4-Dec-17
tortured

Jéssica Dimy

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
7-Dec-17
Unknown

Sabrina

Uberaba, Brazil
7-Dec-17
Unknown

Luany Aquamarine

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
9-Dec-17
beaten

Luna Shine

Viana, Brazil
11-Dec-17
stabbed

Marquete F. C. de Lima

Altinho, Brazil

13-Dec-17
shot

Kebeca G. de Souza

Gurupi, Brazil
16-Dec-17
shot

Larissa Paiva

Sao Paulo, Brazil
17-Dec-17
beaten

Rose

João Pessoa, Brazil
17-Dec-17
beaten

Lorrany “Lhoane” Oliveira

Santaluz, Brazil
26-Dec-17
tortured

V. O. Silva

Uberaba, Brazil
30-Dec-17
tortured

Silvia Gomes Marques

Belem, Brazil
1-Jan-18
Unknown

Fany Diniz

Belem, Brazil
3-Jan-18
shot

C. Sobral

Feira de Santana, Brazil
5-Jan-18
Unknown

Unknown Name

Brasília, Brazil
5-Jan-18
stabbed

W. Peixoto

Piripiri, Brazil
9-Jan-18
beaten



C. Figueiredo Recife, Brazil 17-Jan-18 stabbed	Anninha Ferreira Rochee Colatina, Brazil 7-Feb-18 decapitated/dismembered	Pérola Sao Paulo, Brazil 14-Feb-18 shot
Carol Alves Tangará da Serra, Brazil 17-Jan-18 shot	A. da S. Silvério Vitória de São Antão, Brazil 8-Feb-18 shot	Bruna Ferrari Concórdia do Pará, Brazil 15-Feb-18 Unknown
Kelly Belém, Brazil 20-Jan-18 shot	Lohan Vitoria, Brazil 8-Feb-18 beaten	Laysla Oliveira Ribeirão Preto, Brazil 18-Feb-18 beaten
Unknown Name Concórdia do Pará, Brazil 20-Jan-18 Unknown	Milonga F. L. Martins Pacajus, Brazil 9-Feb-18 shot	Amanda Rios João Pessoa, Brazil 19-Feb-18 shot
Júlia de Arruda Várzea Grande, Brazil 21-Jan-18 other	Dominique Uberlândia, Brazil 10-Feb-18 beaten	Eduarda Brasil Araras, Brazil 19-Feb-18 other
Lohane Governador Newton Bello, Brazil 23-Jan-18 stabbed	Nayra Winston Rio Largo, Brazil 10-Feb-18 shot	Rayana Ribeiro João Pessoa, Brazil 20-Feb-18 Unknown
Rios Dayane Macklarenn São Bernardo do Campo, Brazil 26-Jan-18 Unknown	Unknown Name Fortaleza, Brazil 11-Feb-18 shot	Bia Rocha Recife, Brazil 23-Feb-18 Unknown
Raquel Cosinele Recife, Brazil 27-Jan-18 stoned	Bruna Belém, Brazil 12-Feb-18 shot	Claudia Oliveira Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 23-Feb-18 shot
Samira de Alcantara Nossa Senhora do Socorro, Brazil 29-Jan-18 stabbed	Keila Salvador, Brazil 12-Feb-18 shot	Fernanda Caetano Lapa, Brazil 23-Feb-18 Unknown
Natália Ketlyn Campos Altos, Brazil 1-Feb-18 shot	Unknown Name Joao Pessoa, Brazil 12-Feb-18 shot	Kimberlys Ochoa Lara, Venezuela 25-Feb-18 beaten
Hemilly Dbx Garanhuns, Brazil 6-Feb-18 stabbed	K. Silva Manaus, Brazil 13-Feb-18 tortured	Fernanda “Pit” Dias São Mateus, Brazil 27-Feb-18 shot

