

# More Than a Number

SHIFTING  
THE MEDIA  
NARRATIVE ON  
TRANSGENDER  
HOMICIDES

MARCH 2018

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*This report documents the epidemic of anti-transgender violence in 2017, and serves as a companion to GLAAD's tip sheet **Doubly Victimized: Reporting on Transgender Victims of Crime**. We encourage you to read **Doubly Victimized** at [glaad.org/DoublyVictimized](http://glaad.org/DoublyVictimized) if this is your first experience writing about transgender people who've been victimized by crime. It covers basic information for journalists, while this report focuses on some of the more nuanced issues we've seen in recent coverage.*

This report is being released at a time in our current political climate where LGBTQ acceptance is slipping in the U.S. and anti-LGBTQ discrimination is on the rise. GLAAD and The Harris Poll's most recent *Accelerating Acceptance* report found that 55 percent of LGBTQ adults reported experiencing discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity – a disturbing 11% rise from last year.

In our online resource for journalist and advocates, the Trump Accountability Project, GLAAD has recorded over 50 explicit attacks by the Trump Administration – many of which are aimed at harming and erasing transgender people, including an attempt to ban trans people from serving in the U.S. military, and rescinding guidance on how our nation's schools should treat transgender students equally under Title IX.

There are signs that fatal violence is on the rise. In 2017, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs recorded reports of 52 hate violence-related homicides of LGBTQ and HIV-affected people, an 86% increase in single incident homicide reports from 2016. That is the equivalent of one homicide a week of an LGBTQ person in the U.S. – and a majority of these victims were transgender people, in particular transgender women of color.

This report seeks to continue and evolve the ongoing national conversation around the media coverage of fatal violence that transgender people in this country experience far too frequently. We believe this report will be a vital resource for LGBTQ media outlets, mainstream reporters who are assigned to cover trans issues, LGBTQ advocacy organizations, and more. Victims can no longer tell their own stories, so we must all work together and take extra care to report accurately and fairly on the lives we have lost.



**Sarah Kate Ellis**  
President & CEO, GLAAD

**“This report is a call for all of us to develop a more sophisticated and nuanced way of examining the stories of those transgender people whose lives are cut short by senseless and tragic violence.”**

## **An Open Letter to Media**

In an effort by media to accurately and appropriately report on transgender victims of crime, there is a pervasive, although well-intentioned, issue of sensationalized framing that can do more harm than good. Toward the end of each year, when the number of known transgender homicide victims exceeds that of the year before, many news outlets label that particular year as the “deadliest year” for transgender people.

LGBTQ media outlets, mainstream reporters who cover trans issues, and LGBTQ advocacy organizations have historically played a role in perpetuating this messaging. We at GLAAD acknowledge our accountability in contributing to this narrative and are committed to reframing stories of anti-transgender violence in the future. This report is a call for all of us to develop a more sophisticated and nuanced way of examining the stories of those transgender people whose lives are cut short by senseless and tragic violence.

This framing needs to shift for a number of reasons. First, this narrative gives media outlets permission to ignore the epidemic of anti-transgender violence until the number has surpassed the previous “record,” at which point

it then becomes “newsworthy.” Acts of violence against the trans community are horrific and pervasive, and should be covered regardless of the recorded number of deaths. In tracking violence, there is nothing won and no goal is met when the victim count reaches a certain number, and framing it as such is insensitive to the seriousness of the issue.

In addition to being insensitive, the “deadliest year” narrative is also inaccurate. For a number of reasons, murders of transgender people often go under-reported. As such, we can never be fully confident that the number of known transgender murder victims reflects the total number killed. “The deadliest year” narrative implies that more transgender people have been killed in some calendar year than another, but there is no way of knowing whether or not this is true. In an age where a stronger emphasis than ever is being put on accurate reporting, it is crucial that reporters understand the role these headlines can play in perpetuating this false narrative.

