

# POSITIVE LIVING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



## # HIV TRANS LEADERSHIP

*This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the transgender people living with HIV.*

### CHECK THIS OUT!

Use [GATE's online form](#) to report human rights violations, interruptions to healthcare, or any other irregularities that transgender, gender diverse and intersex people face during COVID-19.

Check [APTN](#) and [Equal AF's](#) resources ranging from [entertainment](#) to [education](#) during COVID-19.

Use [Humsafar Trust's calendar of virtual events](#) to celebrate Pride month.

Follow [TransWave Jamaica's](#) weekly [Instagram Link-Up Live sessions](#) to help you get through COVID-19.

Take a look at [the print sale project](#) by South African photographers to raise funds for LGBTIQ+ people.

[Watch BDS Nepal's video](#) on equal access for COVID relief.

Check out [TGEU's infographic: how to stay safe but still remain sane](#) and continue your activism during COVID-19.

Participate in Pehchaan Theatre and [KSS Pakistan's video challenge](#): creating spaces of change and inclusion.

Visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#) to find past editions of the newsletter and other resources.

## WHAT WE ARE HEARING FROM TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES

*“For trans people the dilemma was between hunger and death during the lockdown. We are excluded from every scheme and forgotten in policy making.”*  
- Abhina Aher, Trans Activist, India

### Exclusion and discrimination

- **Globally** the transgender community is facing challenges in accessing government aid and support as they are often denied ID cards that states their gender identity.
- Governments in **Hungary** and **India** have passed discriminatory transgender laws during lockdown, leaving the community unable to mobilise in protest.

### Health distress

- **Across the world**, trans people living with HIV are reporting challenges in adhering to their treatment. In **India**, many are registered in private health facilities to avoid HIV-related stigma and have been unable to go and pick up their ARVs.
- **In many countries**, trans people are unable to access hormone replacement therapy and other trans - specific healthcare services.
- In **South Africa**, **Pakistan** and **Nepal** most transgender people live in community homes and are unable to follow social distancing norms.

### Increased violence

- From **Cameroon** to **South Korea**, and many other countries there are increased reports of suicide, abuse and gender-based violence against transgender people. There are also reports of murders in **Puerto Rico** and arbitrary arrests in **Egypt**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**.
- In **Peru**, **Colombia** and **Panama**, people are only allowed out on certain days based on their sex (as per their official ID) and this has led to trans people facing harassment and arrest if they leave their homes.

### Weakened and overstretched organisations

- **Globally**, transgender organisations are reporting loss of funding from donors, jeopardising organisational sustainability as well as ongoing programmes.
- In **Nepal**, **India**, and **Peru**, transgender organisations are struggling to adapt from defending human rights to providing humanitarian aid, stretching their limited capacity and funds further.

## HOW OUR COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING

“COVID-19 will have long term impacts and we are very worried about how we can sustain supply of food and access to healthcare in the long run, especially because the government has not included us in the COVID-19 policy, and the budget for next year. We want sustainability and institutionalization of our issues.” - Manisha Dhakal, Blue Diamond Society, Nepal

[Red trans, Peru](#) is providing food baskets for transgender women living with HIV and sex workers, groups who are most at risk and impoverished. They are also coordinating home delivery of medicines through a rapid text programme.



[Transbantu Association Zambia](#) has been providing online support to community members, and outreach support in four towns to meet community members and respond to their sexual and reproductive health needs and provide them with essential survival packs.

[KSS, Pakistan](#), and [BDS, Nepal](#) are providing essential needs packages, and community outreach even in remote areas.

They are also coordinating with paramedics and ART centres to home-deliver ARVs to transgender people living with HIV.



Above: @BDS; Below: @KSS

[Triangle Project, South Africa](#) has continued to provide their health support services to the community by availing permits for their nurses, community, health, and social support workers prior to the lockdown.



[TransWave, Jamaica](#) are actively participating in the [#BlackLivesMatter](#) movement and advocating for their rights while following COVID-19 prevention and safety measures.

Afro-taina actress from hit show POSE demonstrating in the US @Indya Adrianna Moore.

Globally and regionally, trans organisations have conducted surveys, are sharing accurate information on COVID-19 and raising emergency funds for their national partners. [APT, Asia Pacific](#) has published an [open letter](#) urging governments and donors to address the needs of trans and gender-diverse people. [IRGT](#) plans to include COVID-19 best practices in their TEACH curriculum to be rolled out in South America, South Asia and West Africa. [GATE](#) has a dedicated webpage for [COVID-19 resources](#), is documenting human rights violations and advocating for trans rights to be respected in the COVID-19 response.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WANT TO SALUTE YOU – LIKE HEALTH CARE WORKERS YOU ARE ALSO ON THE FRONTLINE.**