

Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience





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TDOR History

A stylized illustration in the top right corner showing a hand holding a heart. The heart is orange with a small yellow heart inside it. The hand is purple and red. There are green leaves and small yellow flowers on a branch nearby.

Thank you for sharing this moment in time with us. I know these past years have been a lot as we celebrate Trans Awareness.

TDOR the holiday was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transwoman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the trans people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Roses seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. We know Black and brown trans girls often experience higher levels of violence at home, school, and work. Without saying, trans folk are no strangers to the need to fight for our rights and the right to simply exist is first and foremost.



Experiencing obscene levels of erasing transgender people sometimes in the most brutal ways possible, it is vitally important that those we lose are not forgotten and that we continue to fight for justice while keeping their names alive. It is pivotal to remember as we mourn that many, if not all of these victims, were killed by acquaintances, partners, or strangers- some of whom have been arrested and charged, but more often than not, their killers have yet to be identified and held accountable. As we know, in most cases, there is a clear sign of anti-trans bias at play. But we often fail to talk about how these queer and trans folk identities may have put them at risk of being in harm's way, such as forcing them into unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and/or engaging in survival sex work.



We know it's clear that Black and brown trans women are disproportionately affected by violence and, more specifically, Black trans women at the intersections of misogynoir, homophobia, and transphobia. These unchecked gun laws continue to deprive them of housing, healthcare, employment, and other necessities that are needed to thrive. Let us continue the fight against anti-trans rhetoric and violence. While simultaneously engaging in Trans Joy, let's cherish these moments with one another on the road to Liberation for all.



-Mulani Jackson (She/Her), Roses Initiative National Organizer



In Memoriam 2023



LaKendra Andrews
Trans Woman



London Price
Trans Woman



Lisa Love
Trans Woman



Dominic Dupree
GNC



A'nee Johnson
Trans Woman



Sherlyn Marjorie
Trans Woman



Chyna Long
Trans Woman



Luis Ángel Díaz Castro
Trans Man



YOKO
Non-Binary

In Memoriam 2023



Thomas 'Tom-Tom' Robertson
GNC



Camdyn Rider
Trans Man



Jacob Williamson
Trans Man



Chanell Perez Ortiz
Trans Woman



Ashia Davis
Trans Woman



Banko Brown
Trans Man



Koko Da Doll
Trans Woman



Ashley Burton
Trans Woman



DéVonnie J'Rae Johnson
Trans Woman

In Memoriam 2023



Ta'Siyah Woodland
Trans Woman



Tortuguita
Non-Binary



Chashay Ashanti Henderson
Trans Woman



Maria Jose Rivera Rivera
Trans Woman



Zachee Imanitwitaho
Trans Woman



Unique Banks
Trans Woman



KC Johnson
Trans Woman



Jasmine "Star" Mack
Trans Woman

Sadly, at least 26 transgender and GNC people were killed in the United States this year. We say "at least" because too often these stories go unreported/ misreported.

TDOR *by the Numbers*

Worldwide 2023

320

trans and GNC
people reported
murdered

94%

of victims were
trans women or
trans feminine people

46%

were killed
with a gun

80%

of the reported
Trans people
murdered were
affected by
racism

48%

of murdered trans
people were sex
workers

How to Honor TDOR



Host a Candlelight Vigil

A great way to honor our transcestors is to host a vigil where you can read the names of those we've lost.



Visual Representations

Using flowers, candles, pictures, etc., you can create a display for the number of lives lost.



Discussion/ Workshops

Hold a space to have conversations about being better allies. Create workshops for trans/non-binary folks.

Discussion Questions

1. What does TDOR mean to you?
2. What does it feel like when you learn about the death of a trans person?
3. How do you hold space for your emotional wellness during this time?
4. What can your teachers/advisors/peers do to support you?
5. When engaging in dialogue around this topic, what may be helpful to ask?
6. Why is it important to engage in these conversations?
7. How do you show trans resilience?
8. For Non-Trans People: How have trans people asked you to help advocate? What did you do?

Council Member Scar

What does TDOR mean to you?

For me, TDOR means to remember how far the trans movement has come over the years while acknowledging how far we still have to go.



How do you show trans resilience?

I continue living my life and highlighting my own trans joy.

Anything else you'd like to say about TDOR?

It's unacceptable how many trans people die each year because of transphobia. We need to stand together as a community to fight against this unjust slaughter of the trans community.

Scar, They/Them, Shoshone-Bannock Land in Idaho



Trans Resilience

“I think our communities are so resilient and they survive and have survived so well. I feel like we, as queer people, have a super power of being able to care for each other and provide the things that we need for each other.”

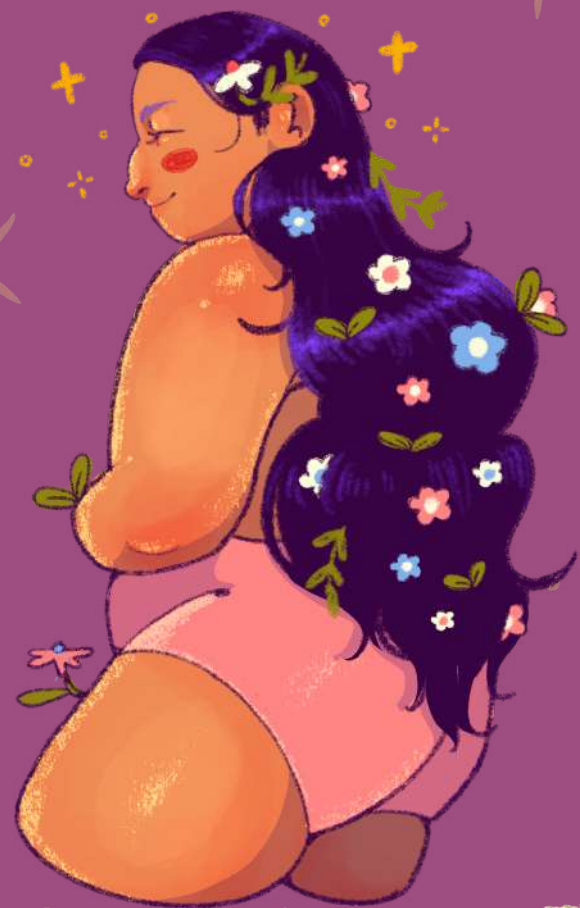
-Ky, They/Them, Ohio

“Protect the trans people around you. Love the trans people around you. Care for the trans people around you. Fight for the trans people around you.”

-Amayas, They/Them, Colorado

“Just existing in the world is a celebration and existing in the world is a form of revolution... It’s a really big accomplishment to just be yourself in the world... At some point, they will realize that we are people and we are a force. We are strong... There is hope, and things are going to get better, I promise you.”

-Ash Kranti, Xe/Xyr, Illinois






Resources

GSAN TDOR Resources: Compiled resources about TDOR, including history and guiding principles, additional ways to honor TDOR, and tips for planning a TDOR event

GLAAD TDOR Resources: Information for media, additional organizations and resources, and reports on violence and discrimination

TDOR Forward Together: Art, interviews, posters, and graphics about TDOR





“The more that people
see who we are, what we
are, the more they talk
with us, the more they
experience our
existence.”

-Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Founder of TDOR