None of this is to say that reporters should downplay the severity of the epidemic of anti-transgender violence. On the contrary, reporting accurately, being intentional with

one’s language, and examining the issue with more depth and nuance will serve to help readers to conceptualize and understand the violence transgender people face. Reporting in this way is also a step toward reducing anti-transgender violence in years to come, through greater public understanding and acceptance of transgender people.

As we continue our mission to improve reporting on transgender victims of crime, it is important that we also make a concerted 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. Everyday, remarkable transgender people accomplish feats that deserve media recognition, but sadly, go unnoticed in most cases. Only 20% of Americans think they know someone who is transgender in their workplace, family, or school. It is crucial that mainstream media tell stories of transgender lives, in addition to covering their deaths. Through learning about our lives, acceptance and understanding can replace fear and violence.



**Nick Adams**  
Director of Transgender Media  
and Representation, GLAAD

# Beyond “Trans 101” Reporting Tip Sheet

**Don’t treat each case as a number.** Stories on trans murders can be simplistic and fall into the same predictable format: name of victim, circumstances of their death, basic details of their life including age and location, and a running tally of the number of known transgender murders that year.

**Don’t compare differing tallies of deaths created by advocates and organizations documenting cases of anti-trans violence.** Different organizations might have different numbers of transgender victims of violence. This can be due to groups using different criteria, such as whether or not to include police-involved deaths or suicides. Focusing on the differing numbers shifts the story away from the victims themselves.

**Don’t, under any circumstance, use the victim’s birth name if they no longer go by that name, and make certain to use the pronouns the person used for themselves.** If the pronouns they used are not known, use the pronoun that matches how they lived publically.

**Don’t criminalize the victim or sensationalize their past.** Due to disproportionate discrimination, the transgender community faces high rates of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and criminalization.

**Don’t put in personal details that are not relevant to the story.** This includes invasive details about their transition, details about what gender markers appear on their identity documents, or any possible criminal record, history of sex work, or drug use.

**Don’t rely on the police as the only source of information on the homicide of a trans person.** Police are frequently the source of misnaming and misgendering transgender victims, therefore, if police are relied on as the sole source of information, it will often be inaccurate.

**Don’t assume murder is the only form of anti-trans violence that deserves media attention.** Transgender people face high rates of physical violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence, as well as daily microaggressions. Covering only deadly acts of violence results in under-reporting the intensity and amount of violence transgender people face.

**Don’t only report on stories that place the transgender community in the context of victimhood.** Also cover topics such as victories for transgender equality, accomplishments of specific transgender people, stories of transgender people who lived prior to the 21st century, and more.

**Take time to humanize the victim.** Reach out with empathy to friends, family, and community members to get information about their life. Ask if there is a vigil being organized and include details.

**Remember there is no way to be fully confident that the number of known transgender murder victims reflects the total number killed in any given year.**

**Build relationships with local organizations working on trans and anti-violence issues in your local region.** These organizations are often valuable sources of information about the community. Getting to know the work of these organizations will go a long way in improving coverage of trans issues overall in your region, not just when tragedies occur.

**Continue to follow the story.** Local reporting will often misgender the victim throughout the investigation, trial, and sentencing surrounding the case. However, national outlets tend to only report the first beat of the story, when the victim is found. Ongoing national reporting can draw attention of the scale of the violence in a way that local reporting cannot. National attention can also put pressure on local reporters to be accurate and respectful.

# Case Studies

Media must work to accurately and respectfully identify trans homicide victims, question police and medical examiner reports rather than parroting them, and treat victims and their friends and loved ones with the dignity they deserve.

The case studies that follow take a closer look at how the homicides of transgender people are reported. In each case, they present what specifically went wrong with reporting, the role of local advocates and advocacy organizations in correcting the record, and what should be improved in future media coverage.



