



*Trans Day*  
*of*  
*Remembrance*  
**2020**

## Trans Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual international event; a tradition started in November 1998, with the murder of Rita Hester. Rita was a Black trans woman, murdered in Allston, Massachusetts. Following her death, over two hundred fifty members of her community joined to commemorate her life. In the following years, queer communities across the country joined in remembering her life, as well as the many trans people who were taken from us after.

This year, the Office of LGBTQ Services at Dickinson College has compiled this information about the lives lost to anti-trans violence alongside art, poetry, and statements of trans resistance and resilience created by Dickinson students who are part of the trans community and artworks selected by this year's Di(ne)alogue participants from Forward Together's "Trans Liberation Collection."

## Trans Day of Resilience Project

The Trans Day of Resilience project is a curated art effort started by the Audrey Lorde Project to recognize and celebrate the lives of trans people of color.

From their website (<https://tdor.co/>): "Our rebellious mourning recommit us to the living. We refuse to forget or forfeit our power, even in the face of epidemic violence. We remember: we are pure possibility. Our freedom dreams could set the whole world free."

With art as our portal, we imagine and femifest the world we deserve. May this project, for and by trans people of color, help us see ourselves safe and cherished, rested and healed, fully alive. Let's dream and shape an irresistible future together."

"No title"  
(Submission from Dickinson student)

In the mirrors stand my past and future, the angry ones with eyes of sutures, we are falling, never stalling, tick, tock, stop.

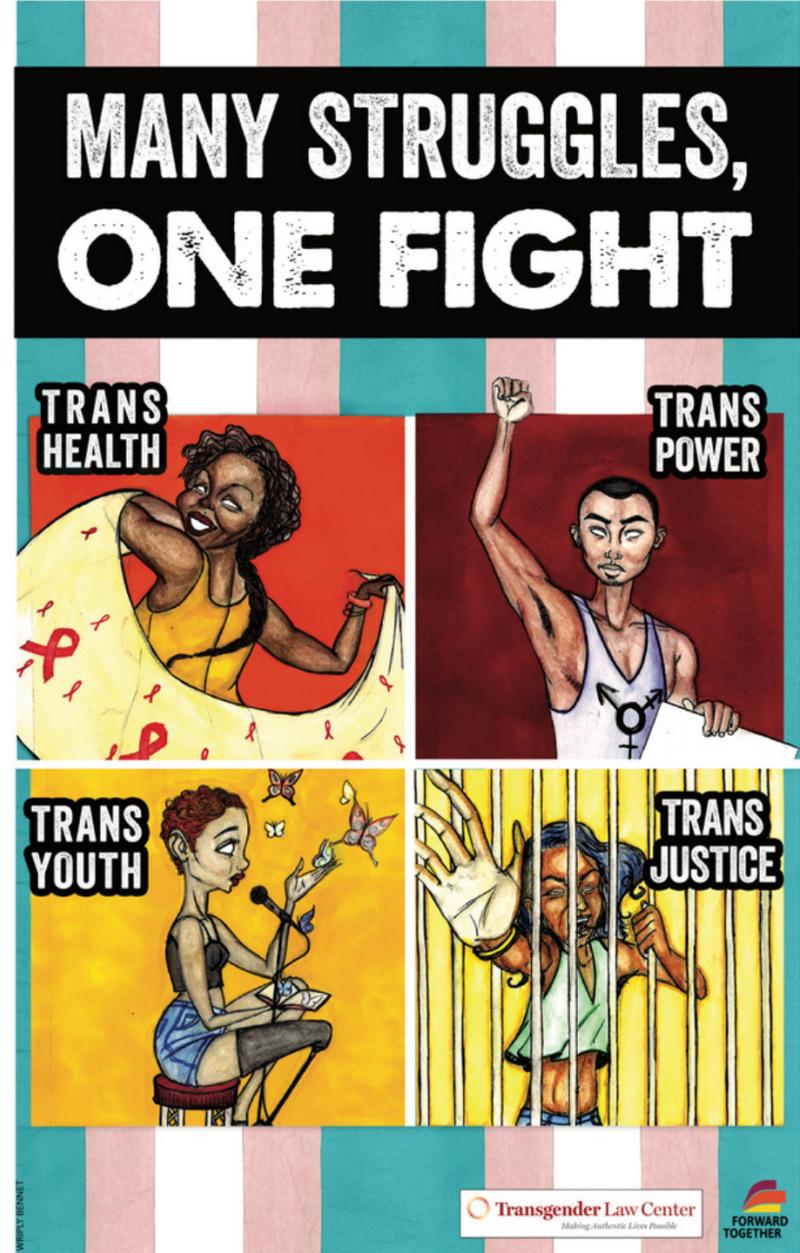
I'm no liar, my desires align inside the raging pyre, and when I made the shell collapse, they saw my heart of fire, tried and true, beating with my thoughts anew, Saffron smiles and cinnamon stain my clothes, the colours sink in. Holy, pure, my Holi powder, I will not die until my grave sings louder.

Let the thunder roll tonight, my voice inside the lightning bright, and make this world seem right again, this face reflect my mind again, when in the darkness I see farther, sorrow makes the pain seem stronger.

Take me apart, and I'll still be there, telling my truth to the open air.

**Art from Forward Together's  
Trans Liberation Collection**  
forwardtogether.org/art

"Make Trans Dreams a Reality" (2017)  
by Colin Laurel  
in collaboration with  
poet Nikole (Niko) Shahbazian



"Many Struggles, One Fight" (2016)  
by Wriply Bennet  
in collaboration with  
the Transgender Law Center

# Reading the Names and Stories

Our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil always recognizes those who passed away both within and outside the United States. The names and stories represented in this booklet encompass known victims of transphobic violence in the United States between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020, but these crimes often go under-reported and affect transgender people across the globe. We share these stories here to celebrate the lives and memory of these individuals, and we stand in solidarity with the people, communities, and organizations that resist and overcome transphobia and cissexism around the world every day.

