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Transgender survivors:

A roadmap through rural and urban communities to improve services and advocacy

June 17 2021


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Agenda Overview

1. Brief ! Who is FORGE
2. Quick Trans 101 reminders
3. Trans victimization stats
4. Triple+ pandemic
5. Barriers to accessing care
6. What you can do!
(and a few resources)



3

Take care of yourself!



- Take care of yourself
- Interactive Q&A
 - Participation is TOTALLY optional (of course!)



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Who is FORGE?

What can we offer you?



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Who is FORGE?




27


yo

Direct service / TTA

25 %

75 %





National work with professionals

□ Training and Technical Assistance

- 1-on-1
- Publications
- Trainings
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Site visits

□ Policy

□ Collaborations

□ Information and Referrals



75 %



www.forge-forward.org
po box 1272 | milwaukee, wi 53201

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National work with survivors

Online support venues

Publications

Conferences

Empowerment

Information and Referral

Working with direct services providers

25%

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Guiding principles

Trauma-Informed

Empowerment-based

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Social Media

#

f

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🐦

@FORGEforward

📷

@FORGE_forward

▶

FORGEForwardTrans

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FORGE

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Small staff, large vision

FORGE

we

Shelley Gregory, michael munson, Loree Cook-Daniels, Caleb Weinhardt

Tristen Taggart

Anole Halper

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How we'll interact today #1: Chat

Click here to open the Chat feature

Chat

To: Everyone

Type message here...

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Chat practice: Share your pronoun!

Chat

To: Everyone

Type message here...


HELLO
MY PRONOUNS ARE...
THEY/THEM

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How we'll interact today #2: Google Drawings



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BRIEF reminders:
Trans 101 !

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"No one's identity is a disorder."



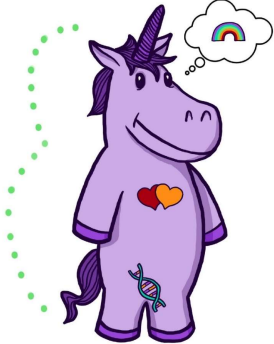
Dr. Lin Fraser


- Past president of WPATH
- San Francisco-based therapist

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Handout






The Gender Unicorn [HANDOUT]

Gender Identity

Gender Expression




Sexual / Romantic Orientation

Sex Assigned at Birth

www.transstudent.org/gender
Designed by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore


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Question


What % of population is transgender?