Alessandra da Silva Alves

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1-Mar-18
shot

Alanis Burgo

Pelotas, Brazil
22-Mar-18
suffocated

Millany Spencer

Nossa Senhora do Socorro, Brazil
14-Apr-18
Beaten and strangled

Shayene

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1-Mar-18
shot

Giorginye Dias de Siqueira

Aparecida de Goiânia, Brazil
22-Mar-18
shot

Nati da Silva

Lajeado, Brazil
20-Apr-18
shot

Palola

João Pessoa, Brazil
4-Mar-18
shot

Unknown Name

São Leopoldo, Brazil
22-Mar-18
shot

Nycoly Souza Nardoni Bhals

Governador Valadares, Brazil
22-Apr-18
shot

Samielly Castro

São Paulo, Brazil
4-Mar-18
shot

Daniela Santos

Ibicaraí, Brazil
23-Mar-18
tortured

Gabriely Fancciny

Porto Velho, Brazil
28-Apr-18
stabbed

Pâmela Tabete

Craiba, Brazil
8-Mar-18
beaten

Cleide Aládio Zaramarine Neto

Itaberaí, Brazil
25-Mar-18
beaten

Matheusx Passarelli

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
29-Apr-18
burned

Thalita da Silva

Barra do Garças, Brazil
13-Mar-18
throat cut

Hilda de Melo Matias

Barbalha, Brazil
25-Mar-18
shot

Raunna Silva

Niterói, Brazil
30-Apr-18
shot

J. Oliveira da Silva

Vila Velha, Brazil
16-Mar-18
shot

Eduarda Amaro

Pelotas, Brazil
29-Mar-18
shot

Unknown Name

Campo Grande, Brazil
30-Apr-18
shot

Unknown Name

Ilha do Governador, Brazil
17-Mar-18
decapitated/dismembered

Elvira Costa Ferreira

Maranguape, Brazil
2-Apr-18
shot

Bianca Santos Albuquerque

Araras, Brazil
30-Apr-18
shot

Bruna Gabriel

Ananindeua, Brazil
19-Mar-18
shot

Andressa Muda

Macaé, Brazil
3-Apr-18
Unknown

Paulinha

Fortaleza, Brazil
1-May-18
shot

N. Naza

Ananindeua, Brazil
19-Mar-18
shot

Benjamin de Jesus Sousa

Teresina, Brazil
6-Apr-18
stabbed

C. Alves

Vitória da Conquista, Brazil
8-May-18
shot

Paola Oliveira

Luziânia, Brazil
20-Mar-18
shot

Angra Alessandra Cupertino

Feira de Santana, Brazil
7-Apr-18
stabbed

Myrella Mhell

Pirapora, Brazil
21-May-18
shot

Pandora
Santa Rita, Brazil
21-May-18
shot

Beatriz Ribeiro
Bacabal, Brazil
25-May-18
stabbed

D.R.C.
Jundiaí, Brazil
25-May-18
beaten

I. Silva
Itaberaí, Brazil
29-May-18
Unknown

Patrícia Pereira
Maracanaú, Brazil
31-May-18
shot

Nayra Matos
Maracanaú, Brazil
31-May-18
shot

Britney Vaz
Colniza, Brazil
3-Jun-18
shot

Vitória
Salvador, Brazil
3-Jun-18
shot

Unknown Name
Manaus, Brazil
6-Jun-18
shot

Kamila Roberta
Florianópolis, Brazil
7-Jun-18
beaten

Fernanda Reichert
São Leopoldo, Brazil
9-Jun-18
stabbed

Tiffany Montel
Boa Vista, Brazil
10-Jun-18
stabbed

Agatha Gomes (Bebê)
Belford Roxo, Brazil
19-Jun-18
shot

Thalia Costa Barboza
São Borja, Brazil
21-Jun-18
stoned

Nikolly Silva
Cabo Frio, Brazil
22-Jun-18
stoned

Gaby Scheifer
Ponta Grossa, Brazil
23-Jun-18
run-over by car

Índia da Silva Pellegrine
Salvador, Brazil
25-Jun-18
shot

Bruna da Conceição
Lagarto, Brazil
25-Jun-18
shot

Carla Croft
Pacajus, Brazil
29-Jun-18
shot

Deepa
Jalandhar, India
3-Jul-18
stabbed

Mirela
Balneário Camboriú, Brazil
4-Jul-18
strangled/hanged

Shirley dos Santos
Recife, Brazil
4-Jul-18
shot

Michele Silveira
Itaperuna, Brazil
7-Jul-18
shot

Fernanda da Biz
Campo Grande, Brazil
8-Jul-18
stabbed

Aisha Albuquerque
Curitiba, Brazil
13-Jul-18
beaten

Daniela Cicarelli
Gurupi, Brazil
17-Jul-18
shot

Lay Neves de Santana
Camaçari, Brazil
17-Jul-18
shot

Unknown Name
Itaperuna, Brazil
20-Jul-18
shot

Paola Villefort
Nova Serrana, Brazil
23-Jul-18
stabbed

Daiane Souza
Porto Alegre, Brazil
26-Jul-18
shot

Gaby Arantes
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
28-Jul-18
beaten

Dudu dos Santos Duarte
Paraisópolis, Brazil
3-Aug-18
shot

Lalesca
Salvador, Brazil
5-Aug-18
throat cut

Paloma Ferreira
Fortaleza, Brazil
6-Aug-18
shot

Paolla “Lelí” Blayton
Campos, Brazil
7-Aug-18
shot

Karlla da Silva Balbino
Caratinga, Brazil
9-Aug-18
strangled/hanged

T,nia Lopes
Florianópolis, Brazil
10-Aug-18
shot

Renata
Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Brazil
12-Aug-18
shot

Krispim Souza de Araujo
Mossóro, Brazil
14-Aug-18
shot

D. M. Teixeira
Mossóro, Brazil
20-Aug-18
shot

A. L. da Silva Bezerra
Mossóro, Brazil
20-Aug-18
shot

Evelin Ferrari
Caruaru, Brazil
21-Aug-18
shot

J. F. de Souza
Curitiba, Brazil
23-Aug-18
stoned

Sheila dos Santos
Buriticupu, Brazil
23-Aug-18
stoned

Paola dos Reis
Cuiaba, Brazil
30-Aug-18
stabbed

Rayka
Praia Grande, Brazil
30-Aug-18
Unknown

Unknown Name
Manaus, Brazil
31-Aug-18
stabbed

Deia Alves Maciel
Goiânia, Brazil
1-Sep-18
stabbed

Maria Luíza
Sao Paulo, Brazil
1-Sep-18
beaten

Rafaela Sena
Xique-xique, Brazil
2-Sep-18
shot

Unknown Name
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
6-Sep-18
Unknown

