

we Love it when you write us!



You can send us

- Letters responding to this edition
- Artwork (black and white)
- Articles
- Poetry
- Ideas
- Commissary recipes

Write us at:
Hearts on a Wire
 1315 Spruce Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

Contribuciones en español son muy muy bienvenidos!

artwork by Corey

Next Issue:

We are looking for short articles about the relationship between gender and spirituality/religion. You can respond to these questions or write anything else you think is important.

Does your gender impact your experience of spirituality?

Do you have a community of faith? Why or why not?

Have you had positive experiences with religion? Negative?

How does your faith community support you?

If you contribute something, make sure you tell us:

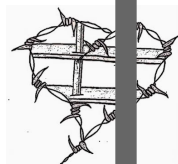
1. **Exactly how you want to be credited** [anonymous, your legal name & ID number, the name you use, your nickname]
2. Whether it's OK to say the facility you are/were in
3. **Please respect other people's privacy;** only make disclosures about yourself.

subscribe with us!

If you would like our newsletters mailed to you, write to:

Hearts on a Wire
 1315 Spruce Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

Subscriptions are FREE for incarcerated and detained people.



issue 14 - winter 2015

Hearts On A Wire

HEARTS ON A WIRE



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♥ support incarcerated and detained trans and gender variant people ♥
 ♥ build community through bars ♥

dear HoaW community: letter from the Outside Collective

We are trans and gender variant people building a movement for gender self-determination, racial and economic justice, and an end to policing and imprisoning our communities.

We meet in Philly at William Way Center 1315 Spruce Street

Tuesdays at 5:30pm

tokens provided heartsonawire@gmail.com

This Edition's Contributors:



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- Shaylanna
- Snowden
- Supreme
- Susie
- Thomas

Cover Art: Miley
Layout: Christopher

Dear Hearts on a Wire community,

Welcome to our winter newsletter! We are excited to have a new collective member who volunteered to design this issue's format. Thanks Christopher! We hope you enjoy it.

Since our last issue, we have continued to give homecoming grants (see below for the application information). We attended events with Books through Bars and the Migrant Power Movement to share information about Hearts on a Wire with organizations working on intersecting issues.

Many of us attended marches and rallies across the city in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. In December, we went to a march and vigil to commemorate the life and leadership of Miss Nizah Morris and other trans women who have been murdered in Philadelphia in recent years.

We are continuing to collect signatures for our petition to end the gender segregation in prison commissary lists. We have over 400 signatures! We are hoping to reach 500 before we submit our petition to the Department of Corrections. We will keep you posted about our progress.

Love always,
Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective

homecoming grants

artwork by Corey

Shout out to

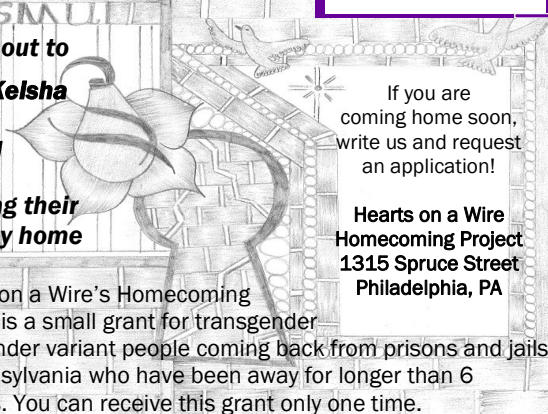
Miss Kelsha & Bambl

starting their journey home

Hearts on a Wire's Homecoming Project is a small grant for transgender and gender variant people coming back from prisons and jails in Pennsylvania who have been away for longer than 6 months. You can receive this grant only one time.

If you are coming home soon, write us and request an application!

Hearts on a Wire Homecoming Project
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA



can you respectfully date a trans woman?