For more information about the lives lost around the world in the last year, you can find resources and details at the TransRespect v. Transphobia Project.  
<https://transrespect.org/>

## ANGEL UNIQUE



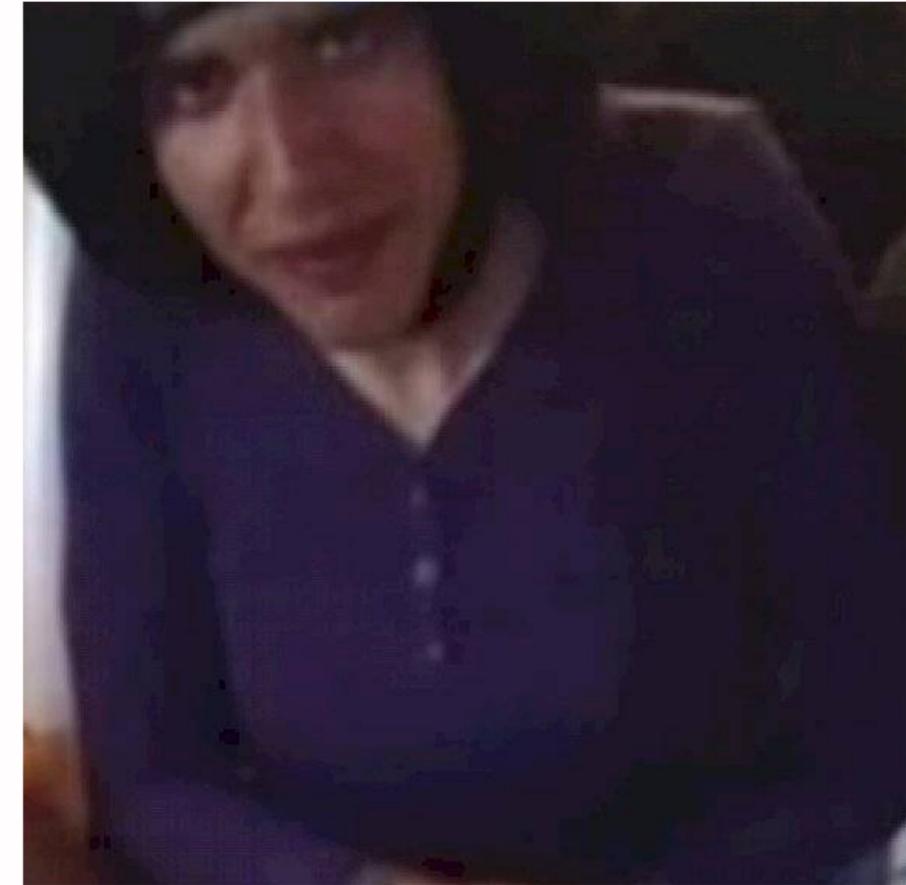
Angel Unique, a 25-year old Black transgender woman, was killed in Memphis, Tennessee, on October 25. A licensed cosmetologist, friends and family of Angel remembered her for being “very funny, very nice to everybody she met” and “such a bright person [with] a positive spirit.”

## DUSTIN PARKER



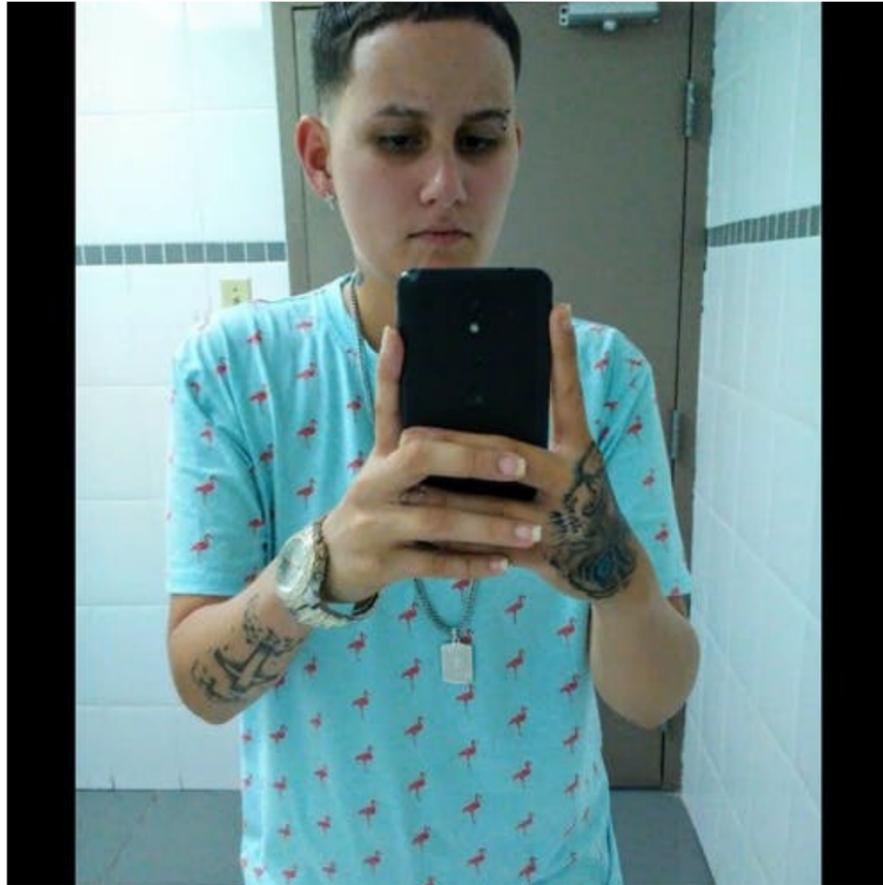
Dustin Parker, 25, was fatally shot in McAlester, Oklahoma, early on New Year's Day. His employers released a statement shortly after his death, remembering Parker as "a steadfast friend, an amazing husband and father and generous to a fault. He loved fiercely, worked tirelessly and took on life with so much hope and enthusiasm that his presence brightened all of our lives."