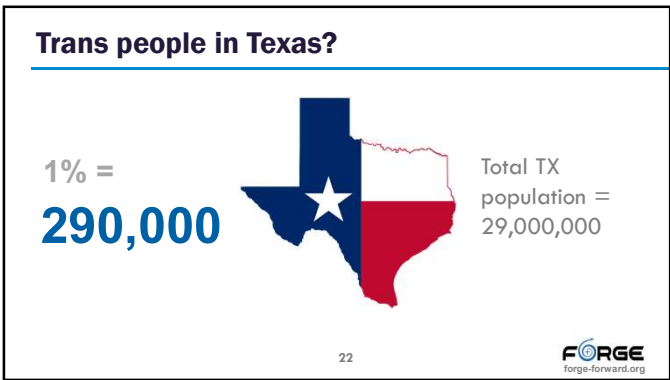
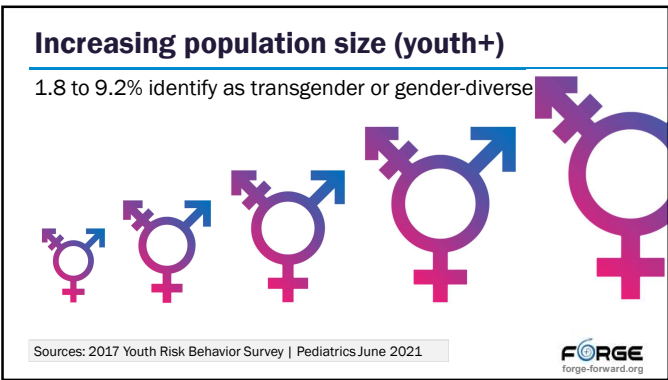
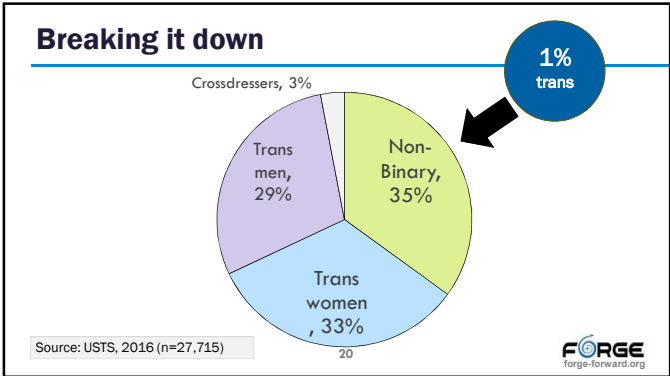
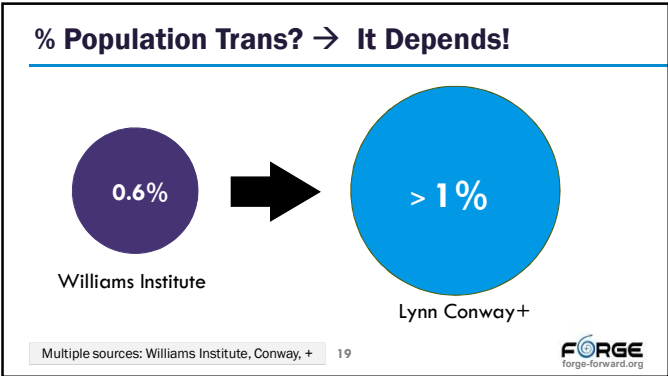
Chat



To: Everyone

Type message here...





[illegible]



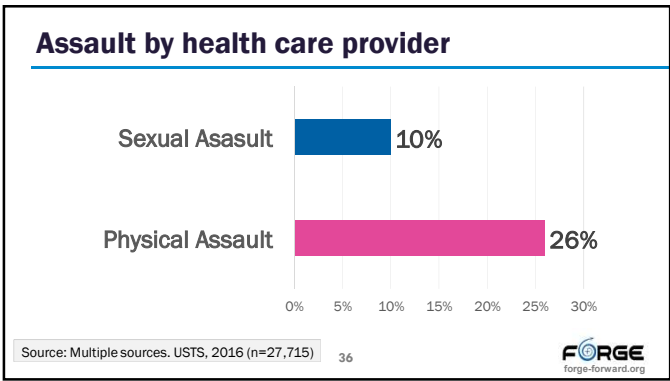
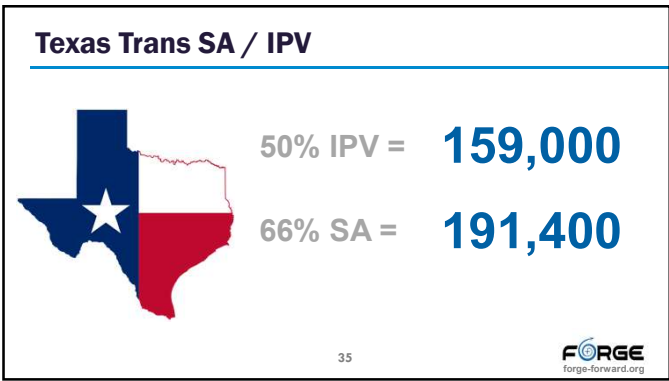
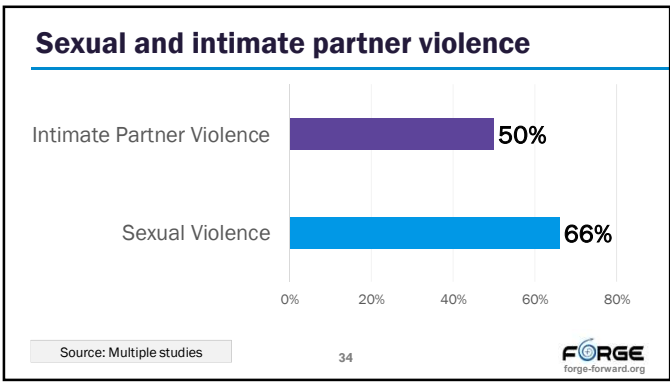
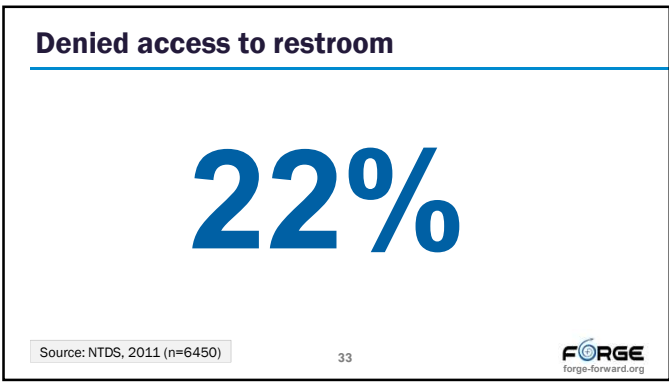
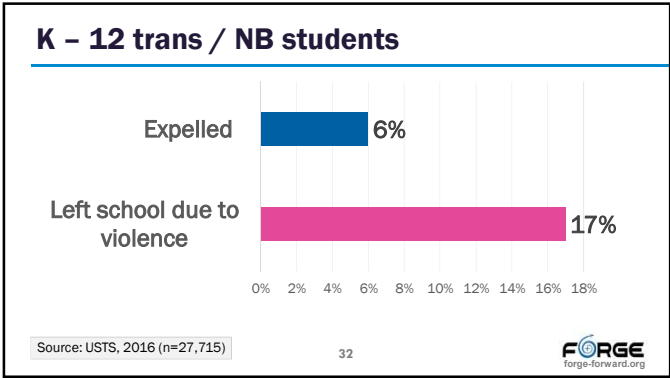
Pronouns Matter

