



Testimonial: Annie Savery

I am Annie, a trans woman living in Guyana.

I am a member of Guyana Trans United.

The situation for transgender people in Guyana is really bad, as we don't have any rights. There are experiences of violence, including partner violence. It is difficult to access services such as healthcare because the laws prevent recognition of transgender people. The rights of the trans population are violated as we do not have the privilege of enjoying equal rights that cisgender people have in Guyana.

It is very important to include the needs of trans people in HIV funding, because we are a part of the general population. HIV is a human cause, and this is why trans people need to be involved in the work – we need to be equipped with the knowledge to help with decreasing the incidence of HIV in Guyana, just like all other key populations.

When I arrived at this activity I had few expectations. I thought it was going to be just another regular HIV workshop, but during the process over the two days, I realized that it was so much more than this.

“It is important that civil society, the government and our donors work together to show that trans lives do matter.”

The situation of trans people in Guyana will only improve through a more coordinated effort from all sectors. I have come to realize all of us in the trans community are all going through the same challenges. I am taking away the strength that the community has in Guyana. As a community we can build bridges and we can achieve our goals.

DATE: 1 May 2018

ACTIVITY: 2-Day Session on “Sustainability of Trans Communities in the HIV and Tuberculosis Response, Forging a Joint Vision and Action Plan beyond the Global Fund (GF)

COUNTRY: Guyana