Monique Manardi Lee
Sao Paulo, Brazil
11-Sep-18
beaten



USA: 877.565.8860
CAN: 877.330.6366

Abya Passos Mantovanny
Cuiaba, Brazil
15-Sep-18
stabbed

Kemily
Belem, Brazil
16-Sep-18
shot

J. Oliveira de Araújo
Martins, Brazil
24-Sep-18
Unknown

Nicolly
Lagarto, Brazil
26-Sep-18
beaten

Bolivia

Veronica Carbajal Pinto
La Paz, Bolivia
27-Nov-17
suffocated

Adri Adely Jurado
La Paz, Bolivia
13-Jul-18
stabbed

Chile

Paloma
Santiago, Chile
14-Feb-18
beaten

Colombia

Marilyn Cipriany Guzmán
Medellín, Colombia
30-Dec-17
shot

Chelsy/Cristal Grisales Molina
La Virginia, Colombia
24-Jan-18
shot

Silvana Pineda
La Dorada, Colombia
27-Jan-18
shot

J. A. Marín Marín
Soacha, Colombia
1-Feb-18
stabbed

Tatiana/Tetris/Muelas
Bogota, Colombia
10-Feb-18
stabbed

Alexa Amero Sierra
Bogota, Colombia
9-Mar-18
stabbed

Lorena Molina López
Montenegro, Colombia
25-Mar-18
shot

Alejandra Torres Torres
Manizales, Colombia
22-Apr-18
stabbed

Abril Natasha Quiñónez
Cali, Colombia
12-Aug-18
shot

Lili Chirinos Carrillo
Valledupar, Colombia
18-Aug-18
shot in the head

Unknown Name
Cordova, Colombia
31-Aug-18
Unknown

Carol Perez Guerrero
Ciudad Bolivar, Colombia
22-Sep-18
shot

Unknown Name
Cochabamba, Colombia
23-Sep-18
beaten

Valeria Sandoval
Cali, Colombia
28-Sep-18
asphyxiated

Dominican Republic

Blanca
La Vega, Dominican Republic
27-Jan-18
stabbed

Ecuador

Isabel Borja Suárez
Quevedo, Ecuador
13-May-18
stabbed

El Salvador

Unknown Name
Departamente de la Paz, El Salvador
30-Nov-17
Unknown

Unknown Name
Chalchuapa, El Salvador
18-Jan-18
stabbed

Unknown Name
Cuscatlan, El Salvador
8-Mar-18
stabbed

D. A. Portillo Jiménez
El Salvador, El Salvador
21-Mar-18
stabbed

Geovanny Romero Ortiz
Santa Ana, El Salvador
3-Jun-18
Unknown

Unknown Name
Soyopango, El Salvador
31-Aug-18
Unknown

France

Flávia Luiza
Paris, France
27-Dec-17
Unknown

Vanessa Campos
Paris, France
17-Aug-18
shot

Fiji

Lucky Salavuki
Suva, Fiji
17-May-18
stoned

Guatamala

E. G. Sarat
Xela, Guatamala
27-Nov-17
shot

A. Sis
Salama, Guatamala
16-Jul-18
shot

Yessika Ruedas Gómez
Jalapa, Guatamala
28-Aug-18
stabbed

Débora Ramos Cordón
Chiquimula, Guatamala
22-Sep-18
beaten

Honduras

Tyty
San Pedro Sula, Honduras
23-Jan-18
Unknown



India	Mohit New Delhi, India 17-Dec-17 beaten	Kendrika Itzel D Espino Chihuahua, Mexico 24-Nov-17 Unknown	Unknown Name Veracruz, Mexico 31-Dec-17 tortured
Devudamma Surya Narayana Anakapalle, India 24-Dec-17 burned	Unknown Name Veracruz, Mexico 30-Nov-17 Unknown, one of four cases on this date	G. Carrera Tamaulipas, Mexico 5-Jan-18 stabbed	
V. Alphonze Madurai, India 10-Apr-18 stabbed	Unknown Name Veracruz, Mexico 30-Nov-17 Unknown, one of four cases on this date	Unknown Name Veracruz, Mexico 11-Jan-18 throat cut	
Chanchal Aashiana, India 22-Apr-18 shot	Unknown Name Veracruz, Mexico 30-Nov-17 Unknown, one of four cases on this date	Jessica González Veracruz, Mexico 11-Jan-18 Unknown	
Manju Khajrana, India 7-May-18 stabbed	Unknown Name Veracruz, Mexico 30-Nov-17 Unknown, one of four cases on this date	Paola Carranco Ciudad De Mexico, Mexico 26-Jan-18 shot	
Chandraiah Hyderabad, India 26-May-18 beaten	Sandra Nuevo Leon, Mexico 30-Nov-17 beaten	Brigit Quintara Roo, Mexico 27-Jan-18 shot	
Italy	Unknown Name Estado de Mexico, Mexico 7-Dec-17 stabbed	C. Antuan Guanajuato, Mexico 12-Feb-18 shot	
Ximena Garcia Nemi, Italy 10-Mar-18 Unknown	Geraldine Contreras Colima, Mexico 9-Dec-17 Unknown	Unknown Name Ciudad Victoria, Mexico 17-Feb-18 shot, one of three cases on this date	
Rafaella Rotocalco Rome, Italy 11-Sep-18 Unknown	C.N. Guerrero, Mexico 17-Dec-17 shot	Unknown Name Ciudad Victoria, Mexico 17-Feb-18 shot, one of three cases on this date	
Unknown Name San Giorgio, Italy 23-Sep-18 stabbed	Canoa Fortaleza, Mexico 17-Dec-17 shot	Unknown Name Ciudad Victoria, Mexico 17-Feb-18 shot, one of three cases on this date	
	Samantha Guerrero, Mexico 6-Mar-18 Unknown		