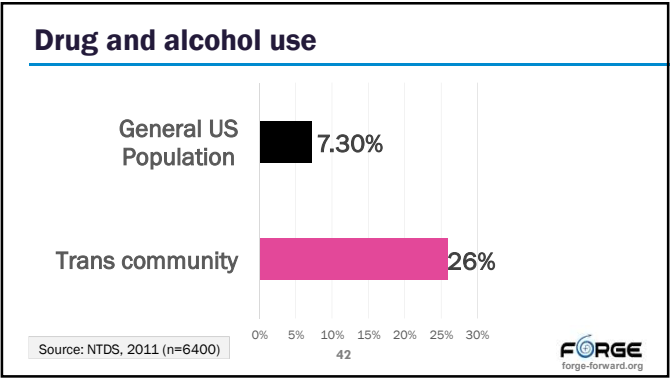
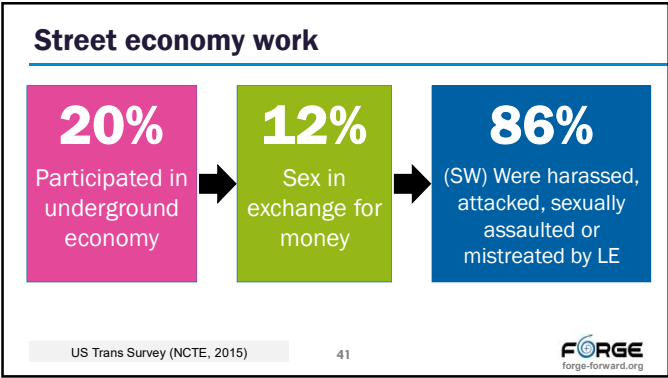
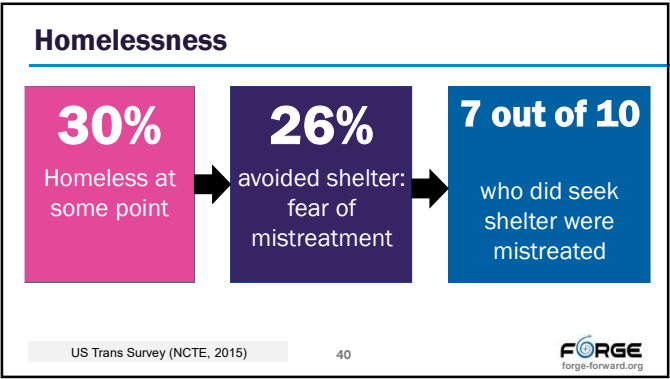
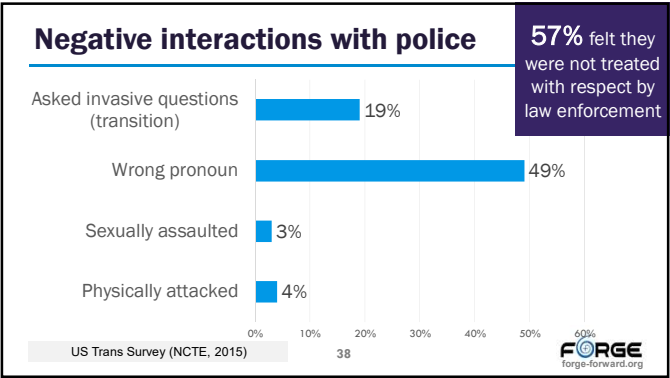
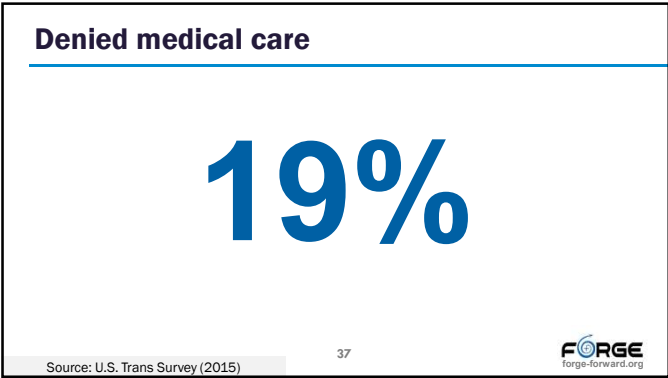
We respect each other's pronoun because we respect each other. Can you do the same?