## NEULISA LUCIANO RUIZ



Neulisa Luciano Ruiz, was fatally shot in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico on February 24. Ruiz appeared to have been targeted by her killers after a social media post claimed a homeless transgender woman was using the women's restroom. Her attackers followed her in a car, filmed the brutal killing and posted it online. According to Metro Puerto Rico, members of her community knew her as "humble" and "noble."

## YAMPI MÉNDEZ AROCHO



Yampi Méndez Arocho, 19, was killed in Moca, Puerto Rico, on March 5. Arocho, a transgender man, shared his love for basketball and the NBA -- donning Miami Heat apparel on social media. The biography line on his Facebook reads simply, "Humility Prevails."

## SCOTT/ SCOTTLYNN DEVORE



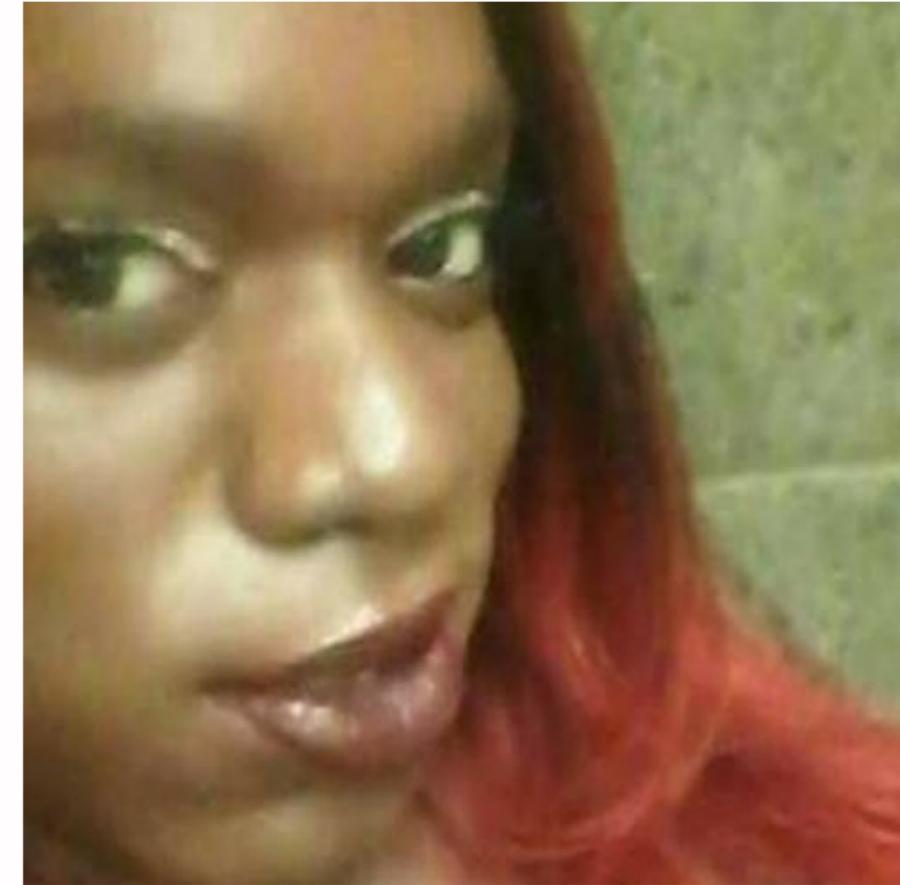
Scott/ Scottlynn Devore, a 51-year old gender non-conforming person, was killed in Augusta, Georgia. Scott also identified as Scottlynn Kelly DeVore and appeared to have been presenting as Scottlynn when leaving home for the last time on March 14. It is unclear based upon public information what name and pronouns DeVore would have wanted used in this tragic context. DeVore's body was found on March 30. Friends remembered Devore as "sweet" and "beautiful" on Facebook.

## MONIKA DIAMOND



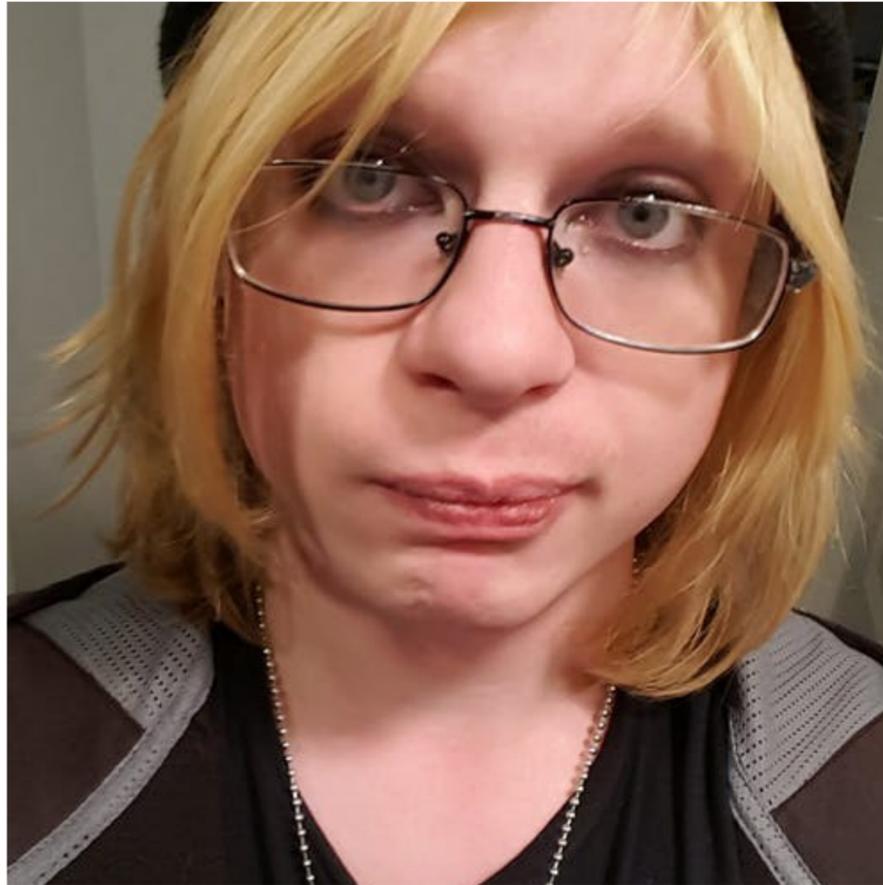
Monika Diamond, 34, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 18. Diamond was active in the Charlotte LGBTQ and nightlife community and was the co-owner of an event promotion company. She also was the co-CEO of the International Mother of the Year Pageantry System -- a pageant that honors LGBTQ mothers.