This quiz is for our transamorous readers (those of you who specifically fancy trans people). Thanks for loving us! Now please learn how to respect us. Hopefully this quiz will show you what your strengths and weakness are when it comes to loving trans people (this Q is specific to loving trans women). *****Content Warning*** Since this quiz is designed to show people what is hurtful and offensive versus what is respectful and loving, some parts are transphobic by nature.**

1. How should you refer to a trans woman?
(a) shemale
(b) however she refers to herself
(c) tranny
(d) In general, trans women are...
2. In general, trans women are...
(a) more feminine than non-trans men.
(b) more masculine than non-trans women.
(c) none of the above, don't stereotype them.
(d) The right word for a trans woman's genitals is?
3. The right word for a trans woman's genitals is?
(a) lady penis
(b) dick
(c) I don't know. Why don't you ask her?
(d) If you like trans women does that make you gay?
4. If you like trans women does that make you gay?
(a) no
(b) probably
(c) yes
5. A trans woman should tell you she is trans...
(a) immediately.
(b) when and if she ever feels like it.
(c) when you start getting sexual.
(d) You are a trans woman's type if...
6. You are a trans woman's type if...
(a) she likes you.
(b) you are the manliest of men.
(c) she wanted to have sex with a trans woman if...
(d) I would only have sex with a trans woman if...
7. I would only have sex with a trans woman if...
(a) she had bottom surgery already.
(b) no one ever found out.
(c) she wanted to have sex with me too.
(d) I never had to receive.
8. When I ask a trans woman about her body...
(a) she should disclose whatever I ask.
(b) "Who do you think you are? My doctor?"

1. Respect her. She is in charge of her own identity, so whatever she says goes. Also, shemale and tranny are offensive slurs. They devalue the fact that a trans woman IS a woman and are used by people trying to hurt her. If you want to love her, do not use these words. B
2. Smash your misogynistic gender stereotypes. She is not confined to sexist gender norms. Gender expression and gender identity are not one in the same. You can be a trans woman and still express yourself in a butch or masculine style. Trans women are NOT more masculine than non-trans women simply because they are trans. Don't be transmisogynistic (sexism specifically experienced by trans women). C
3. Having your genitals referred to by words associated with the gender you were assigned at birth can cause dysphoria (make one uncomfortable in their own body) and a lot of emotional harm. Respect how she refers to herself and her body. If you don't know what to say, then ask. C
4. Trans women are women. If you are a dude, then liking her is straight. If you're a lady, liking her is gay. If you're neither of those, liking her is just liking her. A
5. She does not have an obligation to tell you she is trans. Ever. B
6. Men do not deserve women's attentions. Not all women are into manly men, or even men at all. Couples don't need to be a man and a woman, nor even masculine and feminine. And again, men do NOT deserve a woman's attention simply because they are men. A
7. Don't let transphobia into your sex life. Don't put limitations on sex simply because she is trans. C
8. Unless she feels like it's important for you to know about her bodies, you don't need to know. Ever. You may be genuinely curious, but keep in mind that your "curiosity" makes her feel othered, exotified, fetishized, and just all around reminded that she is different, not normal, and something to be ogled at. B

my angel Meshe — Luis Vega

This is a memorial drawing of Meshe I. Paris drawn by Luis Vega, who is at the Wayne Scott Unit in Angleton, Texas. Meshe passed away in August 2014 shortly after she came home. Rest in power, Meshe.



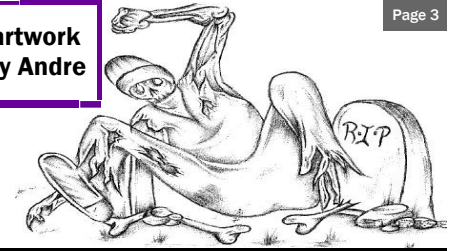
in my mind — Russell Woods

It's time once gain to refill our hearts
With joy and warm reflections,
to look for love outside ourselves
and share our affections.
In my mind are snowflakes falling
gently through the night
And little faces fill my heart
With eyes and smiles so bright.
I think of friends and family
gathered around the christmas tree.
And wish for god's blessings
to fulfill their every need.
In my mind I'm on bent knees
with my hands raised toward the skies,
praying that god's grace and love
will fill up my people's lives

best friend — Keisha Fitzgerald

Starts with Hello
Never a Goodbye
You were there for me
When a tear would fall from my eye
You've made me laugh
At times I may have gotten mad
But to be honest
You're the best friend I ever had
We planned to stay together
Even in our Golden Years
You were there though me life
And helped me conquer my fears
When I fell
You helped me get back on track
Without you I couldn't have made it
Now that's a true fact
You know me better than I know myself
We kept each other in good spirits
And the best of health
Although I sit in this cell
I don't feel alone
Cause when 6 O'clock comes
Its you I call on the phone
In just a little while longer
We'll be together again
I just want to say thank you
And I love you for being my best friend