Unknown Name Sinaloa, Mexico 7-Mar-18 Unknown	Yamileth Quintero Sinaloa, Mexico 24-May-18 shot	Unknown Name Chiapas, Mexico 30-Jun-18 Unknown, one of six cases on this date
Sheila Nayarit, Mexico 15-Mar-18 shot	Maritza Harrera Guerrero, Mexico 25-May-18 stabbed	Unknown Name Chiapas, Mexico 30-Jun-18 Unknown, one of six cases on this date
Charly Puebla, Mexico 22-Mar-18 decapitated/dismembered	S. Antolli Chiapas, Mexico 29-May-18 stabbed	Unknown Name Chiapas, Mexico 30-Jun-18 Unknown, one of six cases on this date
Yoselyn Veracruz, Mexico 4-Apr-18 Unknown	J. Martínez Cepeda Coahuila, Mexico 10-Jun-18 asphyxiated and hit by a rock	Unknown Name Chiapas, Mexico 30-Jun-18 Unknown, one of six cases on this date
Grechen Alina Lara García Nuevo Leon, Mexico 9-Apr-18 tortured and suffocated	Unknown Name Michoacan, Mexico 14-Jun-18 shot	Unknown Name Estado de Mexico, Mexico 10-Jul-18 Unknown
Unknown Name Nuevo Leon, Mexico 17-Apr-18 Tortured and strangled	Unknown Name Colima, Mexico 16-Jun-18 Unknown	Chanel Estado de Mexico, Mexico 15-Jul-18 shot
Brisa Veracruz, Mexico 22-Apr-18 shot	Nataly Briyith Sánchez Chiapas, Mexico 19-Jun-18 Unknown	L. M. Cocom Guzmán Yucatan, Mexico 15-Jul-18 strangled
Unknown Name Puebla, Mexico 23-Apr-18 stabbed	Alexa Gutiérrez Aguascalientes, Mexico 24-Jun-18 Unknown	Alexa Altamirano Martínez Guanajuato, Mexico 23-Jul-18 beaten
A. Jalisco, Mexico 25-Apr-18 stoned	Katy Morelos, Mexico 24-Jun-18 shot	Alaska Contreras Ponce Veracruz, Mexico 26-Jul-18 tortured
Unknown Name Guerrero, Mexico 27-Apr-18 shot	Unknown Name Chiapas, Mexico 30-Jun-18 Unknown, one of six cases on this date	Linda Estado de Mexico, Mexico 26-Jul-18 suffocated
Unknown Name Nuevo Leon, Mexico 21-May-18 suffocated	Unknown Name Chiapas, Mexico 30-Jun-18 Unknown, one of six cases on this date	Unknown Name Guanajuato, Mexico 5-Aug-18 shot

M.R.M.	Chutki	Philippines
Quintana Roo, Mexico 6-Aug-18 shot	Peshawar, Pakistan 27-Mar-18 shot	
J. C. M.	Sheena	Unknown Name
Oaxaca, Mexico 12-Aug-18 shot	Swabi, Pakistan 22-Apr-18 shot	Pasay City, Philippines 23-Jan-18 Unknown
Unknown Name	Muni	South Africa
Guerrero, Mexico 30-Aug-18 shot	Kotkay, Pakistan 4-May-18 shot	Ousi Kagiso Rustenburg, South Africa 6-Jan-18 strangled/hanged
Jhoana Hernández	Sania	Gugu Modise
Veracruz, Mexico 1-Sep-18 stabbed	Hafizabad, Pakistan 20-Jul-18 shot	Ventersdorp, South Africa 1-Sep-18 stabbed
Ana Corina Burgos	Nasir Naso	Spain
Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico 11-Sep-18 shot	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan 18-Aug-18 Aug-18	Eli Valladolid, Spain 22-Sep-18 beaten
Azuani Díaz García	Unknown Name	Trinidad and Tobago
Chilapa, Mexico 22-Sep-18 shot	Sahiwal, Pakistan 6-Sep-18 burned	Keon Alister Patterson St. Clair, Trinidad and Tobago 5-Dec-17 Shot
Dayana Letran	Paraguay	Turkey
Acayucan, Mexico 26-Sep-18 shot	Ada Mía Naomi Gomez Rivas Piribebuy, Paraguay 27-Aug-18 stabbed	I. Y. Zonguldak, Turkey 5-Dec-17 shot
Paulina Domínguez Hernández	Nicol Ortellado Ferreira	Kader Ataman
Cotzacoalco, Mexico 27-Sep-18 shot	Puerto Oblidago, Paraguay 27-Sep-18 stabbed	Ayvalik Sarimsakli, Turkey 13-Dec-17 shot
New Zealand	Peru	Kristina
Zena Campbell	J. E. Ruidíaz Fernández	Beyoglu, Turkey 8-Mar-18 shot
Wellington, New Zealand 11-Feb-18 strangled/hanged	Lima, Peru 11-Feb-18 shot	
Pakistan	Yamilet	
Spogmai	Iquitos, Peru 14-Mar-18 stabbed	
Peshawar, Pakistan 26-Nov-17 shot		