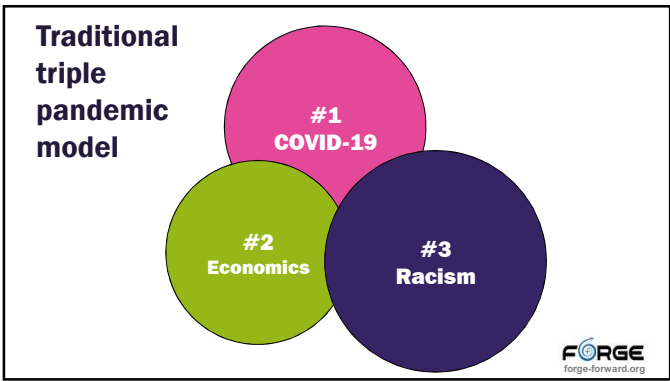
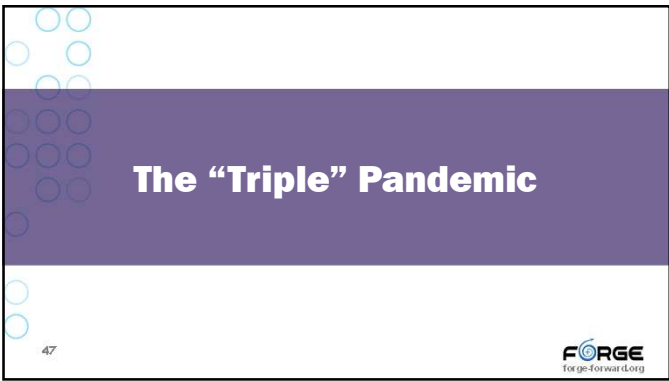
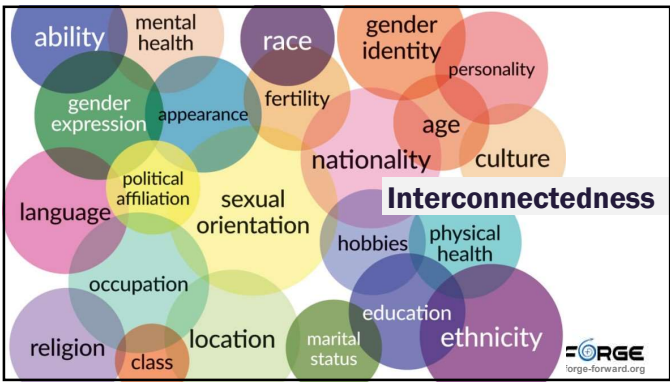
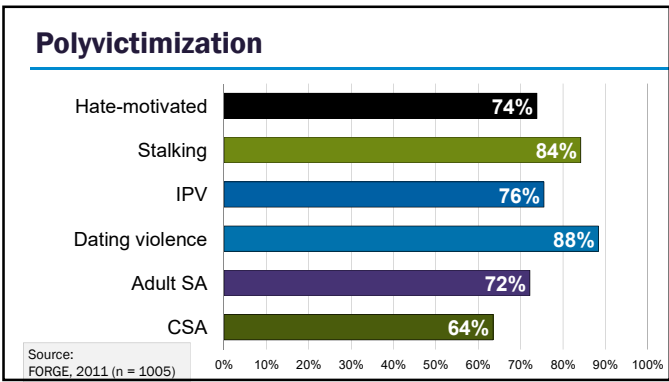
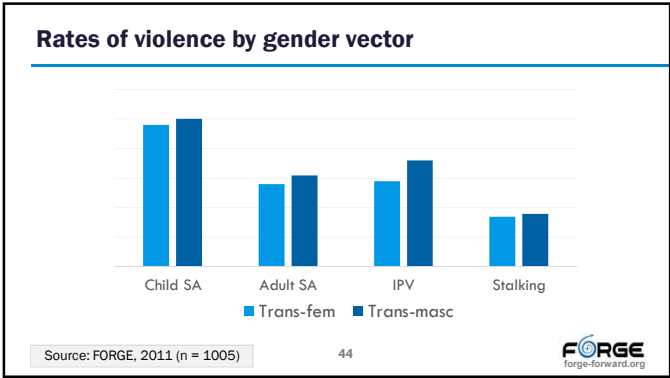
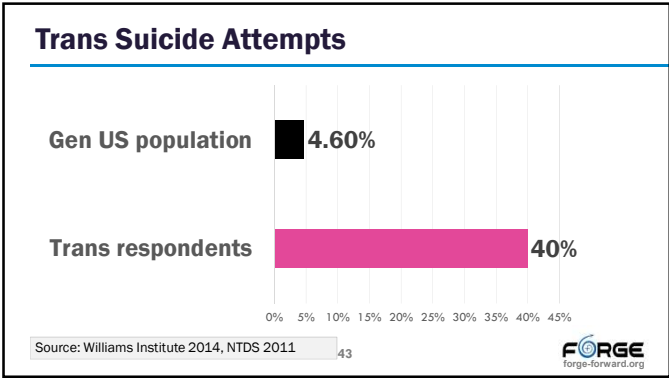
GMHC
END AIDS. LIVE LIFE.