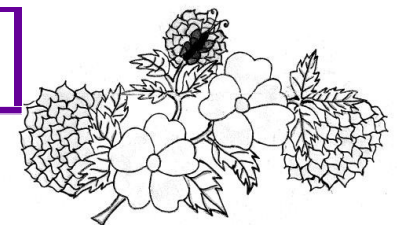
artwork
by Andre



my everything — Bre'Air

You are my one and only,
My best friend,
My soulmate,
My love,
We both had trust issues,
We both cried,
We both had good times,
And bad times,
Yes you should of let me go,
Every time I push that button,
It's been a long time,
Since we were together,
There's never been a day that go's by,
That your not on my mind,
You were never in my way,
I was in my own way,
You wanted me when I didn't love myself,
Because of all the hurt and pain,
All I could see was all the bad,
That my past relationships hurt me,
That I could not see what I had,
You called me your other half,
And left me sweet notes,
But, best of all,
You called me sweetness,
And you were my "Fat Cat,"
You are my everything.
Nobody will ever take your place,
We are Two Hearts-One Beat,
And love you "Fat Cat,"
Forever more <3

artwork by Bre



back to start — Russell Woods

My sorrow, my pain, my screams in vain,
 Voices in my head slowly drive me insane.
 Misery is my comfort, for it's all that I know,
 Emotions - I told them inside is where I keep them not to show.
 What do I do? How do I live?
 What would you do if you had nothing left to give.
 God please save me and wash away my wrongs.
 Fighting for air 'cause I feel like I can't breathe.
 Fearful but humbly I wish they would leave.
 Somebody help me. Just answer my call.
 Please catch me before I slip and fall.
 As I drift away to a world that's unknown.
 Where love, compassion in empathy is shown.
 Please talk to me. No just leave me alone,
 For where I'm at is so far away from home .
 I don't know love, I can't recognize peace,
 'Cause all I know is that these voices need to be released.
 My heart is broken and torn to bits,
 Suffering becomes an umbrella when the storm finally hits.
 Sorrow dwells in my heart,
 Because I'm always left stranded and torn a part,
 So it's alone I go back to the start.



artwork by EC

red roses stand for love — Miley

artwork by Miley

Red Roses stand for Love,
 Pink Roses stand for Lust,
 Red Roses with Pink tips stand
 for the combination of heated love lusters
 White roses are for special occasions
 Yellow roses are for friendship ,
 Black roses are for discomfort and the darkness of
 unexplained...
 What type of rose grows in your hearts?
 What type of rose do you like?
 What type of rose are you?
 Roses are for blossoming, if you take care of them...



even more mail from you ♥

Hey Sisters,

never betray a friend for a man who don't love you. A man is always going to be a man...when you have a man who also tries to sleep with your friends when you're not around or when you're at work that Should tell you that He is not for you!! Do not label your friends as whores or sluts because of your man's actions!! If your man lies to you...LEAVE out of his life NOT your friend's life!! Your relationship will never work because of how your man makes you feel Based on His Actions! I been with 2 Men since I been in this prison not all queens can say this!! It is sad that queens are fighting :(OR trying to fight other queens over a man who been with every queen in SCI Forest.

Move on Baby. Get over him! Keep looking for Mr. Right! You leave in 3 months!

Mariah @ SCI Forest

p.s. I also want to send my love to all my Brothers out there!

In response

Hey Baby girl, you know it's Fly the real one not the knock off that tried to steal my name, but rather your Angel. Look Momita, things will work themselves out they always do and will as long as you follow your obvious plan I lay out. I know from halfway houses to institutions alike people don't respect you or understand you, but trust me ma, I do and in the long run people's eyes will be opened up new ideas. You need to stay focused on the finish line and don't worry about the little things in between. You ALL woman in my eyes and I knew you when you was just a little female coming up. J Respect you, so others have no choice but to as well. I miss you and hope our paths cross sooner than later, because you know the queens flock to Fly...the real one anyway. Yeah I still got the beard and 1,000 tats and relax momita you already know aight. Hold ya head and I'ma hold you down. I love you and miss you girl. Mwah xo

Angel Serrano "The Flyest"
 SCI Graterford

dear HoaW community: who do y'all want interviewed?