**Stephanie Montez, case study in community member advocacy and media correction**

Stephanie Montez, who also went by the name Elizabeth Stephanie Montez, was a 47-year-old transgender Latina killed in Robstown, Texas on October 21, 2017. Local media coverage, citing police sources, used Montez's birth name and misgendered her with incorrect pronouns. Without the work of local advocates, her identity would have remained inaccurately and inappropriately reported.

Thankfully, a local transgender advocate in Corpus Christi named Kathy Huff had heard from a friend that a local trans woman had been murdered and was able to single-handedly turn the narrative around. After scouring local media, Huff found that all local coverage was misgendering Montez. Huff reached out to local press for a correction, and also contacted GLAAD to help correct local media and ensure that Montez was treated with the dignity and respect she deserved.

Huff then reached out to members of the local trans community and allies, faith leaders, and organizations, including Equality Texas, to hold a rally in honor of Stephanie Montez and all of the trans people lost to violence in 2017. Huff's advocacy and work with advocates, local and national organizations, and the media ensured that Montez was added to the list of those we lost, and honored on Transgender Day of Remembrance.

If it were not for the work of a determined, local trans advocate, Stephanie Montez's story would never have come to light. This is not the exception, in fact it is often the rule, that local trans advocates are responsible for bringing the homicides of transgender people into the national spotlight. Their work is invaluable and should be viewed as a resource to inform press coverage at every step.

In future coverage, media must also work to accurately and respectfully identify trans homicide victims, question police and medical examiner reports rather than parroting them, and treat victims and their friends and loved ones with the dignity they deserve.



**Ally Lee Steinfeld, case study in trans erasure**

Ally Lee Steinfeld, a white 17-year-old trans woman, was one of the youngest known victims in 2017, along with Ava Le'Ray Barrin, who was also 17 at the time of her death. Ally was reported missing on September 1 and her remains were found on September 21 in Cabool, Missouri. Her remains were found burnt and mutilated, causing friends and family to come forward saying they believe that her death was hate-motivated.

The horrific details of Ally's murder, including her eyes being gouged out, her genitals stabbed, and her body burned are acts deeply rooted in transphobia and seen frequently in acts of violence against transgender people.

Due to Ally's young age, race, and the gruesome details of her case, national press, including the Associated Press and The Washington Post, were quick to call attention to her death. However, Ally's transgender identity was entirely excluded in the initial national reporting, even though

some local media did mention the fact that she did not use her birth name. By erasing Ally's identity, the disproportionately high rates of violence and harassment faced by the transgender community were removed from the initial conversation.

Through Ally's social media accounts, friends and advocates were able to find recent posts where she clearly self-identified as transgender saying; "I am coming out, I am mtf I hope u guys support me" and "trans male to female and I am mostly lesbian but pansexual."

When dealing with cases of deadly violence, public social media accounts should be seen as essential references prior to publishing a story, as they can often allow reporters to accurately and respectfully identify the victim's name and identity with their own words.



**Jaylow Mcglory, case study in local and national advocacy**

Jaylow Mcglory was a 29-year-old Black transgender woman who was killed in Louisiana on August 4, 2017. Local media coverage, citing police sources, misgendered Jaylow and did not publish a name for the victim in any local reporting. Were it not for the work of local and national activists and advocates, Jaylow would have literally remained a nameless victim.

A local community group in New Orleans, Louisiana, contacted the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a national coalition dedicated to ending all forms of violence against and within LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities, with the news of this homicide, as well as sharing a Facebook page that identified the victim as Jaylow Mcglory. For months, NCAVP worked diligently for four months to find information and reporting on Jaylow's homicide,

before finally making the decision to add her to their memorial list. Had accurate reporting happened in the first place, Jaylow would have been remembered and a part of the national conversation on this epidemic of violence four months earlier.

NCAVP then included Jaylow in their Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) list on November 20, 2017, and the Transgender Law Center's National Organizer, Raquel Willis, took to Twitter to amplify the importance of having Jaylow added to the list of community members who we mourned on TDOR. Thanks to the work of these local and national activists and advocates, Jaylow Mcglory was added to TDOR events, publications, and announcements across the nation.