Nefes
Ankara, Turkey
10-Mar-18
strangled/hanged

Simge Avci
Samsun, Turkey
13-Jul-18
shot

Begüm
Bursa, Turkey
19-Aug-18
burned

Esra Ates
Beyoglu, Turkey
25-Aug-18
stabbed

United Kingdom

Naomi Hersi
London, United Kingdom
18-Mar-18
stabbed

United States of America

Brooklyn BreYanna Stevenson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, United States of America
27-Nov-17
Shot to death

Brandi Seals
Houston, Texas, United States of America
13-Dec-17
Shot

Zakaria "Z" Fry
Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States of America
Jan-18
Blunt force trauma

Christa Leigh Steele-Knudslie
North Adams, Massachusetts, United States of America
6-Jan-18
Stabbed and bludgeoned

Viccky Gutierrez
Los Angeles, California, United States of America
10-Jan-18
Undetermined

Celine Walker
Jacksonville, Florida, United States of America
4-Feb-18
Shot

Tonya Harvey
Buffalo, New York, United States of America
6-Feb-18
Shot

Phylicia Mitchell
Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America
23-Feb-18
Shot

Amia Tyrae Berryman
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, United States of America
26-Mar-18
Shot to death

Sasha Wall
Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
1-Apr-18
Shot to death

Carla Patricia Flores-Pavon, United States of America
Dallas, Texas
9-May-18
Strangled to death

Nino Fortson
Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
13-May-18
Shot multiple times

Gigi Pierce
Portland, Oregon, United States of America
21-May-18
Shot

Antash'a Devine Sherrington English
Jacksonville, Florida, United States of America
1-Jun-18
Shot

Diamond Stephens
Meridian, Mississippi, United States of America
18-Jun-18
Shot

Cathalina Christina James
Jacksonville, Florida, United States of America
24-Jun-18
Shot to death

Keisha "Pokey" Wells
Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America
24-Jun-18
Shot and killed

Sasha Garden
Orlando, Florida, United States of America
19-Jul-18
Undetermined

Dejanay Stanton
Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
30-Aug-18
Shot to death

Vontashia Bell
Shreveport, Louisiana, United States of America
30-Aug-18
Shot

Shantee Tucker
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America
5-Sep-18
Shot

Londonn Moore
Port Charlotte, Florida, United States of America
8-Sep-18
Shot

Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier
Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
3-Oct-18
Shot to death

Venezuela

Vicky Julieth Alvarado

Moran, Venezuela
27-Jan-18
stabbed

Malvina Paiva

Caracas, Venezuela
3-Mar-18
shot

China Colón

Naguanagua, Venezuela
24-Apr-18
shot

Rosada Durán Romero

Lara, Venezuela
17-May-18
shot

Carol Pérez Guerrero

Bolívar, Venezuela
23-Sep-18
shot

Presented by the Remembering Our Dead Project, <http://www.tdor.info>

Additional sources provided by TmT research project, <http://transrespect.org/en/trans-murder-monitoring/tmm-resources/>

TMM UPDATE TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2018

Between 1 January 2008 and 30 September 2018

2981

murders of trans and gender-diverse people were registered worldwide.



Note From An Ally

by: Gena Durrett



My name is Gena, and I have known Sarah (owner and operator of TVEN) since high school. When we met, Sarah was a different person. She had mastered the art of hiding who she truly was. She has spoken in detail about her upbringing, and because it is not my story, I won't delve into it here. But when we met, I saw what most of us were: semi-put-together teenagers who only pretended to have a clue about life. Really, isn't that what we do in high school? Fake it till we make it? Circumstances being what they were, fate put us together in one of the nerdiest situations: band class. Kids from all walks of life take an interest in the arts during school, and we were no exception. Band is a place where everyone is accepted, and I think that is why so many types of outcast end up there. I am a self-proclaimed lover of nerds. I love people who are socially awkward, but who are putting themselves out there for the world to see regardless of that awkwardness, being themselves and living life.