Dear Hearts on a Wire Community,

The outside collective is interested in interviewing an influential transgender or gender variant person for the next newsletter. We would like for you all to give us some suggestions for local or national people to interview. This person does not necessarily have to be famous; they could be someone who does important and impactful work in their community! What questions would you ask this person if you had the opportunity to talk to them? Do you have any transgender, gender variant, or ally friends/family on the inside that you would like to interview for us to publish in the next newsletter?

Love,
 Outside Collective



artwork by Andre

♥ mail from you

finding Family

You know I've been down 10 yrs. My name is Pearl, and the closest thing to family is my best friend Penny. When I first got down state, I was scared and I was 42 years old. I had never been in prison. Penny is 6 years older than me and is a vet to this walk in these walls. She showed me kindness and mercy. She helped me and taught me.

...

Me/her had her our hair done in strange diva queen fashion. It seem we were the only two real women in the joint. We looked like Mae West and Betty Grable. Two old broads.

...

Now I've moved and been to 2 different camps since then. I miss us loving and show love for our sisters and brothers. At none of these last two stops have I found anyone like a sister who shows the way.

...

Now I'm all alone. No more perms. Old prison had perms so my hair was long now its cut like Phony Braxton not Tony Braxton. ha ha!

Love, Pearl

Heart felt Wishes for a very Merry Christmas.

I want to thank everybody at Hearts on a Wire for being there for me and my LGBT family. I just hope everybody knows without you all at Hearts on a Wire we would not get the newsletter or the support that we need that our family and with that said I am sending my love for all of you and hope you all have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year

Love Always,
Bre @ S.C.I. Houtzdale

On Haters

I love the story letter to the young one by J. Wilk Proud @ SCI Forest. I would like to say that there are haters no matter where you are inside or out. The important thing for me is to not hide who I am from anyone. I simply say you don't know me and I can't make any choices for you and I am not trying to impress anyone. I am here to stay so you can do whatever you want and walk away depriving them from impressing the body by getting angry and trust me that's not an easy thing to do. Love and peace will prevail someday and I love you all, Hearts on a Wire.

Susie Lynn Moon, SCI Rockview

Happy Holidays Y'all!

I'm writing to wish everyone a wonderful, a Blessful Christmas, and to let everyone know that y'all is always in my prayers + thoughts always. I know, I don't write like I should write, But I been truly busy of trying my best to come home next year, tis kinda hard for me to do that, when somin- always happening, so i really had to be focus refocus myself to get back into doin what i do best, that's being me. So this Holiday, I am so damn focused on comin' home. Moreless, I want everyone to be safe out there, & enjoy y'all Christmas with y'all family, & forgive those that refuse to do what's right & don't let (No One) stand in your way of your happiness. Once again ho! ho! ho! Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely, A
P.S. Love is Love.

Solitary Struggle

I've been held in solitary confinement going on 4 years straight (since I was 21 years old). It's an abnormal and oppressive environment where men walk in with dignity, sanity, and benevolence then leave out insane, insensitive, and in body bags. A few like myself strive to not fall victim to the chaos so we elevate our consciousness through intense study in the face of oppression which harden our hearts and sharpen our minds yet everyone mentally scared. My eyes have witness so much suffering that they are traumatize within itself. Liberty, Justice, and Humaneness I can only envision cause each time I try to hold it, embrace it, or take it, they escape my fold. Now I'm working on absorbing it.

My spirit is only a reflection of my ideas written on paper sent through the mail hoping that it touch the heart and mind of the reader and they embrace it as their own - this is how I live through the hearts and minds of people (you).

With Love and Struggle,
Supreme

Dear Hearts on a Wire

Dear Hearts on a wire,
I wish this letter finds you all in the best of health and spirits.

Well happy holidays! I would first like to thank you for publishing my previous letter. I am a very shy person and the best way for me to be heard is by writing. So once again, thank you. Here is some info for others: *(can be found on page 6)*

Love always,
Angel DeJesus

dear Hoaw community: Philly Survivor Support Collective

The Outside Collective is working with another Philadelphia-based group called the Philly Survivor Support Collective. PSSC offers support to people who have experienced sexual abuse or assault. They help survivors attain a sense of justice and safety while consciously avoiding the legal system and envision a world without sexual violence. Often, survivors don't find that the legal system is useful or helpful in their healing process and it that it increases harm.