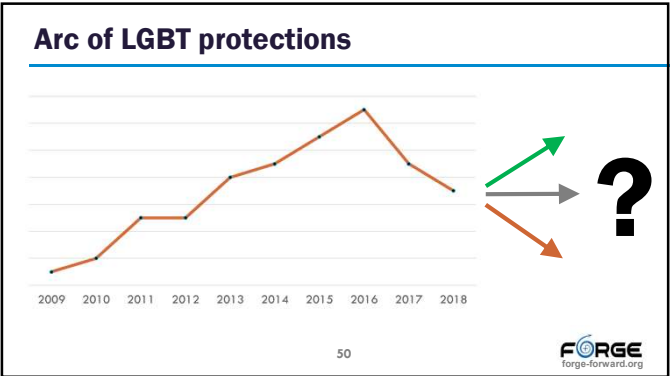
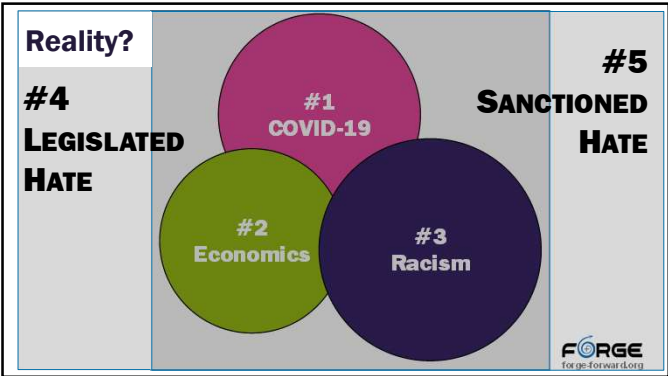
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A portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a black lace top. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a solid, dark grey. The image is framed by a thin white border.









