

Testimonial: Star Reyes



I am Star Reyes, I am a 28-year-old trans man living in Belize. My history in activism goes back almost 8 years ago, to when I participated in LGBT group sessions and trainings. Currently, I serve as the secretary of the United Caribbean Trans Network.

I am actively involved in the transgender movement in Belize, with both TIA Belize and Belize Trans Colors. However, I would like to form an organization just for trans men, to encourage more visibility within our community and to have more trans

men included in these conversations to ensure our needs are addressed.

I had many expectations at the start of the session, most of which were met during the two day workshop. In particular, I had hoped to become more knowledgeable about the processes of how the Global Fund operate. I had no knowledge about the Global Fund in Belize or how it impacts, or is supposed to impact, the transgender community.

I learned that we need to understand how to take part in a CCM meeting or Global Fund consultation, as well as how to ensure that transgender needs are addressed at these meetings. The training and information were delivered clearly, showing me how to do this. The session equipped me with the tools I need to be a stronger advocate and activist. I now understand the important role that I must play, and I now feel better equipped to do so.

“We need more training like this to educate activists and members of society on the Global Fund and the importance of planning for sustainability. We need more support to build on joint visions and learn how to work together for the good of the entire transgender community.”

I would have liked other members of the CCM, such as from the government or private sector, to have been present so that we could make them aware of the work being done, and to discuss how they plan to support the transgender community after the Global Fund leaves.

I am grateful that I had an opportunity to interact with other members of the transgender community, and collaborate in the development of a technical request to the CRG. I was surprised, but also happy, that Erika Castellanos had requested my presence at this session, as I often feel left out of most discussions, as they are for trans women, not trans men. We need more coordination and collaboration among the transgender community. There is a lot of conflict and some persons are not prepared to work as a coalition. We need support to build on joint visions and learn how to work together for the good of the entire community.

DATE: 25 November 2018

ACTIVITY: 2-Day Session on “Building the capacity of trans communities to provide Monitoring and Oversight of Global Fund Processes in Belize”