We plan to collaborate with PSSC on a booklet that focuses on incarcerated transgender and gender variant people's day-to-day survival. This publication will be made available to everyone on the mailing list and online. The goal of the publication is for survivors to know that we are not alone and that there are ways to resist, stay safer, and take care of ourselves and one another. We are seeking submissions from incarcerated transgender and gender variant people. Here are some questions that might help you get started thinking about what you want to share. You are welcome to use these questions as a guide, or not. Feel free to submit art, poems, rants, observations, or any of your strategies for survival:

1. If you were to mentor someone or act as an older brother or sister to someone who was in prison or jail for the first time, what would you want them to know in order to be able to take care of themselves? What are some things you wish someone had taught you?
2. What is a moment you are proud of in day-to-day survival? Perhaps a time when you felt you were able to more freely express yourself and/or your gender - a time when you didn't give in to something that you didn't want to think, feel, do?
3. What do you do throughout your day on the inside that helps you maintain a positive sense of self?
4. Who is someone on the inside you can count on for emotional or spiritual support? How has this person helped you? How have you expressed vulnerability?
5. What motivates you?

We want your thoughts, stories, and reflections to reach others. We will be editing submissions with our experience of prison censorship in mind with the goal of keeping this publication from getting on the banned list. In constructing your answers, keep the censorship rules at your facilities in mind. As always, please tell us how you want to be credited (name and facility, nickname, anonymous, legal name).

While we want there to be a lot of space for reflection and sharing of stories and experiences, we are also looking for practical material that other incarcerated folks can access as a resource for dealing with their own situations in the hostile environment of incarceration. We have in the past received "how to" guides for identifying abusive relationships, filing complaints, and other strategies for staying safer. Please address submissions to:

Love,
Outside Collective & Philly Survivor Support Collective

Hearts on a Wire
ATTN: PSSC Submission
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

hormones and the DOC: how to get them — Angel D

This is directed to all those transgender inmates or inmates trying to transgender; DOC "says" they do not provide hormones to inmates who weren't receiving them prior to incarceration. If you look up Allard vs. Gomez, 9 Fed. Appx. 793 (9th Cir. 2001) it speaks of a transgender woman who sued because she was not getting hormone treatment. The courts ruled denying treatment based on a blanket administrative policy, rather than on

individualized medical evaluation, was unconstitutional. Also the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) made a position statement saying: "Because inmate-patients may be under different stages of care prior to incarceration, there should be NO blanket administrative or other policies that restrict specific medical treatments for transgender inmates.

Policies that make treatment available only to those who received them prior to incarceration or that limit gender identification disorder also known as GID treatment to psychotherapy will be avoided." So speak to your medical director and ask to be evaluated by DOC personnel to commence your hormones. Good luck!!

*Shout out to my baby
Fly "Love ya Pal".*

- Angel

update on PREA — Susie Lynn Moon @SCI Rockview

Thank you very much for the birthday wish and the update on policy DC-ADM-008 [Prison Rape Elimination Act]. I went to the library and had a copy of the whole policy made so I could let you know which parts have been installed here and after reading it I realized it will take time to implement. And as we well know the DOC has left lots of wiggle room as they always do. So they do announce when a female enters the unit. BB and BC blocks are no longer two blocks of SNU - Special Needs Unit. We are on RTU

- Residential Treatment Unit. They are in the process of removing Asbestos from all the blocks so really soon we will be moving off the block so that can happen as well. We are getting walls in the block out area painted to have more of a recovery environment. They are also training officers in better ways to deal with LGBT inmates. I was seen by our CCPM - Corrections Classification Program Manager. I have not requested to have shower time by myself but

I am almost to that point where I may have to as inmates are starting to want to shower whenever I do. I do keep myself covered and dry in the shower and dress before I open the curtain, but I always keep one eye open when I know there is a risk.

I wrote a 3 page request to the psychology department here requesting that the facility follow the PREA standard of "transgender and intersex inmates must be given the opportunity to shower separately from other inmates." I'll keep you posted. - Miley

—testosterone—that helps me feel better. When I started it and my voice started getting deeper, my facial hair started growing, and I started to pass more frequently as a male, then my self-esteem started to go up. So I started dressing better, eating better, and I was able to keep a job. I was actually able to belong somewhere. I thought that the people at the prison would then see how much it hurts me to be addressed as "ladies" "Ms. Hensley" and "ma'am". That hurts me just as much and does as much damage to my mental health as if you were calling me "whore" or "crackhead". I just want my self-esteem back and I don't know how to get it if I have to live in that body. I don't know where to turn or how to continue on my journey inside those fences. So I did what I felt I had to do for me.