The point being, I came to love her as she was then, and will always hold and cherish my memories of our high school years. Unfortunately, she moved away with her family, and as happens, we lost touch. Thanks to the wonders of social media, years later we reconnected. And she came out to me as transgender. Until this, my whole experience with transgender people was what I had seen on television and movies (I live in a small town), and we all know how stereotypical on screen media plays these types of "roles." So, I had a lot of questions. Thankfully, Sarah forgave all of my ignorance, and if I made a mistake she didn't take offense. She knew I was just learning and encouraged me to not only learn from her, but to research on my own and come to her anytime with more questions.

So are you asking yourself "How can I be an ally?" I can help you out. It may come as a huge shock when the person you love and have known your whole life decides to brave the unknown and come out to you. And I hope you understand that it IS brave for someone to tell their secret to you. Even with all of the work worldwide, there is still work to be done, and

the term transgender still comes with its own stigma. There is violence and discrimination against transgender people worldwide. Your person has no idea how you are going to react. They face the shame, degradation, disappointment, and heartbreak if you are not willing to accept them as they truly are. On the other hand, when your person comes out to you, it may seem like things click. You may understand some things that were noticed but not voiced, and all of a sudden it all makes sense. You have the power to make or almost literally break your person's well-being.

For me, it was in between shock and acceptance. As I said, Sarah had mastered the "hide", so I really had no clue that she was not the gender she was assigned at birth. I was very surprised and actually speechless (this says a lot, by the way). I had no idea what to say, but even as I was trying to think of something, the perfect thing, I knew in my heart that what gender Sarah was didn't matter. It didn't matter because gender does not dictate what we are inside, it does not dictate how we love or how our souls view each other. I didn't have the words for this back then, but I knew the most important thing: Sarah is my friend, and I love her. I don't care if she is Sarah, Steve, Chris, or Michelle. Her name doesn't matter to me. What DOES matter is that she remain my friend and to not lose touch again. So if you are wondering how to "deal with" with someone coming out to you, the only task you have at that point is to say OK. There is no "dealing with" the situation. There is only acceptance. If you cannot accept, make a clean break and walk away. Let your person heal with people who DO accept them. If you think about this acceptance, it makes sense. Isn't that what each and every human being in the world wants? Just to be able to be themselves and be happy? Well, please take these words to heart: Your acceptance will mean the world. When you DO accept, there will come a time when you will no longer see the person how they used to be. It happened unexpectedly for me, and I was surprised when I realized I had stopped thinking of Sarah as the boy I used to know, and now think of Sarah in high school.

I not only accepted my friend in her "pre-Sarah" form because that was who I knew and loved, who happened to be one of my oldest friends, but I accepted the real Sarah, from the moment she told me she was not what the world had known for all of her life. I believe this acceptance renewed her faith in



the human Spirit, and gave her the strength to hold her head up and show the world how strong she really is. She had already begun to gather a strong support system around her in her chosen family in college, but nothing can be better than having the acceptance, love, and faith of old friendships.

While understanding when your person comes out to you is absolutely wanted, it isn't necessary. Your first task is to accept. Understanding can come after. Your person will be more than happy to "train you up" so to speak, as Sarah did me. After you have processed, ask questions. Learn the terminology. Learn your person's preferences. Research. And above all, accept your person just as they are. And brace yourself. You are coming into a whole new world. This colorful world where anything is possible with the love and acceptance that is craved and given is at your door. Just open it. Walk through it and learn about it. You won't be sorry.

I know I'm not!

TVEN UPDATE:

While recovering in the hospital from her long awaited Gender Confirmation Surgery, our founder, Sarah Flowers, was asked to present at a healthcare summit being hosted by Kaiser Permanente on December 3, 2018. As part of this presentation, she will have the opportunity to discuss some of the healthcare needs of the transgender community in regards to gender confirmation surgeries, the recovery process, and how hospital staff can be better equipped to more appropriately work with and care for both transgender and gender non-conforming patients and clients. In addition to this she will also be presenting about the various resources currently offered through the Transgender Visibility & Education Network, such as the various offerings through our website, our ongoing efforts through our Facebook page, as well as our research, support, and informational articles in the TVEN Quarterly magazine. Sarah is hopeful that this presentation will lead to more presentations in the future as TVEN works to bring additional visibility to the transgender and gender non-conforming community as well as to continue offering education and educational resources to the public at large.

Over the last year we have been hard at work researching laws, accounting & IRS guidelines, and incorporation guidelines as we prepare to turn the Transgender Visibility & Education Network into a fully recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. By incorporating as a non-profit organization, we will be able to offer an even more widespread distribution of the TVEN Quarterly magazine to as many medical, therapy, legal, and political offices, in addition to as many LGBTQIA+ resource centers as possible throughout California and the entire United States. We want to be able to provide these magazines at no cost to readers through donations and grants from those who are able to give. As part of the donations and grants that we hope to receive, we will also be able to expand our research, education, and visibility efforts to a much broader audience with the express purpose of helping transgender individuals to learn more about themselves and helping both our allies and the general population to learn more about the transgender community and how best to support us.

If you are interested in playing a more active role in helping to build and develop the Transgender Visibility & Education Network into a worthy and sustainable non-profit organization, we can definitely use your help. We have numerous [currently] volunteer positions that we are looking to fill as we work to build this non-profit from the ground up. And many of these positions have the potential to eventually become paid positions (once we attain adequate funding) for the right individuals. If you would like to learn more about our open positions, please visit our website at <https://www.TransgenderVEN.com/Support> and scroll down to the Volunteer Today section. If you have any questions about TVEN, the TVEN Quarterly magazine, or any of our open positions, please e-mail us at info@transgenderven.com.