## LEXI



Lexi, 33, a transgender woman, was killed in Harlem, New York on March 28. According to reports, Lexi was fatally stabbed in Harlem River Park. "I really looked up to her because of her tolerance and respect," said Lavonia Brooks, a friend of Lexi. "Lexi had a beautiful heart, she was very gifted." Brooks also noted that Lexi loved poetry, makeup and fashion.

## JOHANNA METZGER



Johanna Metzger, a transgender woman, was killed in Baltimore, Maryland on April 11. According to reports, she was visiting a Baltimore recovery center from Pennsylvania at the time. Johanna was known for her love of music and taught herself to play multiple instruments.

## SERENA ANGELIQUE VELÁZQUEZ RAMOS



Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos, 32, was killed in Puerto Rico on April 21. Ramos was killed alongside Layla Pelaez Sánchez, 21. According to reports, Ramos was visiting the island on vacation, and was set to return to her home in Queens, New York, at the end of the month. Loved ones are mourning her death, calling her “full of life,” a “happy person,” and a “sincere friend.” On May 1, two men were charged under federal hate crimes law for Ramos's death.

## LAYLA PELAEZ SÁNCHEZ



Layla Pelaez Sánchez, 21, was killed in Puerto Rico on April 21. Sánchez was killed alongside Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos. According to reports, Sánchez had recently moved to the island, and was living in the Tejas neighborhood in Las Piedras. On May 1, two Puerto Rican men were charged under federal hate crimes law for Sánchez's death.

## PENÉLOPE DÍAZ RAMÍREZ



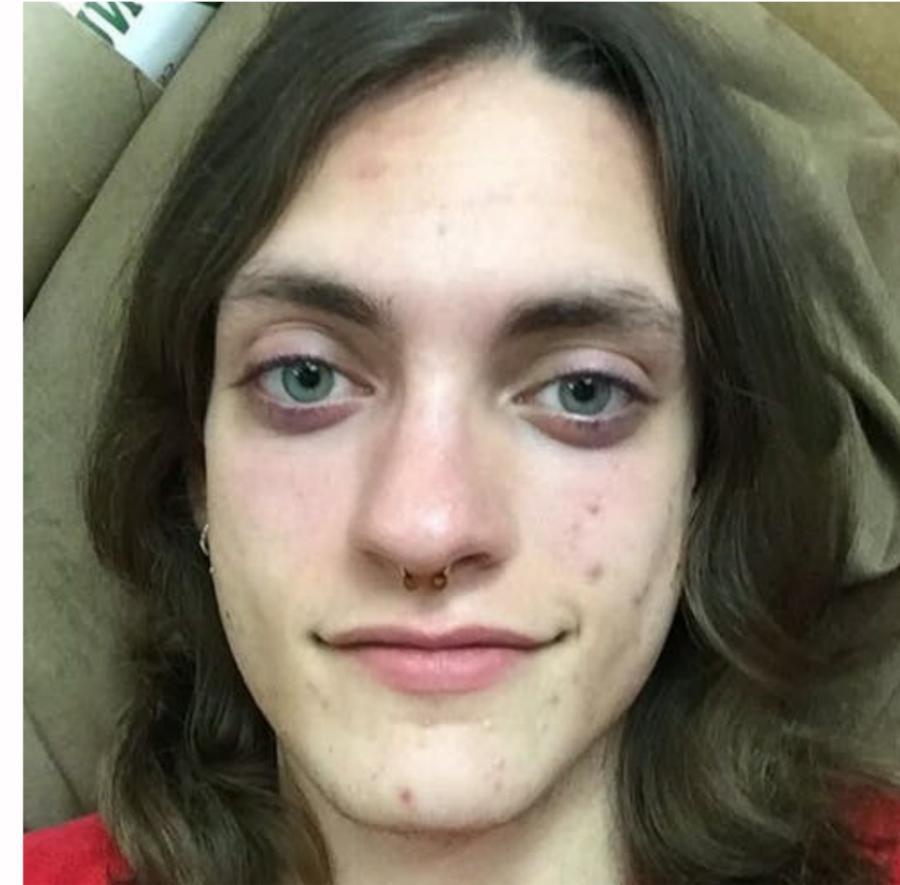
Penélope Díaz Ramírez, a transgender woman, was killed in Puerto Rico on April 13. "Penélope did not deserve to die. Transgender people do not deserve to die. Every single advocate, ally, elected official and community member must stand up in light of this horrific news and say 'No more.' What we are doing is not enough," said Tori Cooper, HRC Director of Community Engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative.