"How do you feel now?"

"I hurt physically, but inside I feel a huge weight lifted. I feel like I belong in my own skin, and maybe my story will save even one transgender kid who is going the road alone and scared." I respond.

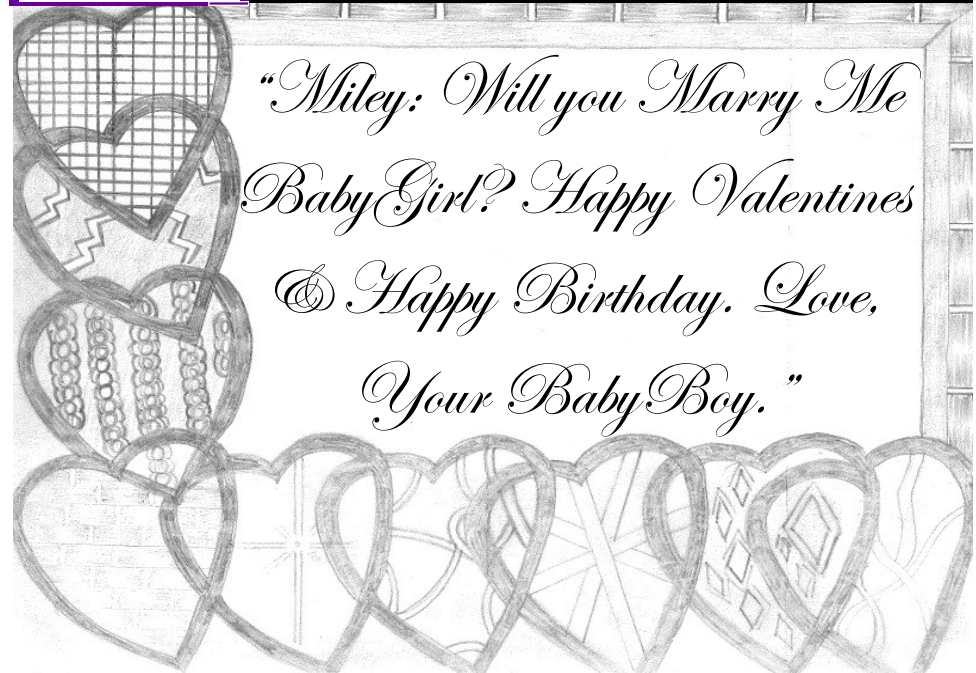
"I only have one more question and then I will leave you to rest. Do you plan to change your name and if so to what?"

"Yes, I do plan to change my name to Snowden Rain. And the reason is that after all I have been through—the snow, the rain, it hurt and it was a long journey, but I came through. IT has been the process that helped me to get better," I reply.

...now you know my story, why I must be who I am and why I feel how I feel. Every day there are struggles in my way—housing discrimination for transgendered people, people calling you the wrong gender, the anxiety of using public restrooms, telling people and risking abandonment, financial costs of medicine, therapy or the name change. So, when you see me on the streets, share an encouraging word, because you are the ones who help me.

artwork by Corey

to Miley from Thomas



mutilated — Jayden Snowden Rain

Content Warning! This story goes into detail (some graphic) about self harm and suicide.

I want people to know what it has been like for me to live life in the wrong body, being misgendered by people, and how I have dealt. I have always felt like I should have been born male. I wrote this story while I was incarcerated in prison without my testosterone and this is how I really felt. So here starts my story...

9-1-1 what's your emergency?

One of my officers just found an inmate badly mutilated. I need an ambulance immediately. The address is 2675 East 30th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

I will dispatch the proper people immediately. Can you tell me anything about the victim? Age? Name? What happened?