Accurately reporting the name and gender identity of a victim is essential to reporting on any homicide, but especially the homicides of transgender women of color, who are both disproportionately affected by homicide and disproportionately misidentified. Accurate reporting of this information by police and media could potentially lead to breaks in case and investigations that could go cold if information is inaccurate or missing.

Jaylow's homicide also sheds light on the importance of journalists building relationships with local organizations working on trans and anti-violence issues in their local region. These organizations are often important sources of information on the community, as well as about available services and resources, and what people can do to help. Getting to know the work of these organizations will go a long way in improving coverage of trans issues overall, not just when tragedies occur.

**Public social media accounts should be seen as essential references prior to publishing a story, as they can often allow reporters to accurately and respectfully identify the victim's name and identity with their own words.**

# Spokespeople Speak Out

Transgender people, most often transgender people of color, bear the weight and responsibility of being organizational spokespeople about the homicides of transgender people in the US, often fielding questions from reporters that are inappropriate or uninformed.

We asked activists who do this hard work: **What advice would you give to a reporter covering this issue?**

**“The deadline is important, but the difference you can make with your writing is more important.”**

## Monica Roberts

Journalist and Writer, Founding Editor of *TransGriot*, Long-Time Trans Advocate

Don't accept the word of the police officer verbatim – reporters need to ask questions.

Establish a rapport with the local trans groups. We don't know people's deadnames, but if we hear the name of someone we recognize, we may be able to give police and reporters information to crack the case. Getting the correct information as fast as possible to the trans community is vital – if you don't it will hinder the case.

9 times out of 10 people have a Facebook page, where you can get correct information about the person, and nice photos that you can use.

If the initial news reporting station gets it wrong – the other local stations copy and paste the inaccuracies across the whole local news cycle until we can clean it all up. Get it right from the outset.

Don't get it out first - get it right.

## Cecilia Gentili

Director of Policy, GMHC

Be as sensitive as possible, more than anything else. If you are cisgender, understand that you are dealing with an extreme tragedy.

Understand that violence can be triggering for the people you interview, as well as the people you are writing for.

I know that you are writing and that you have a deadline, but sometimes you have to put things ahead of the deadline. Take the time to get all the facts and details of who you are writing about. Once something is live online, it is hard to erase. The deadline is important, but the difference you can make with your writing is more important.



## **Dee Dee Watters**

Activist, Advocate, and Artist

Be mindful that a person was murdered. Considering that context, misgendering, using the wrong pronoun, deadnaming a person are all extremely harmful.

Never use mug shot in your reporting. You can find someone's Facebook photos just as quickly – use those.

Be mindful of the lived experience of both the person you are interviewing, and the victim you are writing about.

## **LaLa Zannell**

Lead Organizer, New York City Anti-Violence Project

Focus on the issue at hand, and don't dig into the personal life of the spokesperson. It's not about us as spokespeople and how we are impacted – it's about the victim.

Understand how hard it is for the spokesperson in these situations. We are healing from the trauma of the violence even as we are talking about it with reporters.

Ask about what resources can be included in your reporting. Is there a GoFundMe site to support the family? A vigil to honor the victim? A local organization that can support the community at this time?

## **Shelby Chestnut**

National Organizing and Policy Strategist, Transgender Law Center

Remember that you are talking to people both personally and professionally impacted by this violence. That makes answering insensitive questions all the more challenging for spokespeople.

The community is a small one, and in many cases, the spokesperson may even know the victim – be sensitive.

Instead of focusing on the logistics of the crime, focus on the person and their life.

Reporters can play an important role in correcting the police when they put out misinformation. Take setting that record straight seriously.