## NINA POP



Nina Pop, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Sikeston, Missouri, on May 3. She was deeply loved by her family, friends and community, according to her Facebook page.

## HELLE JAE O'REGAN



Helle Jae O'Regan, 20, a transgender woman, was killed in San Antonio, Texas, on May 6. O'Regan was proud of her trans identity and on Twitter, she often spoke out against injustice, including the LGBTQ inequality, the prison industrial complex and the need to decriminalize sex work. Damion Terrell Campbell, 42, has been charged with O'Regan's murder.

## TONY MCDADE



Tony McDade, a Black transgender man, was killed in Tallahassee, Florida, on May 27. His friends and family shared how he was an energetic, giving person with a big heart.

## DOMINIQUE "REM'MIE" FELLS



Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells, a Black transgender woman was killed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 9. One personal friend posted online, "Dom was a unique and beautiful soul who I am lucky to have known personally. I am beside myself right now. We need to fight!! We need to do more!!!! We will get justice."

## RIAH MILTON



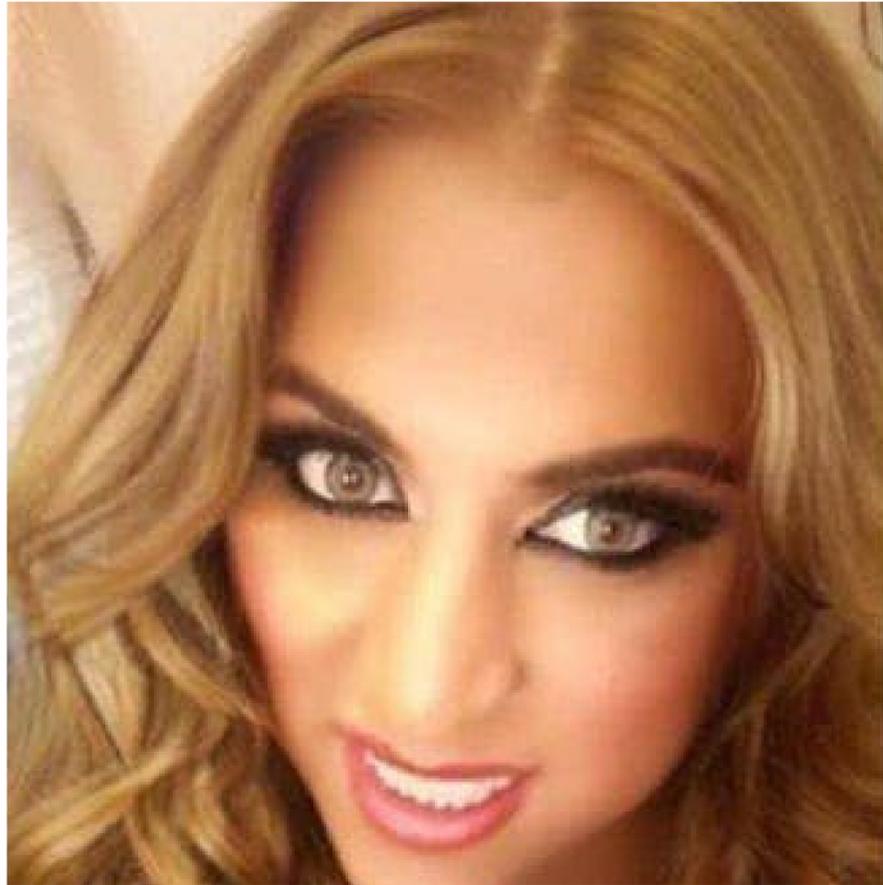
Riah Milton, a 25-year-old Black transgender woman, was killed in Liberty Township, Ohio on June 9. In March, she posted the status “Never been scared to struggle. Imma get it eventually” -- a comment highlighting her resilience and optimism as a person facing a transphobic, misogynist and racist society.

## JAYNE THOMPSON



Jayne Thompson, a 33-year old white transgender woman, was killed in Mesa County, Colorado, on May 9. She was killed by a Colorado State Patrol trooper and misgendered in initial news reports.

## SELENA REYES-HERNANDEZ



Selena Reyes-Hernandez, a 37-year old transgender woman, was killed in Chicago on May 31. "We have lost a beloved member of our trans family because of hate -- hate that has corrupted our country's soul and that shatters lives and futures every day," said Tori Cooper, HRC director of community engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative.

## BRIAN "EGYPT" POWERS



Brian "Egypt" Powers, a 43-year old Black transgender person, was killed in Akron, Ohio, on June 13. Powers worked at a local catering company and is remembered for wearing long, colorful braids -- "unicorn braids," as Powers called them.