The inmate is Jayden James Hensley and is a transgender male. He is 37 years old. It appears that he has tried to give himself a double mastectomy with a razor blade. He has lost a lot of blood and is not responding. The ambulance arrives and EMTs begin to work on the inmate. An IV is started. Blood pressure and pulse are checked. Blood is everywhere. Chances of survival are slim to none. The sky is a deep dark grey and the rain begins to fall. The inmate is taken to Metro Hospital. At the emergency room, they immediately start pumping blood into the inmate as a surgeon tries to correct the mess that has been made. Several hours later, when Mr. Hensley wakes up and the pain hits, a nurse and a psychologist are there. "How are you? Where do you hurt? Do you know where you are?" The nurse asks. "My chest is tight and hurts a lot. I remember cutting my chest. The pressure was just too much. People are so simple minded. I

remember the pain I felt. The depression. I could not take it any more. My body has betrayed me so much. I'm tired of hurting, I just want to be rid of what doesn't match and to get on with my life."

"This is the hospital psychologist and she is going to be here to help you in your recovery and into a healthy lifestyle. I will leave you two to talk." Says the nurse.

The psychologist says, "Obviously you feel out of place in your body. Can you tell me what it was like growing up?"

"I knew at a very young age- possibly 5 or 6 that I liked girls. When we played house I always had to be the dad, the doctor, the cop, the cowboy. I remember humping the other girls. I always wanted to do "boy" things. I wanted to go to the military, I wanted to race cars, to play football, baseball, basketball. As I got older, I told my parents I was gay. I liked girls, but it was different. I wanted to be a boy. I wanted to have a penis. I wanted to be a dad. That was who I was."

The psychologist then asks, "Tell me, what were your favorite toys as a toddler, youth, teen, and adult?"

"As a small child I liked cars, fire trucks, balls, stuff of that nature. As a youth, I liked sports, girls, skateboards, bikes, car racing, etc. As an adult I liked exotic cars, clothes, semi trucks, etc."

The psychologist then asks, " Tell me about when your depression started".

"I guess it started when I was like 11 or 12. I was sexually abused by my cousin but he was also the person who paid me the greatest attention. When he hung himself I felt I had no one. I didn't fit in anywhere. I was at an awkward age. The girls didn't like me because I was too rough. The boys didn't like me because I was a girl," I said.

"Can you tell me why you cut yourself?"

"I have been progressively getting back to where I feel bad. I have been off my medicine

elevation & people's bazaar: brainstorming — Supreme

Supreme, an inside collective member, wrote and submitted several ideas for events the outside collective could throw as a way to celebrate and uplift the community. We are very grateful and excited to share an excerpt of Supreme's suggestions. We would love to see these events made a reality someday!

Elevation is a social event design for the empowerment of women/girls, by unifying to develop their consciousness and create a sisterhood that will form positive images of women/girls, build emotional discipline/self-respect, embrace natural beauty, and value their self worth.

The **People's Bazaar** is designed as a social event of mutual allied progressive organizations for means of fundraising to provide quality services, expand outreach and basic necessities while connecting with the community in which they serve.

Entertainment

Local female poets, spoken word artists, singers, children (girls only), dance groups, and singing groups will be given the opportunity to showcase their talents at the event.

Presentations

Speakers (selected base don their knowledge and experience) and establish women rights groups and activists.

Arts and Crafts:

An art exhibit will be available, to display the talents that are hidden behind the walls of the prison industrial complex. It will showcase drawings, paintings, and crafts by prisoners nationwide. Also some of the arts and crafts would be for sale, with all funds going to participating organizations.

Games:

Adult and children's games/contest ...

Giveaways:

To show appreciation to the people we serve ...

Live Entertainment:

Local comedians, rappers, singers, bands, and dance groups ...

Merchandise, Open Mic, Refreshments, Speakers

hate crimes legislation — Shaylanna Luvme

I think hate crimes should apply to any individual who's part of a group or community that might be targeted. Yes, hate crime laws provide protection, to certain individual groups, communities, and agencies. Locking people up is never a good idea. If you want to use prisons for what they're meant for then yes, locking people up should be used to rehabilitate individuals not abuse them. LGBT individuals should be added to

the list. I say this because if anybody targets law enforcement groups they'll lock you up immediately. When someone commits a hate crime, it's because they don't like what an individual or a group believes in. So if that's the case LGBT individuals should be at the tip top of that list.

*Dear Hearts on a Wire,
I hope this letter finds
you well.*

- Shaylanna

shotgun to the back of my heart — Mariah Donna Maryam Aaneby

Shotgun to the back of my heart, I don't turn around to see who let one ring out
 Said you'll never do me wrong? Guess we see how that plays out
 Is it true? Is it true?

