



CWSDC-7

Jamaica, October, 2019

Building sustainable feminist movements

Caribbean LBT women advocating for and creating change



For immediate release

CWSDC7: statement re Emancipation Park incident

The following statement was issued at the [Caribbean Women and Sexual Diversity Conference](#) on October 7, 2019.

(Jamaica, 14 Oct 2019) The planning committee would like to acknowledge that an incident happened at Emancipation Park during a tour on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at approximately 4:45pm, where one of our volunteers, a trans woman, was stopped and questioned by Shalk Security. The volunteer entered the park through the entrance on Park Boulevard along with approximately 40 other persons who were a part of the group.

We want to share that as the organisers, TransWave Jamaica, We-Change and ECADE, are preparing a letter in order to have discourse with the relevant agencies - National Housing Trust, Park Management and the Jamaica Tourist Board. We've reached out a lawyer to seek advice and support. The safety and security of all our participants for this conference is very important and as such we're not taking the incident lightly.

The incident is a reminder that trans people in Jamaica have limited safe spaces. This is a stark reminder that we have to continue to engage government and key stakeholders to address lack of social inclusion and legislative framework that protects trans and gender non-conforming Jamaicans as well as other gender and sexual minorities.

The Committee would like to thank our tour guide, Dr. Shani Roper for her activism on the spot as well as the other conference participants who stood in solidarity with our volunteer. We have much work to do in Jamaica and we have done much work as well. We welcome your continued support as we strive to make Jamaica a place for LGBTIQ people to live, work, raise families, do business and access public spaces.

— END —

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NB: Individual interviews can be arranged on the phone, in person or online.