

A regional conference on elevating the rights, well-being, and emancipation of gender diverse people in the Caribbean



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MAY 22-25, 2024

COCO PALM RESORT CASTRIES, ST LUCIA









Transcendence Human Rights Conference

 $oldsymbol{Day}$ one Tuesday, May 21, 2024

ARRIVALS

Day two WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

THEME: QUALITY OF LIFE, WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE: HEALTH, DECENT WORK, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR: DANIELL DAPHNESS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ANDREW SEEBER

Day three THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

THEME: RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

CHAIR: RAVEN GILL

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: PAU GONZALES

 $oldsymbol{Day four}$ FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

THEME: CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND MOVEMENT-BUILDING

CHAIRS: GLYNN-DEVON BRYAN/ANDREW SEEBER

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: RAE ALIBEY

 $oldsymbol{Day five}$ SATURDAY MAY 25, 2024

DEPARTURES

"TRANSCENDENCE ROYALE: THE QUEERIBBEAN

CHRONICLES"

Day six SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

DEPARTURES



QUALITY OF LIFE, WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE: HEALTH, DECENT WORK, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR: DANIELL DAPHNESS

Under this thematic cluster, participants will engage among themselves and with experts to discuss pathways, challenges and strategies to acquire, maintain, improve, advocate for and mainstream decent quality of life standards for gender diverse persons, expanding their socio-cultural inclusion and unlocking their economic potential through (promoting and safeguarding their access to) education, employment, health, housing, etc. as matters of practical day-to-day reality. The cluster will also integrate perspectives around equity, particularly in times of crises/instability (whether politics, climate, or health related) with a focus on preparedness, adaptation and resilience.

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Registration and Welcome

Attendees arrive, check in, and receive event materials.

8:30 AM - 9:10 AM

Opening ceremony

Greetings:

- · Kenita Placide, Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity & Equality
- · Renae Green, TransWave Jamaica
- · Raven Gill, Butterfly Barbados
- Alexus D'Marco, United Caribbean Trans Network
- · H.E. Leslie Anderson, British High Commission
- Jaevion Nelson, UNAIDS

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM

Keynote address

Speaker: Andrew Seeber

BREAK 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Becoming You! - Identity, Expression, Visibility

Facilitator: Raven Gill

Participants will be engaged in an exercise of sharing experiences; reflecting on- and discussing- personal growth and development. Through their engagement, participants will share and be provided with insights and inspiration to enhance their level of empowerment, body image and overall well-being. The session seeks to unpack matters in relation to identity, expression and visibility in the context of navigating society while affirming one's gender identity and transitioning.

QUALITY OF LIFE, WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE: HEALTH, DECENT WORK, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR: DANIELL DAPHNESS



11:30AM - 12:30PM

Panel Discussion: Health

Moderator: Lucien Govaard

Panelists: Alexus D'marco, Sheré Samuels, Raven Gill, Andrew Seeber

This session focuses on discussing the work left to improve access to- and availability of- non-discriminatory, responsive and quality services, while achieving greater empowerment, health literacy and health seeking behavior at the individual and community levels. On a whole, the session will share insights and perspectives to improve the region's healthcare systems to prioritize inclusivity and awareness, reducing health disparities and creating a supportive environment for all individuals, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

LUNCH 12:30 PM- 1:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Workshop: Transitional Care: Gender and Body

Facilitator: Renae Green

Transitional care is life-saving care. This workshop provides essential guidance and support for individuals navigating gender-affirming transitions. Through an engaging and highly interactive session, participants share and learn about available resources, medical options, and holistic approaches to promote positive body image and self-acceptance. The workshop fosters a safe and inclusive space for dialogue, empowering participants to access the care and the support they need to affirm their gender identity authentically.

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Workshop: Safety and Security

Facilitator: Janeiro Bullard

Ensuring safety and security for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in the Caribbean requires providing inclusive training for law enforcement, advocating for legal protections, and collaborating with LGBTQ+ organizations to offer support services and safe spaces. These efforts help address unique challenges and promote a more inclusive and secure environment for all individuals.

Wrap-up & closing remarks

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM



RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

CHAIR: RAVEN GILL

This theme will address structural and systemic issues around (the state of) migration, family life, identity and personhood, property, privacy, fundamental freedoms (e.g. freedom of speech, assembly, movement, religion, etc.), human rights, and other similar and related topics as they are anchored in applicable law including the related regulations and policies, both domestically and internationally, to expand the enjoyment of rights, alleviate legal barriers, strengthen and safeguard access to justice and shape legal landscapes that are protective rather than punitive.

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration and Welcome

Attendees arrive, check in, and receive event materials.

9:00 AM - 9:20 AM

Keynote address

Speaker: Pau Gonzales

9:20 AM - 9:45 AM

Recap

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Panel discussion: Gender Identity Recognition

Moderator: Alexus D'marco

Panelists: Leah Thompson, Renae Green, Raven Gill, Pau Gonzales, Carmarion

D.Anderson-Harvey

The landscape of gender identity recognition varies globally, with some countries offering legal frameworks allowing gender marker changes and non-binary recognition, while others lag behind. This kind of recognition affects and may determine access to healthcare, social spaces and legal protections, among others, which all impact the experiences of transgender and non-binary individuals. Progress has been made, but disparities persist, highlighting the continuous need for action, including advocacy and awareness efforts.