**“Remember that you are talking to people both personally and professionally impacted by this violence.”**

# The Importance of Continued Tracking

## 2017 Data Findings

GLAAD and other organizations like the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects will continue the tracking and analysis of homicides of trans people in the U.S. for the vital information that we can learn and share for advocacy, organizing, education, and memorialization. While GLAAD is advocating for moving away from simply counting the number of deaths each year, and toward an acknowledgement that we can not yet measure the full scope of this national tragedy, the information we track remains highly valuable. Below are the key demographic trends from the homicides that GLAAD tracked in 2017. Most importantly, this is followed by a memorialization of those individuals that we know of, who were killed last year.

### Demographic information of 2017 known transgender homicide victims

- In the United States alone, 26 people — that we know of — were victims of homicide in 2017.
- 25 (96%) of the 26 known transgender victims in 2017 were transgender women or people assigned male at birth who were feminine-presenting. Of these 25 people, 21 were transgender women, one was a two-spirit woman, one femandrogynous, one transfeminine non-binary and one had an unknown transfeminine gender identity. The final victim was a transgender man of color.
- 24 (92%) of the transgender people murdered this year were people of color: this included 21 Black people, two Latinx people, and one Native American person.
- Of the 26 transgender people who were reported murdered in 2017, 18 (69%) were members of the millennial generation, defined here as people born between 1980 and 1994.
- Three people were part of Generation Z, defined here as people born between 1995 and 2012. All three of these people were under the age of 20.

### Cases and investigations

- As is common practice in initial police or media reports on transgender victims of homicide, at least 22 of the victims (85%) were misgendered in initial reports of their deaths.
- At the date of this report, twelve of the murders (46%) are unsolved: of these twelve cases, a person or persons of interest have been identified in only four of them.
- In terms of method of homicide, sixteen (62%) of the victims were killed by gun violence and five (19%) were stabbed.

### Trends in location

- Fifteen (58%) were killed in states that either attempted or successfully passed anti-transgender legislation in 2017.
- All of this year's reported murders of transgender people were committed in cities whose median annual income in 2015 was below the 2016 national average of \$59,039.
- All but one of the murders were committed in cities.

**96% of the known transgender victims in 2017 were transgender women, or people assigned male at birth who were feminine-presenting.**

# In Memoriam

## Honoring transgender community members lost in 2017

We honor the transgender community members we have lost this past year and reflect on their lives by sharing stories by those who knew them. Transgender people in the U.S., especially transgender women of color are impacted by fatal violence at a disproportionate rate.

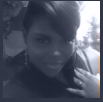
On the following pages are the names of those we lost in 2017. We know this list is incomplete, in part because the media still has a long way to go in correctly naming and identifying transgender people when they are murdered. As the world's largest LGBTQ media advocacy organization, GLAAD takes seriously our role in educating the media, correcting misgendering wherever we see it in the press, and striving to honor those we have lost the way they would want to be remembered.

Rest in peace and power, all those we have lost.

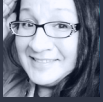
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## In Memoriam

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We remember **Mesha Caldwell**, a 41-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Canton, Mississippi in January, 2017. Mesha was a beautician and a hairstylist, and according to a friend and advocate who knew her, she "loved everyone and never met a stranger." After Mesha's death friends, family and loved ones left an outpouring of messages of love for her on social media.



We remember **Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow**, a 28-year-old, Native transgender/Two Spirit woman who our community lost to violence in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in January 2017. Jamie worked in customer service, loved the library, and friends and acquaintances remembered her as a proud and strong. One person remembered Jamie saying "She is the type of person that when she talks people stop to listen. The impact she leaves on people after meeting her once is something nobody forgets."



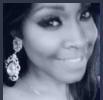
We remember **JoJo Striker**, a 23-year-old, Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Toledo, Ohio in February, 2017. There was an outpouring of grief for JoJo on social media, following her death, and her family believes strongly that her murder was the result of hate and bias.