4 years of Anti-Trans & -LGBT Actions

transequality.org/the-discrimination-administration

71+
listed anti-LGBT
legislative
actions

Source: National Center for Transgender Equality 51

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“To all the transgender Americans watching at home, especially the young people who are so brave, I want you to know that your president has your back.”

**New administration:
New inclusion
& protections**

2021. Presidential Address to Congress.

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BUT.... Anti-trans leg. shifts to state/local

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State laws

RURAL Implications

- Overtly anti-trans governor
- Statewide laws will impact rural communities that aren't large enough to create counter-protections for their local communities.
 - e.g. Smaller communities won't have multiple sports options and trans youth may be denied playing

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Learn more about anti-trans legislation in Texas

 **equality**federation

www.equalityfederation.org/equality-tracker/

Currently 76 bills introduced in TX.
12 are aggressively anti-trans focused.

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Current events:
Cultural ramifications


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6 (of many)
ways that current events have
changed trans, non-binary
peoples' lives

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1. Current events: FEAR



- safety on the streets
- employment security
- housing security
- bathroom access
- relationship stability
- family tensions
- hate motivated crimes

6 ways current events have changed trans peoples' lives

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2a. Current events: Mirroring




- All of us are hearing national leaders say horrific things
- IPV offenders are mirroring anti-trans language
- Re-experiencing of words in the public discourse.

[...and emboldening or sanctioning]

6 ways current events have changed trans peoples' lives


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3. Systemic Racism – #BlackLivesMatter



- Visibility of police misconduct and violence
- Protests, rallies, and mobilization
- Increased safety+ concerns for people of multiple identities

6 ways current events have changed trans peoples' lives


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4. COVID-19 Isolation / increased abuse



- More time at home with partners or abusers
 - Children and adults
- Increased financial dependence? Other strings?
 - Additional ways to exert power

6 ways current events have changed trans peoples' lives


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Isolation / Vaccination

RURAL Implications

- Isolation
 - Harder to get away from perpetrator in smaller communities
- 44% Fully Vaccinated in TX
 - Likely FEWER people in rural communities
 - More difficult to access
 - Attitudes about vaccines can be more conservative

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5. Current events: Instability



- Can't keep stable footing
- Scrambling to take actions
- Increased depression and suicidality
- Holding on to anything (even if unhealthy)

6 ways current events have changed trans peoples' lives


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Changing laws

RURAL Implications

- Rapidly changing laws
 - Concerns about being able to access basic healthcare
 - Sports and extra-curricular activities
 - Educational content in schools

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6. Current events: COPING



- Alcohol and drugs
- Isolation
- Increased risk taking
- Hierarchies of who is most oppressed
- Horizontal hostility
- De/re-transitioning
- Weapons

6 ways current events have changed trans peoples' lives


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Support services / Confidentiality

RURAL Implications

- Fewer places to seek support/services.
- Broad ranges of services offered in single agency.
- Survivor confidentiality
 - Dual roles/relationships
 - Everyone knows everyone's business

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RURAL Implications

Guns

- Permit-free gun legislation
- Easy access to weapons anywhere / any time

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It takes a village: Milwaukee faith leaders



How does this relate to trans SA/IPV?

