in the colors of the trans flag, flying the flag on public buildings, or presenting a proclamation. The majority of events include attendees reading aloud the names of those murdered.

The only expectations for the TDOR are that it not be made “commercial” or turned into a “celebration.” The latter restriction has resulted in disputes, as some organizers want the event to send a more uplifting message. This conflict ultimately led to the creation of the International Transgender Day of Visibility, which is held every March 31. Another debated issue is the inclusion of trans people who killed themselves. The event does not typically include suicide victims, so as to remain focused on those murdered due to being perceived as trans.

Because the event is about individuals killed because they are thought to be trans, some of those who are remembered did not actually identify as trans or were not at a point in their lives when they were killed that they identified as trans. Thus, the TDOR includes young children who were murdered because a family member or caregiver viewed them as not appropriately fitting into a given gender and people like Willie Houston of Nashville, Tennessee. He did not identify as trans, but his murderer assumed that he was because he was carrying his fiancée’s purse and walking arm in arm with a blind male friend, whom he was escorting to a restroom.

Impact

Although trans activism did not start with the Transgender Day of Remembrance, it became the first event centered on trans issues to be marked nationwide and then worldwide. To date, the day has been commemorated on every continent except Antarctica. The TDOR has also brought much-needed attention to the horrific rate of anti-trans violence, with such murders reportedly occurring worldwide roughly every 18 hours and, in the United States, approximately every 2 weeks.

Another important effect of the TDOR is showing that anti-trans violence is intersectional, with most victims in the United States being Black and Latinx trans women. It also helped uncover the especially high murder rates in many Central and South American countries. Unfortunately, while the TDOR has raised awareness, it has not helped curb the violence. In the United States, the rate of known anti-trans murders remained static for much of the past decade but actually rose in the first 3 years of the Trump administration.

It is important to note that the information about anti-trans murders is limited. For the early years of the TDOR, murders were often not reported in the media or were not characterized as anti-trans hate crimes. While coverage has improved, in large part due to greater trans activism, many parts of the world still ignore violence against trans people. For example, anti-trans murders have rarely been reported in China, Russia, and many African countries because of the lack of human rights monitors and a free press. In some instances, the death of a trans person may be viewed as “un-newsworthy” or as outside of the public interest. This can be further compounded by racism, misogyny, and anti-sex worker sentiment.

Gwendolyn Ann Smith

See also Activism; International Transgender Day of Visibility; News Media Representations; Teena, Brandon; Violence

Further Readings


Transgender Law Center

The Transgender Law Center (TLC) is the largest trans-led organization in the United States advocating for trans rights and the self-determination of all people. Grounded in legal expertise and committed to racial justice, TLC employs a variety of community-driven strategies to support trans
and gender-nonconforming people in all facets of their lives. It has won precedent-setting legal victories in areas including employment, prison conditions, education, immigration, and health care. In addition, the group’s organizing and movement-building programs have assisted, informed, and empowered trans individuals and communities throughout the country, which has further contributed to the rights and agency of trans people.

**Early Years**

TLC was cofounded by Chris Daley and Dylan Vade in 2002 as a California-focused, fiscally sponsored project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. TLC’s first office, which was located in San Francisco at the LGBT Community Center, provided legal services, policy advocacy, and community education. The following year, TLC became an independent organization and seated its first board of directors; in 2004, it formally incorporated as a nonprofit.

The group’s early advocacy focused on public accommodations, employment, housing, and health care through the Safe Bathroom Access Campaign (SBAC) and the California Endowment’s Health Care Access Project. TLC successfully advocated for the passage of California’s groundbreaking Gender Non-Discrimination Act of 2003 and created know-your-rights resources to help trans people understand the new law. TLC began piloting Transgender Health Law 101 workshops in 2004, and in an early victory, it won approval from an administrative law judge for a client to have their top surgery covered by Medi-Cal, California’s Medicaid program. Through the SBAC, TLC released the popular “Peeing in Peace” bathroom guide in 2005 and launched Project Health in 2006 in collaboration with the San Francisco Bay Guardian.

Cecilia Chung, a prominent trans advocate, joined TLC as deputy director in 2005, which enabled the organization to take on issues and cases that would have a national impact. This expanded scope included testifying before the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission on the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act and overturning a Bush administration immigration policy that denied rights to married binational couples if one spouse was trans.