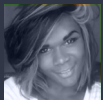
We remember **Jaquarrius Holland**, an 18-year-old, Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Monroe, Louisiana in February, 2017. Friends said that Jaquarrius loved make-up, hairstyling and R&B, and they took to social media to mourn her, using her own preferred hashtag #PrettyBrown. One friend remembered Jaquarrius saying, "You were a beautiful soul. You could keep me laughing all day."



We remember **Keke Collier**, also known to friends as Tiara Richmond, a 24-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Chicago, Illinois in February 2017. Friends and loved ones held a candlelight vigil in Keke's honor, and posted loving messages to her online. One long-time friend remembered Keke joyously, saying "She loved to dance all the time. She was always the life of the party."



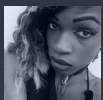
We remember **Chyna Gibson**, also known by her performing name, Chyna Doll Dupree, a 31-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in New Orleans, Louisiana in February 2017. Chyna performed in shows around the country and was well-known, loved and remembered for having remarkable talent. One close friend remembered Chyna, saying, "She's left a hole in our hearts, not only in New Orleans but outside here, too. I'll never forget her."



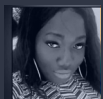
We remember **Ciara McElveen**, a 25-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in New Orleans, Louisiana in February, 2017. Following her death, a close friend who Ciara called an "auntie" to her said "She was a blessing to me as much as I was a blessing to her."



We remember **Alphonza Watson**, 38-year-old, Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Baltimore, Maryland in March 2017. Alphonza loved gardening and cooking and her mother lovingly remembered her as "the sunshine of our family." Following her death, a vigil was held in Alphonza's honor by local transgender organizations and advocates.



We remember **Kenne McFadden**, a 27-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence on San Antonio, Texas in April, 2017. Friends, family and local organizations and advocates held a memorial and candlelight vigil for Kenne near the place where her body was found. Kenne's mother remembered her as a poetry and music lover, and sang one of her daughter's favorite songs at her vigil.



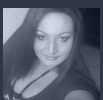
We remember **Chay Reed**, a 28-year-old, Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Miami, Florida in April 2017. Friends remembered Chay as a funny, caring friend who loved to dance and "was a light, always trying to make everyone around her happy."



We remember **Mx. Bostick**, a 59-year-old, Black transgender person who our community lost to violence in New York City in April, 2017. A widely attended vigil was held for Mx. Bostick by community members, advocates, and organizers from all over New York City on the corner where they lost their life to bring attention to crisis of violence that transgender people of color face.



We remember **Sherrell Faulkner**, a 46-year-old, Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Charlotte, North Carolina. Friends and family took to Facebook to leave messages of love for Sherrell and grief at her death. "My heart was not ready for this," said one friend.

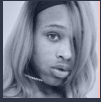


We remember **Josie Berrios**, also known by the names Kendra Adams and Kimbella Rosé, a 28-year-old transgender Latina who our community lost to violence in Ithaca, New York in June, 2017. Josie was remembered online as a well-known, loved, and incredibly talented performer in her community. Said one person, "She was part of so many families here in Ithaca, that many are feeling stunned and lost following this news. Her presence is still felt, and will never be forgotten."

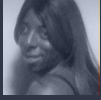
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## In Memoriam

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We remember **Ava Le'Ray Barrin**, a 17-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Athens, Georgia in June 2017. Friends and family held a candlelight vigil to remember Ava. Tributes to Ava were also posted online, one of which called her "a brave young woman who feared nothing, nobody, and especially not being herself."



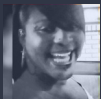
We remember **Ebony Morgan**, a 28-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Lynchburg, Virginia in July 2017. In response to her death, local LGBTQ advocates held a community meeting to honor Ebony and discuss the violence that transgender women of color face.



We remember **TeeTee Dangerfield**, a 32-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Atlanta, Georgia, in July 2017. TeeTee worked as restaurant server and union shop steward at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. She was a beloved union member of Local 23, which wrote a moving statement on her death. Her leadership was held up by coworkers and union members after her death, on saying: "People would go to her when they had concerns or trouble. She would be their voice. She was amazing."