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM

Introduction of Showcase Contestants

RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

CHAIR: RAVEN GILL



11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Panel discussion: Interfacing with Law Enforcement

Moderator: Glenroy Murray

Panelists: Glynn Devon Bryan, Daniel Daphness, Alexus D'Marco

Interacting with law enforcement in the Caribbean as a transgender or gender non-conforming person may pose challenges due to varying levels of understanding and acceptance. It's crucial for authorities to receive sensitivity training on LGBTQ+ issues and to demonstrate respect for chosen names and pronouns. Establishing clear guidelines and avenues to report discrimination can help ensure fair treatment and promote safety for all individuals.

LUNCH 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Panel discussion: Housing, Education and Employment

Moderator: Jean Luis Sano Santana

Panelists: Anika Walsh, Dane Lewis, Pau Gonzales, Rae Alibey

The panel discussion on "Housing, Education, and Employment" addresses the intersecting challenges faced by marginalized communities in accessing stable housing, quality education, and equitable employment opportunities. Advocates, community leaders and participants share insights on systemic barriers, discrimination, and strategies for promoting inclusivity and social justice in these crucial areas. Through collaborative dialogue and practical solutions, the panel aims to discuss opportunities to drive positive change and empower individuals to overcome obstacles, secure their rights, and achieve greater economic and social stability.

3:00PM - 4:00 PM

Working Group - Joint Advocacy Agenda/Roadmap

Facilitator: Lucien Govaard

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Wrap-up & closing remarks



CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND MOVEMENT-BUILDING

CHAIR: GLYNN DEVON BRYAN/ANDREW SEEBER

Visibility; Leadership; Organizing; (democratic) Participation are key topics under this cluster, which aims to table matters around Community Systems and Services, Succession Planning, Sustainability, and Organizational Development; among others as relevant to the ways in which civic engagement occurs among activists in the equality movement.

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration and Welcome

Attendees arrive, check in, and receive event materials.

9:00 AM - 9:20 AM

Keynote address

Speaker: Rae Alibey

9:20 AM - 9:45 AM

Recap

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Panel discussion: Democracy and other Civic Engagement Opportunities

Moderator: Jaevion Nelson

Panelists: Anika Walsh, Lucien Govaard, Jeshua Badoo, Rae Alibey

Activism is defined as the policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change. This, at its core, is a form of civic engagement, which Caribbean activists conduct primarily in the context of democratic governing systems that protect important freedoms including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the right to peaceful protest as well as to petition the government. This session explores the opportunities that exist, if and how they are being utilized and what strategic shifts in activists' civic engagement ought to be considered in order to maximize impact.

BREAK 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Workshop: Proposal Writing as Fundraising

Facilitator: Lucien Govaard, Renae Green

Proposal writing in fundraising involves succinctly articulating a compelling case for support to secure funding for a specific project or initiative. Effective proposals highlight the organization's mission, demonstrate the need for the project, outline its goals and objectives, detail how funds will be utilized, and emphasize the potential impact and benefits. Key elements include a clear problem statement, proposed solutions, budget, timeline, and evaluation plan. Through persuasive storytelling and evidence-based arguments, fundraising proposals aim to engage donors and partners, inspiring them to invest in the organization's mission and contribute to positive social change.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND MOVEMENT-BUILDING CHAIR: GLYNN DEVON BRYAN/ANDREW SEEBER



11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Roundtable - Funding and Partnerships

Moderator: Kenita Placide

UNAIDS, UNDP, Outright, CAISO, BFF and HRC.

This session gives participants an opportunity to interact directly with donors about opportunities for funding and partnership and provides guidance when applying for funding and forging partnerships.

LUNCH 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Workshop: Financial Responsibility and Liability

Facilitator: Charmain St Remy

Financial responsibility and liability for non-profits requires managing funds ethically and in compliance with regulations to maintain trust and transparency. Non-profits must adhere to strict financial reporting standards, budget effectively, and safeguard assets. Failure to do so can result in legal consequences and damage to the organization's reputation. Understanding these principles is essential for the sustainability and impact of non-profit organizations. This workshop provides an orientation to participants in relation to financial responsibility and liability, as a starting point or inspiration for improvement in this area.

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Human Rights Conference

Keynote Speakers

ANDREW SEEBER



Andrew Seeber, Ph.D., is an openly trans- and nonbinary-identified scholar and author of Trans Lives in the United States: Challenges of Transition and Beyond*. They earned their doctorate in Sociology with an emphasis in Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and have taught courses in Sociology, Social Work, Social Psychology, Gender, and Trans Studies. Dr. Seeber's research focuses on the experiences of the trans people and LGBTQ+ individuals from the Caribbean using an intersectional approach to study

family relationships, employment, and health care. They are currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of the Virgin Islands and live on St. Croix.

PAU GONZALEZ

Pau González Sánchez is a grassroots leader and advocate for LGBTQI+ equality in Panama. He cofounded Hombres Trans Panamá, the first trans masculine group in the country, and PFLAG-Panama. Pau has represented Panama in the Global Innovators Program of the Human Rights Campaign and is an alumnus of the Agents of Change program at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Currently, he is a Consultant for the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and coordinates the

"Latin American and the Caribbean Trans Masculine Historical Memory Project," which documents the personal narratives of trans men aged 40 and above.

Transcendence Human Rights Conference

Keynote Speakers

RAE AILBEY



Rae has several years of experience partnering with LGBTQI+ organisations to deliver psychosocial care to community members, develop their potential for self-advocacy, and advocate for gender equality. Rae holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is pursuing a Master's in Applied Psychology at The University of the West Indies.