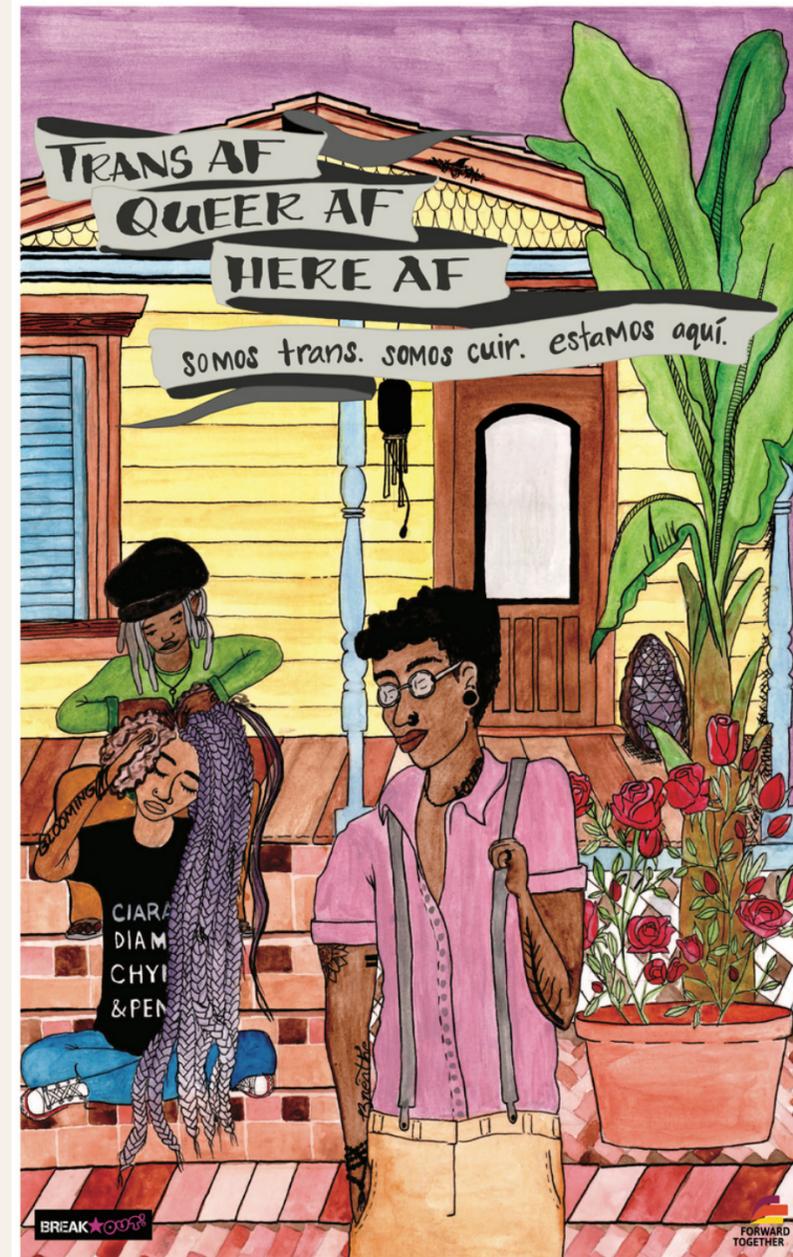
"My Body is Mine"  
(submission from Dickinson student)

Because –  
My body has scars,  
My body has pain,  
My body has trauma,  
My body has transformed

I struggle to see that –  
My body is loved,  
My body is strong,  
My body is queer,  
My body is mine

## Art from Forward Together's Trans Liberation Collection

"Trans AF, Queer AF, Here AF" (  
by Asia Vinae Jazzreal-Palmer  
in collaboration with  
the BreakOUT!



"Like Any Godexx, you are Scorned  
and Become Fire Anyway" (2017)  
by Amir Khadar  
in collaboration with  
the poet kiki nicole

## BRAYLA STONE



Brayla Stone, a 17-year old Black transgender girl, was found killed in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 25. “Brayla Stone was a child. A child, just beginning to live her life. A child of trans experience. A Black girl. A person who had hopes and dreams, plans and community,” said Tori Cooper, HRC director of community engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative. On September 4, a man was arrested on a murder charge in connection to her death.

## MERCI MACK



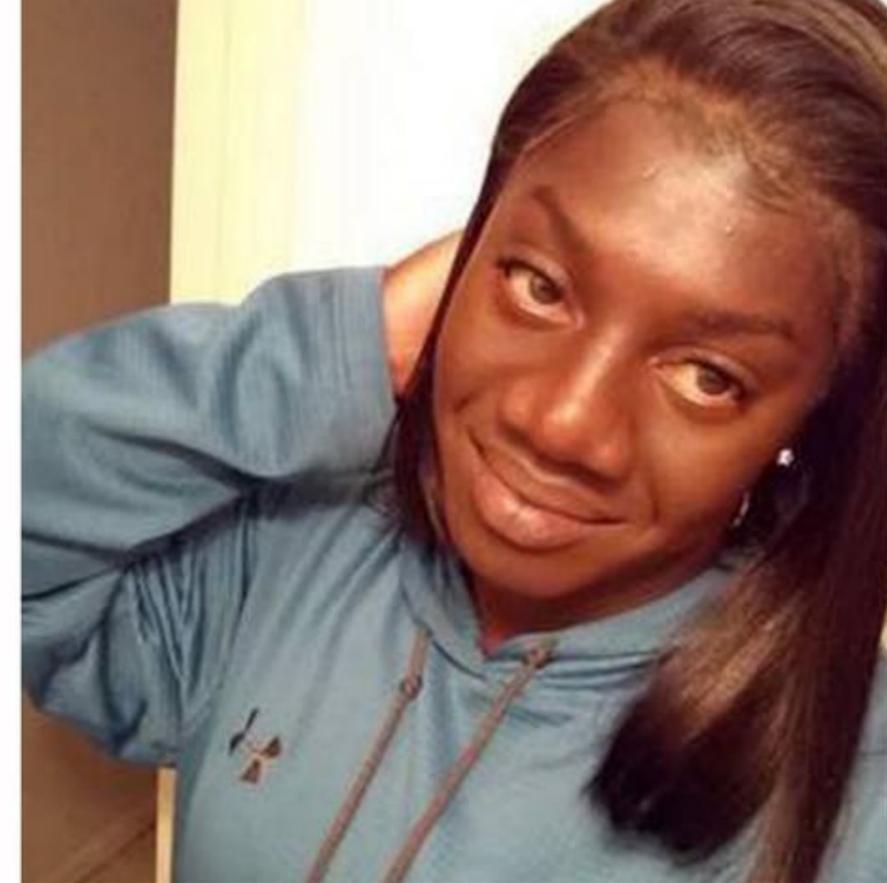
Merci Mack, a 22-year old Black transgender woman, was killed in Dallas, Texas, on June 30. Her loved ones shared how beautiful of a friend she was. On her social media, she had recently posted that she enjoyed baking and that she was looking forward to returning to work. On July 8, a man was arrested on a murder charge in connection to her death.