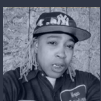
We remember **Gwynevere River Song**, a 26-year-old white transgender femme-identified person who our community lost to violence in Waxahachie, Texas in August 2017. Gwynevere was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and was femandrogynous. A memorial was held in her honor, where friends, family and local advocates gathered. Gwynevere's mother thanked attendees saying, "Thank you all for attending my beautiful daughter's memorial. I miss her beautiful soul every day."



We remember **Kiwi Herring**, a 30-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in St. Louis, Missouri in August, 2017. Herring was married to her partner and a mother to three children, and loved ones and neighbors were devastated by her death. Herring's neighbors held a candlelight vigil to honor Kiwi. There was also an outpouring of love for Kiwi online with one person saying she was, "a parent and a human beloved by the neighborhood children around her. Kiwi fed people with love and had a contagious smile."



We remember **Jaylow Mcglory**, a 29-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Alexandria, Louisiana in August 2017. News of Jaylow's death only came to national attention after advocacy by Youth BreakOUT, the New York City Anti-Violence Project, and the Transgender Law Center, who raised awareness and helped the nation to mourn her previously unreported death.



We remember **Kashmire Redd**, a 28-year-old Black transgender man who our community lost to violence in Gates, New York, in September, 2017. A local LGBTQ community organization that Kashmire was connected to held a community conversation following his death.



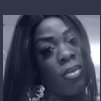
We remember **Ally Lee Steinfeld**, a 17-year-old white transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Texas County, Missouri, in September, 2017. Friends and family spoke out in the press, saying that they felt that Ally's death was hate-motivated. Her mother remembered her as, "very loving, caring, would help anybody in need, always smiled, tried to crack jokes to keep people happy."



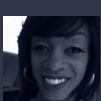
We remember **Derricka Banner**, a 26-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Charlotte, North Carolina, in September, 2017. There was an outpouring of support by concerned community members and advocates following Derricka's death.



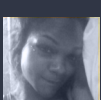
We remember **Stephanie Montez**, who also went by the name Elizabeth Stephanie Montez, a 47-year-old transgender Latina who our community lost to violence in Robstown, Texas in October 2017. A local organization held a rally in the name of justice for Stephanie and to denounce the epidemic of violence facing trans women. Friends of Stephanie also spoke out in the media about her, one friend saying "She just had a great outlook on life. She was very supportive of everyone."



We remember **Candace Towns**, a 30-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Macon, Georgia in October 2017. Following her death, Candace's friends and family remembered her in loving posts on social media. Others spoke to the press, with one friend remembering her generosity, saying "If I needed anything she would give it to me. She would give me the clothes off her back."



We remember **Brooklyn BreYanna Stevenson**, a 30-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in November 2017. Following her death, her family put out a touching statement saying, "We are heartbroken. Brooklyn BreYanna was an amazing daughter, sister and friend with a giving and loving heart."



We remember **Brandi Seals**, a 31-year-old Black transgender woman who our community lost to violence in Houston, Texas in December 2017. Brandi's aunt remembered her in remarks to the media as "a loving person" and "a beautiful person." Two vigils were held in Houston to honor and memorialize Brandi.

# Additional Resources

There may be terms that you encounter in this report, and during your investigating and reporting process, that will be unfamiliar. Please use the **GLAAD Media Reference Guide** ([glaad.org/reference](http://glaad.org/reference)) which will help guide your writing, and portray transgender people and certain aspects of trans experience in an optimally respectful and accurate way.

## Anti-violence and hate crimes

### National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)

[www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

Works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within LGBTQ communities.