Transgender Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Ben Barres, Ph.D., MD

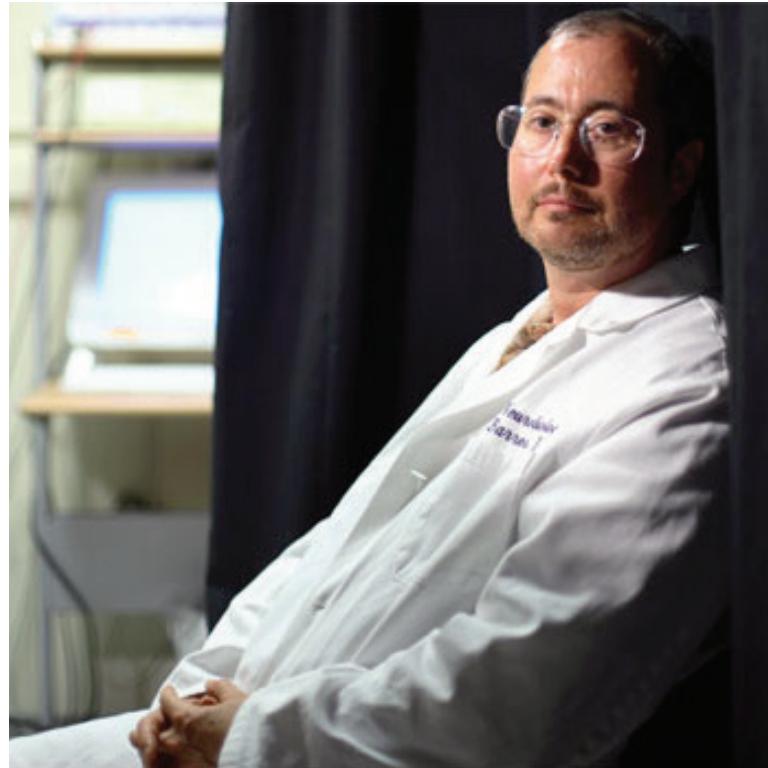
Benjamin A. Barres (1954-2017) was one of the few publicly “out” transgender scientists working in a tenured academia position. He was a significant leader in many communities, advancing science and fighting for the rights of others with his dying breath. For this issue, Gender Science Corner will spotlight this incredible activist and scientist who lost his battle to advanced pancreatic cancer on December 27, 2017.

Prior to his transition in 1997, Barres grew up in West Orange, New Jersey. Like many, he first became aware of his gender at a young age, about three or four, although it would be many years before he learned the term “transgender.” With a fraternal twin sister and a younger brother, his differences seemed all the more obvious to his own perspective, although his family’s understanding was, unfortunately, very poor. He found that his disappointments grew year by year, as gifts and activities fell more out of line with his evolving gender identity. He began to be socially isolated and bullied as well. At the time, gender variance was not spoken of and support resources were nonexistent. Barres found himself in a place many will recognize – feeling great pain, suicidality, and little hope for change.

“It is difficult to express the degree of continued emotional pain... How could I ever utter something like that to anybody?”
– Barres on time prior to transition.

As an adult, Barres worked his way through a degree in neurobiology at MIT, then medical training at Dartmouth, and a Ph.D. in neuroscience at Harvard. It was during this time that sexism became an all too common feature in his life. Still presenting as female at the time, he was treated as such, often being discouraged from pursuing science, or worse. Upon comparison with how he was treated as a man in science after his transition, these experiences would seem all the more obvious in hindsight. Barres made the decision to transition in 1997 not long after being promoted to a tenured position at Stanford. An article in the newspaper introduced him to the term transgender through the story of Jamison Green, an FTM activist. He was relieved to find a great deal of support from both family and colleagues for his coming out and recognized that not everyone finds their transition process this smooth.

Barres has written and lectured extensively on his



experiences in an effort to dispel myths about women’s abilities in science. As both a neuroscientist and a transgender person who completed their transition later in life, he had significant knowledge and experience to share. One of his widest-reaching articles was a piece he wrote in 2006 for Nature. In it, Barres tackled the idea that women were not advancing in science due to innate ability, including his own experiences, and did not hesitate for a moment to drag a few fellow scientists through the mud in the process. He also spends some time giving his advice on how to work for change, and I think this advice suits not just helping women in science, but minorities trying to break into any industry. His key points? Don’t stop pushing for change and better representation, and don’t stop supporting each other along the way. Our continued work and our continued confidence in ourselves are critical in our success!

“By far, the main difference that I have noticed is that people who don’t know I am transgender treat me with much more respect: I can even complete a whole sentence without being interrupted by a man.” – Barres on sexism.