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Compounded / intersectional

*Micro-aggressions

*Minority Stress


*Increased Health Disparities

*Lower Self-Esteem

*Higher Risk Taking Behaviors


Less likely to seek help

= increased likelihood of encountering abuse (home, streets, work, +)




Barriers to accessing victim services:
Trans peoples' top concerns


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Barriers Brainstorm

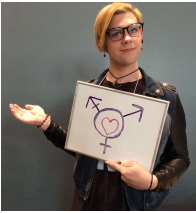
Chat





Trans Peoples' Concerns

1.
Will I be turned away?



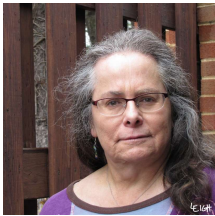
Trans Peoples' Concerns

2.
Will I be safe?
(not just from abuser, but other residents, staff, victim service providers, neighborhood+)



Trans Peoples' Concerns

3.
Will staff know about and be sensitive to me as a trans person?



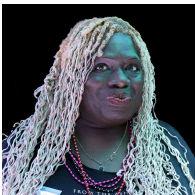
Trans Peoples' Concerns

4.
My identity documents don't align with the gender I live in. Will I be denied services, discriminated against, or harassed?



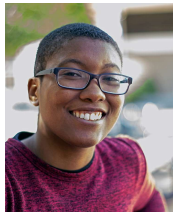
Trans Peoples' Concerns

5.
Will I be misgendered?



Trans Peoples' Concerns

6.
Will someone out me? Can I have agency over my own story and life?



Trans Peoples' Concerns

7.
Will I have
ample privacy?
(body, history)





Trans Peoples' Concerns

8.
Will I have to
report my abuse to
law enforcement?





Trans Peoples' Concerns

9.
Aren't these services
just for women?

(If I don't identify as a
woman, what does that
mean about what happened
to me?)





Trans Peoples' Concerns

10.
I am ashamed and
embarrassed about
what happened to me.
Will staff make me feel
ashamed about being
trans on top of what
happened to me?






What you can do!
....to improve
trans survivors lives



Micro-INCLUSIONS

Micro-inclusions are a small step
to include someone.

On a bigger scale, **micro-
inclusions are symbolic
actions that force us to recall
the humanity of others.**



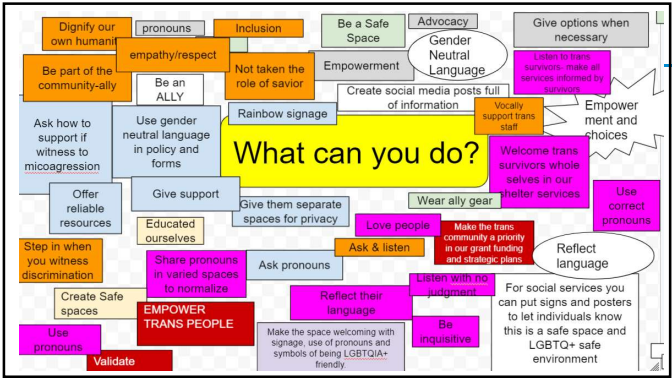
Let's map together! → What you can do!

<https://forge.tips/3xnDOPw>











A few things that may not have been mentioned.....

→ 10 free and easy things you can do ←




1. Believe Survivors





Sexual Assault Awareness Month

www.nsvrc.org




2. Stay person (or issue) centered






3. Name and pronouns



Pronouns matter because people matter.



4. Accessible bathrooms

- All-gender
- Signage
- Organizational culture
 - Bias-free
- Accompaniment

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5. Social media

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6. Alternatives to police

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7. Be an upstander!

- Speak up
- Step up
- Call in

- It's about all of us

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8. Get involved! Show up!

Photo by Addie Lipson
October 2018 – post “Trump memo”

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9. See and affirm resilience

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10. Be kind!



Micro-inclusions move us to a place of greater connection, acceptance, and healing.



What small thing will you do today to improve trans / nonbinary survivors lives?



**Thank
you!**

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