### Matthew Shepard Foundation

[www.matthewshepard.org](http://www.matthewshepard.org)

Aims to erase hate and replace it with understanding compassion and acceptance through local, regional and national outreach. Works to empower individuals to find their voice to create change and challenge communities to identify and address hate within their schools, neighborhoods and homes.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

[www.transgenderdior.org](http://www.transgenderdior.org)

Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

## Homicide tracking

### GLAAD

<https://www.glaad.org/blog/glaad-calls-increased-and-accurate-media-coverage-transgender-murders>

Tracks and documents the murders of transgender people in the U.S. GLAAD advocates for fairness and accuracy in reporting by reaching out to news outlets that misgender or deadname transgender victims of crime.

### Mic

<https://mic.com/unerased>

Tracks murders of transgender people in the U.S. and offers a comprehensive look at transgender murders since 2010.

### National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)

<http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/NCAVP-A-Crisis-of-Hate-Final.pdf>

Documents intimate partner violence and hate violence in the U.S. through blog posts and annual reports.

## Transgender

### GLAAD

[www.glaad.org/transgender](http://www.glaad.org/transgender)

Advocates for transgender people to be represented fairly, accurately, and authentically in all forms of media.

### National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)

[www.transequality.org](http://www.transequality.org)

Advocates the need for policy change in order to advance transgender equality.

### Transgender Law Center (TLC)

[www.transgenderlawcenter.org](http://www.transgenderlawcenter.org)

Largest national trans-led organization advocating self-determination for all people. With a commitment to racial justice, TLC employs community-driven strategies to keep transgender and gender nonconforming people alive, thriving, and fighting for liberation.

### National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Transgender Law Project

[www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/transgender-law/](http://www.nclrights.org/explore-the-issues/transgender-law/)

Releases annual reports documenting their legal work in advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families.

### Transgender Law & Policy Institute

[www.transgenderlaw.org](http://www.transgenderlaw.org)

Brings experts and advocates together to work on law and policy initiatives designed to advance transgender equality. Responds by e-mail to questions about how the law in your jurisdiction affects you. Also offers referrals.

### Sylvia Rivera Law Project

[www.srlp.org](http://www.srlp.org)

Works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination or violence. Offers legal help with name changes, IDs, immigration and more.

### TransLatina Coalition

[www.translatinacoalition.org](http://www.translatinacoalition.org)

Advocates for the specific needs of the U.S. Trans Latina community and plans strategies to improve their quality of life.

### World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

[www.wpath.org](http://www.wpath.org)

Non-profit, interdisciplinary professional and educational organization devoted to transgender health that, through extensive research, developed the Standards of Care (SOC) for transgender patients.

### Trans Youth Family Allies (TYFA)

[www.imatyfa.org](http://www.imatyfa.org)

Empowers children and families by partnering with educators, service providers and communities to develop supportive environments in which gender may be expressed and respected.

### Gender Spectrum

[www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)

California-based nonprofit organization that offers professional development trainings to help institutions and organizations understand the gender spectrum, in-person and online support groups for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, and an annual Gender Conference and Professionals' Symposium aimed at increasing understanding of the gender spectrum.

### PFLAG Transgender Network

[www.community.pflag.org/transgender](http://www.community.pflag.org/transgender)

Washington, D.C. based non-profit organization that unites lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals. PFLAG has chapters across the U.S., many of which hold monthly support groups for the LGBTQ community and allies.

### Lambda Legal Transgender Parents Program

[www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/trans-parents/transgender/transgenderaud1](http://www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/trans-parents/transgender/transgenderaud1)

Resource that outlines the rights of transgender parents and offers a toll-free Help Desk for those who feel that they have experienced discrimination.

### COLAGE: Kids of Trans Resource Guide

<https://www.colage.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/KOT-Resource-Guide-Draft-2.pdf>

Resource guide aimed at helping children of transgender parents through the process of understanding and acceptance.

## Nondiscrimination

### Freedom for All Americans

[www.freedomforallamericans.org](http://www.freedomforallamericans.org)

Tracks key LGBTQ legal cases and offers numerous resources and tip sheets to help readers become stronger advocates by increasing understanding of key concepts. Aims to secure full nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people nationwide.

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