**Growth**

After Masen Davis became its executive director in 2007, the organization expanded its work across California and opened a Los Angeles office. TLC took a leadership role in building a consensus in the LGBTQ community in favor of including gender identity protection in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and organized a 24-hour vigil in front of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office. In 2008, TLC established a statewide Leadership Summit and conducted the California Transgender Economic Health Survey. In 2009, TLC formalized the organization’s strategic shift to California-based work and won Somers v. Superior Court, a case that affirmed the right of trans people living outside of the state to change California birth certificates.

In 2012, TLC won the landmark Mia Macy case, a key moment in the organization’s decision to focus on impact litigation. In Macy v. Holder, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) ruled that discrimination against trans employees in hiring and firing was prohibited under federal sex discrimination law, Title VII. TLC’s victory in another case 3 years later expanded on that ruling, making it illegal for employers to intentionally misgender their employees and deny them access to the gendered restroom consistent with their gender identity.

**A National Organization With a Racial Justice Focus**

As it became national in scope, TLC recognized the need to center racial justice in its work and internal culture. Kris Hayashi, former codirector of the Audre Lorde Project, joined TLC as its deputy director in 2013 and became its executive director in 2015. He was the first trans person of color to lead a large, national civil rights organization. Between 2014 and 2020, TLC more than doubled in size and shifted from a majority white organization focused on impact litigation, leadership development, and eradicating discrimination to a majority trans people of color organization that united legal advocacy and movement building to further trans liberation.
TLC closed its Los Angeles office in 2013 and phased out the California Leadership Summit in 2014, holding in its place a national meeting of 100 trans leaders at the Color of Violence Conference in 2015. TLC also opened an Atlanta office in 2015 with the launch of the TLC@SONG program, a collaboration with Southerners on New Ground (SONG). TLC@SONG was the first of several new innovative movement-building programs begun by TLC in the 2010s. Cecilia Chung launched Positively Trans, a program by and for trans people of color living with HIV, with a national needs assessment and advisory board in 2015. TRUTH, a trans youth storytelling and leadership program, also started in 2015 in collaboration with the GSA Network. In the late 2010s, TLC began several groundbreaking projects, including the Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP), Black Trans Circles, and the Disability Project.

This growth in programmatic work buttressed significant legal victories and marked a shift toward a model of working in partnership with community organizers. Precedent-setting victories included rulings affirming the rights of trans women in prison to access transition-related medical care and the right of a trans high school student to use school bathrooms in keeping with his gender identity. Ongoing litigation includes a class-action lawsuit against the Colorado Department of Corrections for the mistreatment of trans women in their custody and a case against the U.S. government and private immigration detention facilities for the death of Roxsana Hernandez, a trans woman from Honduras who died in federal immigration custody.

In response to the introduction of anti-trans legislation in state legislatures across the country in 2016, TLC launched a National Training Institute to assist local and state-based trans leaders. It also formed a diverse national coalition of trans leaders to improve collaboration and build a cohesive vision for trans liberation. These efforts culminated in 2020 with the Trans Agenda for Liberation, a five-pillar blueprint for legal, policy, and cultural change.

Kris Hayashi and Masen Davis

Further Readings


Transitional Law Conference

See International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy.

Transmisogynoir

Whereas the term *transmisogyny* labels the oppression of trans women through the intersections of transphobia and misogyny, the term *transmisogynoir* adds another variable—race—to delineate the intersections between transphobia, misogyny, and racism. Transmisogynoir serves as a way to understand the violence, prejudice, and oppression that specifically target Black trans women and transfeminine people, as well as why they experience higher rates of individual and institutional discrimination and more negative health and welfare outcomes overall than other population groups.

In transmisogynoir, prejudice against trans women and transfeminine individuals is further compounded by racial prejudice against people of color in general and Black people specifically. The label, adapted from the word *misogynoir*, applies to acts of misogyny against Black trans women that invoke both race and gender bias, which inflame and complicate each other. Acts of transmisogynoir are predicated upon the idea that Black trans women should be targeted as lesser or Other for, simultaneously, not conforming to bigoted perceptions of a biological gender binary, existing