## SHAKI PETERS



Shaki Peters, a 32-year old Black transgender woman, was killed in Amite Clty, Louisiana, on July 1. "In just four days, we have seen the deaths of at least three transgender and gender non-conforming people, including Shaki Peters. This horrific spike in violence against our community must be an urgent call to action for every single person in this nation," said Tori Cooper, Director of Community Engagement for HRC's Trans Justice Initiative.

## BREE BLACK



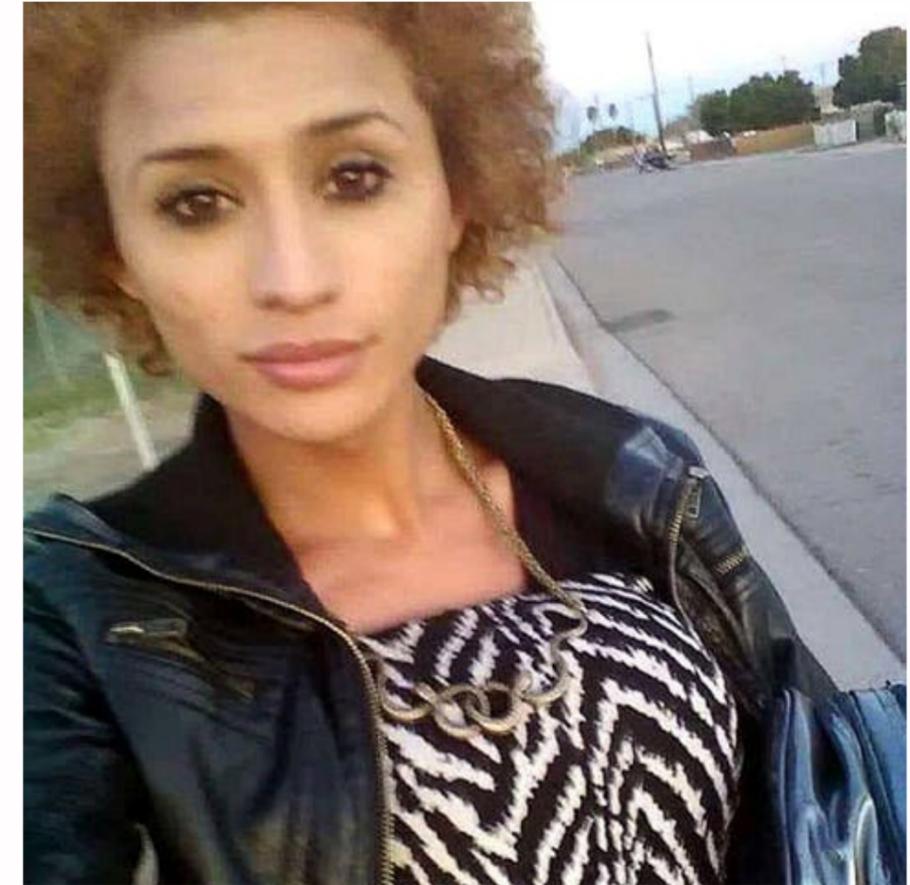
Bree Black, a 27-year-old Black transgender woman, was killed in Pompano Beach, Florida, on July 3. "These killings are being fueled by the deadly combination of racism and transphobia, and they must cease. We must come together as a community and demand justice for those who were taken from us," said Tori Cooper, Director of Community Engagement for HRC's Trans Justice Initiative.

## SUMMER TAYLOR



Summer Taylor, a white non-binary person, was in Seattle, Washington, on July 4. Taylor was participating in the Black Femme March in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and against police brutality. Taylor worked full time at Urban Animal veterinary hospital.

## MARILYN CAZARES



Marilyn Cazares was a transgender Latina killed in Brawley, California. Mindy Garcia, an aunt of Cazares, said she “loved to sing and dance” and “never bothered anyone.” Mindy Garcia, an aunt of Cazares, said she “loved to sing and dance” and “never bothered anyone.” On Twitter, community members are remembering Cazares, who was known in the community for her colorful clothing. Her cousin -- who notes that Cazares continued to use her birth name with family -- reflected on a memory of her cousin “jamming out to Billie Jean like the badass queen she was” while in the car.

## DIOR H OVA



Dior H Ova, who some reports identify as Tiffany Harris, a Black transgender woman, was killed in the Bronx, New York. According to her Facebook, Ova loved fashion -- listing her career as a personal shopper and posting photos with luxury fashion brands that she loved. On August 13, a man was arrested on a murder charge in connection to her death.

## QUEASHA D HARDY



Queasha D Hardy, a 22-year old Black transgender woman, was killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on July 27. Hardy, a hairstylist, was extremely loved by her community. Friends and loved ones describe her as loyal, loving, "always smiling," "the life of all parties" and "truly one of a kind."

## AJA RAQUELL RHONE-SPEARS



Aja Raquell Rhone-Spears, who sometimes used the name Rocky Rhone, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Portland, Oregon, on July 28. According to Facebook, she studied at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and was the owner and founder of International Barbie, a Portland-based clothing brand.

## LEA RAYSHON DAYE



Lea Rayshon Daye, a 28-year old Black transgender woman, died in Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland, Ohio on August 30. "Lea's death is unacceptable. Increased risk factors such as homelessness, combined with racism, sexism and transphobia, conspired to lead to a death that never should have happened," said Tori Cooper, HRC Director of Community Engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative.

## KEE SAM



Kee Sam, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Lafayette, Louisiana, on August 12. "We must all speak up in support of trans and gender non-conforming people and affirm that Black Trans Lives Matter," said HRC's Tori Cooper, Director of Community Engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative.