One of Barres' passions in life was working toward representation of gender minorities in the sciences at all levels. Of all minority communities, transgender people remain possibly the most grossly underrepresented in STEM fields (it is difficult to know this with statistical certainty, due to the number of trans* individuals who are understandably unwilling to identify publicly.) Many trans* graduate students are not out to their mentors, fellow students, or professors for fear of potential repercussions. In areas where rent inflation is becoming a serious problem, Teaching Assistant salaries can scarcely afford the basic necessities, nevermind the medical costs of transition. The project "500 Queer Scientists" is a visibility project for LGBTQ+ people in STEM fields and is an excellent resource to find visibility and role models for trans* scientists. The work that Barres began in the name of gender equality was an incredible start, but we all must continue to make institutional changes to bring people of all genders into all opportunities of STEM fields.

Barres was a survivor of breast cancer, for which he had a double mastectomy at age 40. He inherited a BRCA2 mutation, which predisposed him to both the cancer he survived and his later pancreatic cancer at age 62. Following his second cancer diagnosis, he survived an incredible 22 months, working continuously to support his students and advocacy projects, and complete his autobiography. In his own words, Barres was, "happy to be an openly transgender scientist and serve as a role model for young LGBT scientists." The community could not have asked for a better one, and he will be missed.

Major Accomplishments

In the back of his autobiography, along with his photograph, Barres rather humbly notes that he was "Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology at Stanford University and one of the world's leading researchers on the role of the brain cells known as glia". But this brief sentence can't possibly summarize the accomplishments of this man's life. He revolutionized much of what we know about the brain with his research, but he boasts many additional successes as well, including:

- Campaigning for and changing the selection procedures of the prestigious NIH Pioneer Award, after a nearly all white male committee selected winners of a similar profile.
- Campaigning for and changing the nomination process for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigators, which previously resulted in women almost never being nominated.
- Establishing a child care assistance program for untenured faculty at Stanford
- Began the process of discussing sexual harassment at scientific conferences and convinced several major conferences to require a pledge from attendees to refrain from such behavior and ban those that do.

- Campaigning for more representative practices at major universities, often refusing to speak at institutions if they were not inviting and hiring equal numbers of women.
- And importantly, Barres holds the honor of being the first transgender scientist to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences, an award he earned in 2013.

How You Can Help

The loss of Ben Barres represents the loss of a great icon of the community, but we do not have to let his work go unfinished. There are many things that individuals at all levels can do to continue supporting the transgender community.

- If it is comfortable and safe for you – Be Out! Departments get away with a lot simply because "it doesn't affect anybody." The more visibility the community has, the more change we can create.
- Be vocal. You don't have to be out (or be trans!) to be vocal about things a conference, department, or individual is doing wrong. Send a private email for a gentler approach. Use TVEN resources to help educate!
- Industries outside of academia aren't exempt! You can help affect change anywhere you work.

Additional Info:

- The Autobiography of a Transgender Scientist (2017). Ben Barres. MIT Press, Cambridge.
- 500 Queer Scientists:
<https://www.500queerscientists.com/>
- Jamison Green:
http://www.jamisongreen.com/jgassoc_008.htm
- Does Gender Matter? (2006, Nature Vol. 442, Issue 13; Ben Barres): <https://go.nature.com/2lnkSCa>

Do you know a trans scientist we should spotlight? Email science@transgenderven.com!

Amy Flowers is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California at Davis — Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology program — where she is completing a dissertation in reproductive physiology. Amy is interested in development and diseases of the female reproductive tract, and transgender women's medicine, and hopes to work making a difference in the health of all women. When not working on her research or TVEN, Amy enjoys spending time with her wife Sarah and their 2 cats, Hunter and Chewie. Her favorite thing about research is knowing science fiction is just science that hasn't happened yet (and she can't wait to own a light saber).



Building Stronger Lives Through Education



Transgender
Visibility
&
Education
Network

<https://www.TransgenderVEN.com>
Facebook: @TransVENetwork

ABOUT TVEN

The Transgender Visibility & Education Network offers information, resources, and visibility for all things transgender.

There are tons of websites out there which offer pieces of the puzzle, but this Facebook page pulls all of those resources together into one easy-to-find place and serves to offer information which caters to:

- Transgender Individuals
- Family, Friends, Coworkers, and Allies
- Professionals and Businesses

This page is a global community resource for anyone looking to learn more about what it means to be transgender (and all categories under the transgender umbrella).

EDUCATION

Learn about the medical, psychological, emotional, and social issues that affect every transgender individual.

“Life isn’t always easy, but it does get better.”

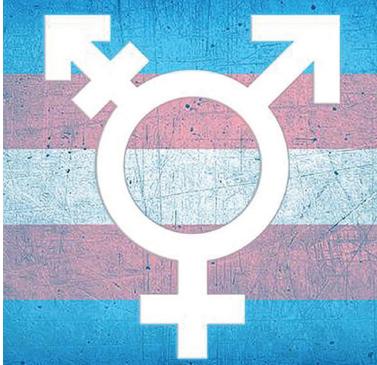


RESEARCH

Learn about new research and policies that are helping transgender & non-binary individuals to live a better life.

POLITICAL

Learn about the various global political movements and policies that affect transgender individuals around the world.



SOCIAL

Discuss topics that are important to you and meet new friends and allies along the way. Post websites and articles that might be useful to others in the community.