Clearly we live in a country whom many of its residents don't care about trans women of color. TWOC, especially Black and Latina/x women and those of gender variant experience. It's arguable that there is a war going on in this country and it is directed at Queer and Trans POC, especially youth. Will increasing hate crimes legislation help the survivors of this war? Will giving cops and people in power more control actually help save lives? Although including Queer and Trans people in hate crimes legislation seems ideal and more inclusive, it will lead to more TWOC, especially Black Trans Women, being

[Hook:]
 Heading to the Massacre
 Bodies arriving every day
 Look at those shells you heard
 Picking the bones up along the way

Let it ring out
 Let it ring out
 Let it ring out
 Let it ring out
 (SZA)

Already in 2015, three Trans Women of Color have already been brutally murdered and are Resting in Power (RIP).

beaten, locked up, and murdered.

This is all I can say on this matter right now. This is how I feel. This is what I know to be true in my heart. That may a Power greater than ourselves condemn the people who call Queer and Trans POC scum. If they repent and ask for forgiveness, they shall enter

the Hereafter. If not, then how is locking up the people who harm QTGVPOC going to help those who have been harmed? What if you're locked up with the people who've assaulted you? What if you can't forgive?

Just because questions can't be answered don't mean they're not worth asking.

Don't give up. Keep on Surviving. To all those struggling on the inside, even if I don't know you, know that I love you.

Already Three Black Trans Women Have Been Brutally Murdered in 2015
 by Kaelyn (from autostraddle.com)

"Lamia Beard, a black trans woman from Norfolk, Virginia, (30), loved music and travel. She sang and played the flute, oboe, piccolo, and piano. She earned a full scholarship to Bethune Cookman College. She spoke French fluently. Her favorite artist was Beyoncé; was very close to her family and friends"

"Ty Underwood, 24, of Tyler, Texas was an assistant at a nursing home and was planning to go to school. She had recently been accepted to Kilgore College's nursing program. Her friend, Kenya Darks, told KLTV, 'She's a fan favorite. Everybody likes Ty.'"

"A third woman, Goddess Edwards, 20, of Indianapolis, Kentucky, was actually the first reported black trans woman to be killed in 2015...because of misgendering by the media and law enforcement, we are only just learning of Edwards' death and still do not know her first name."

R.I.P. Gloria Casarez — Jordan Gwendolyn Davis

On October 19, 2014, Philadelphia lost a civil rights hero. Gloria Casarez, the LGBT liaison to the mayor's office passed away after a long battle with cancer. A lesbian of color, she made sure that the interests of all LGBT people were respected in the city, including the transgender community, and has always been accessible to even the least of us.

She was responsible for countless acts which helped to make the lives of LGBT citizens better. I had the pleasure of working with her on Philadelphia's LGBT omnibus legislation, which included transgender health coverage for city

employees and gender neutral bathrooms in new city buildings. She also, after the death of Kyra Cordova, helped with the first ever mayoral proclamation for Transgender Day of Remembrance. Whatever needed to be done, she was there, and it will be tough to fill her shoes.

But perhaps one of Gloria's most endearing qualities was that she didn't play respectability politics. As a young, disabled, and low-income person, Gloria always heard me and many others out for plans to make the city better for the LGBT population, no matter whether we were

enmeshed in mainstream politics or not, we were considered family to her.

In her place, the city recently hired Nellie Fitzpatrick, to be their new LGBT liaison, but nobody will ever be able to truly replace her, Gloria was just that great.

Rest In Peace and Power My Friend!!!!



transgender teen's death calls for action — Miley



Leelah Alcorn, a transgender teen, committed suicide on December 28th, 2014. Her death prompted a petition to ban "conversion therapy" discouraging teens from changing their gender identity. It has nearly 300,000 supporters.

At reading this it broke my heart. Leelah Alcorn, I did not know you but they say there is a reason, they say that time will heal, no reason will change the way I feel. For no one knows the heartache that hides behind my smile. No one knows how many times I've broken down and cried over losing a sister or brother in our community. I want to tell you something so there won't be any doubt Leelah. You're so wonderful to think of, but so hard to be without. Forever in my heart, see you in the heavens above.