## AERRION BURNETT



Aerrion Burnett, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Independence, Missouri, on September 19. Her friends and family shared "if you wanted to have a good day, you need to smile, Aerrion was the person you wanted by your side."

## MIA GREEN



Mia Green, a 29-year old Black transgender woman, was killed in Philadelphia on September 28. Her friends and family shared how “her smile was so perfect and so contagious. She made me laugh.”

## MICHELLE MICHELLYN RAMOS VARGAS



Michelle Michellyn Ramos Vargas, a transgender woman from Puerto Rico in her mid-30s, was killed in San Germán, Puerto Rico on September 30. “This level of violence— any level of violence — is unacceptable. We are not doing enough to protect transgender and gender non-conforming people, especially trans women,” said HRC’s Tori Cooper, Director of Community Engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative.

## FELYCYA HARRIS



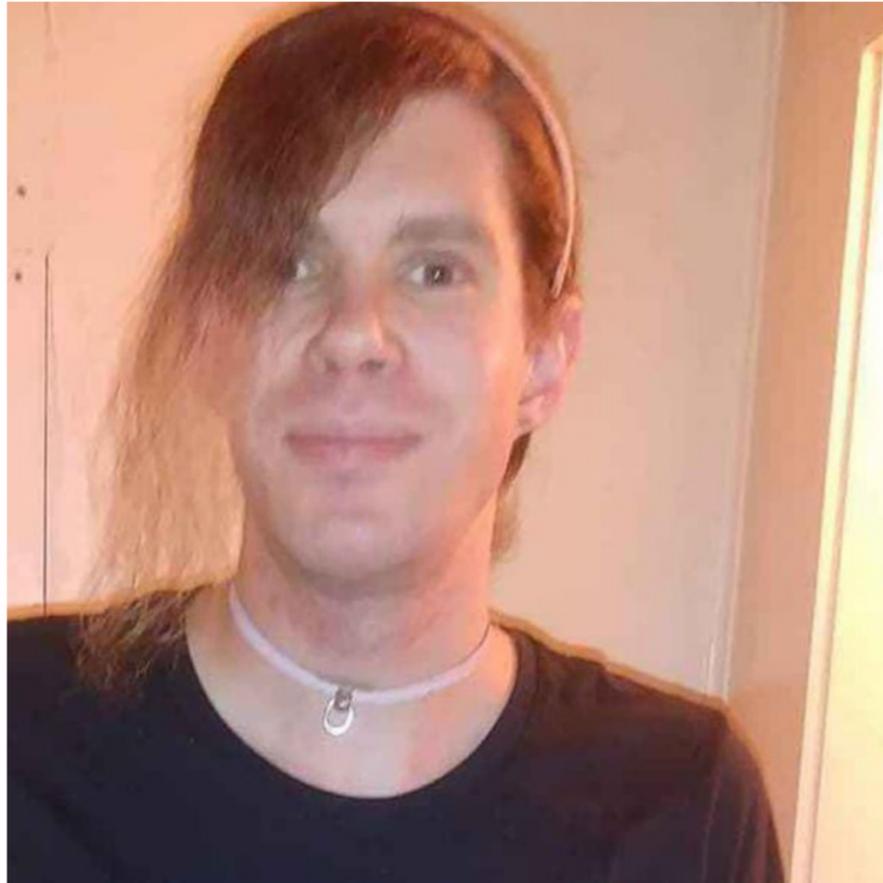
Felycya Harris, a 33-year old transgender woman, was killed in Augusta, Georgia in October. Felycya was an interior decorator who ran her own company where she enjoyed lending her eye to improve the surroundings of others, and made others feel comfortable in their own space.

## BROOKLYN DESHUNA



Brooklyn Deshuna, 20, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Shreveport, Louisiana, on October 7. Brooklyn attended Bossier Parish Community College and studied cosmetology.

# SARA BLACKWOOD



Sara Blackwood, a transgender woman, was killed in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11, recognized as National Coming Out Day. She enjoyed playing video games and was a fan of the show "My Little Pony."

## Di(ne)alogue Poem (2019)

The beginning line is always the hardest because we do not know how to explain to you that we are not a statistic to be catered to or a box to be checked.

It is not in the syllabus, but we have all learned what a Dickinson student is supposed to be, and we are not that.

And we are reminded of this with every time we are faced to choose between blending in with our academic surroundings or expressing ourselves truly.

We are not the first, and will not be the last. And in this chosen family, we have forged a common history and future. We know each other not by choice, but because no one else will respect or see us.

To be trans is to mourn everyday, but today we are resilient and resistant!

\*\*Di(ne)alogue is a monthly discussion group for trans (binary and non-binary), gender nonconforming, genderqueer, & questioning students at Dickinson College\*\*

# Trans Empowering Media

## Films

Paris is Burning (1990)  
*MAJOR!* (2015)  
*Saturday Church* (2017)  
*Man Made* (2018)

## TV Shows

Pose (2018-present)

## Books

*Stone Butch Blues* (1993) - Leslie Feinberg  
*Transgender History* (2008) - Susan Stryker  
*Redefining Realness* (2014) - Janet Mock  
Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure (2017) - Eli Clare  
*Tomorrow Will Be Different* (2019) - Sarah McBride  
*Pet* (2019) - Akwaeke Emezi

# Dickinson & Central PA Resources

## On Campus:

The Office of LGBTQ Services  
<https://www.dickinson.edu/lgbtq>

The Wellness Center  
<https://www.dickinson.edu/wellnesscenter>

## In Harrisburg:

Alder Health - Trans inclusive health care provider  
<https://www.alderhealth.org/>

PA Youth Congress - LGBTQ youth advocacy organization focused on justice  
<https://payoutcongress.org/>



Submission from Dickinson student



Dickinson 

LGBTQ SERVICES