

# Who we are

We are a group of transgender people seeking to create a world in which all of us are free from imprisonment, police violence, racism, and poverty. We do this by building community between those of us on the inside and those of us on the outside. Through this newsletter, we aim to support the members of our community who are locked up by sharing resources and information and showcasing our creativity and resilience.

We want your contributions! Please submit artwork, stories about your experiences, complaints, ideas for change, commissary, poetry, thoughts on resources or articles you'd like to see published, anything

**DMV Trans Newsletter**  
**1414 North Capitol St. NW**  
**Washington, DC 20002**

If you want to contribute please include exactly how you want to be credited (if you want to be anonymous or not, or use a nickname, whether it's OK to say the facility you are/were in). Your legal name and ID number will never be used. If you want to subscribe, please also send a letter asking for subscriptions!

# DMV Trans Circulator

Issue 4

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## Job Resources

### Project Empowerment

A DC program that provides job training and provides a job for at least 6 months—it is trans-friendly and works with people with criminal records.

### Casa Ruby

A Latino/a LGBT center that provides job trainings on site, a job counselor, educational programs, and referrals. Ruby says everyone who works with her, gets referrals for programs.

*We are aware of other job training programs, but we want to make sure they are trans-friendly before providing their info. If there are programs you have specific questions about, let us know!*

## LGBT Pen Pal Projects and Resources

### Black and Pink

*LGBT Prisoner pen pal program & monthly newsletter*  
c/o Jason Lydon  
Community Church of Boston  
565 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

### TGI (Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex) Justice Project

342 9th Street, Suite 202B  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-252-1444

### Tranzmission

*Books for transgender, intersex and gender nonconforming prisoners*  
P.O. Box 1874  
Asheville, NC 28801

### Prisoner Correspondence Project

*Resources and Pen Pals for LGBT prisoners*  
QPIRG Concordia  
C/O Concordia University  
1455 de Maisonneuve O  
Montreal, QC H3G 1M8  
514-848-7583

We want to thank you all for your letters, submissions, and thoughts. We are working to answer your questions about the DOC, and we support you all in the ways you've asked us to in the letters we've received. Please know it takes a little time for us to get ahold of folks and to get the work done, but we are here doing what we can, we support you, and we stand in solidarity with you all. Please continue to let us know how we can help, please continue submitting, and please continue staying strong!

# Brandi's Bulletin

Hey people,

I couldn't wait to tell you all about this huge let down that I experienced a couple of weeks ago. So, there was this flyer floating around online about this group of trans women called Tgirl Nation. They were throwing a huge gathering to put positive trans women in the sight of successful positive guys who were into trans women and looking to meet and date and so forth. I thought it was a great idea. After all, y'all know that I believe that "trans women" need love too....

So I called up a good friend of mine and decided that we would go. You know, to check it out and see how things were going down and if nothing else at least I could get a story out of it. It was a disaster! Nothing, but a huge contribution to the misunderstanding of what be trans really is. From my observation there was mostly older cross dressers there and old perverted jons looking to pick up prostitutes. I was fairly disappointed because I thought that finally there were people out here ready to start a movement to get us some love.....

Need less to say, it was a huge let down and I was not happy.

*Brandi's Bulletin is a regular column by one of our founders, Brandi, a self-identified black trans woman.*

# I am Not:

I am Not: Just my gender, I personify a dimensional being. One whom is Compassionate, Kind, Gentle, devoted, a true Friend, one to give love in exchange for love. I am the multitude of characteristic to be founded in life's creation....

I am Not: To be define thru your bias, narrow-mindedness, misconception of my essence. Your views are just, your views. They don't reflect nor determine my being.

I am Not: Willing to compromise the epitome of my persona to appease your inabilities to learn my struggles. I will not be beaten down by rejections nor defeated in pride due to your failure to grasp my inner core.

I am me, therefore not you. I must push past my borders to discover my destiny,

I am Not: to be lesson with dis-information but embraced as my true self.

Submitted by Imani

## What's Goin' On

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking put out a bulletin saying that an individual cannot be denied insurance coverage based on gender identity or gender expression. This is the third “state” to do it, after California and Oregon. So basically, private insurance now cannot deny coverage to transgender people. But because gender affirming surgery is considered “cosmetic,” that would still not be covered under insurance, even with a diagnoses of Gender Identity Disorder. Additionally, this bulletin is only directed to private health insurance providers in DC and not any public insurance. It's definitely a step in the right direction, but it seems to be a slow one, and one that doesn't include a lot of people and also a lot of different things people might want covered under insurance.

**What do you think? Are you excited to hear about this? What else could we do to push the DC government and other insurance providers?**

## When I Look in the Mirror

Sometimes when I look in the mirror I see a bag lady holding on to too much baggage, when all I really need to be hanging on to is me. This beautiful and spiritual trans woman. When I look in the mirror I say “yes! She is beautiful and I am happy because she is me”. Other times I look in the mirror I scream “ahhh!!! Get him off me!!!” Its when I see him. He always comes like a thief in the night in a “shadow” attempting to form into a mustache or beard but she makes sure he doesn't stick around. Yes, she is me. Then, when I look in the mirror I am happy because he is gone and I see a beautiful trans woman in counting of all my feminine traits. Then I'm “grateful” that she is me. When I look in the mirror I don't see Beyonce hips, or a Nicki Minaj ass, or even Pamela Anderson boobs and I ask myself are those the things it takes for me to be a beautiful trans woman? Then, when I look in the mirror again I begin to find myself by counting my sexy full lips, my pretty chinky eyes, my small hormone grown breasts, my soft round cuffed bottom and my long beautifully shaped legs. I count all these things as my femininity and realize that all women aren't made the same and I am happy with me and my femininity. So yes, when I look in the mirror I see a beautiful trans woman.

Submitted by Louraca