TRANS
PRE-CONFERENCE
REPORT

Summary of the Trans
Pre-Conference at
UHAI-EASHRI's
Changing Faces, Changing
Spaces Conference VII
The ITF wants to express its gratitude to UHAI-EASHRI for their collaboration on the Trans Pre-Conference at CFCS VII. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to work closely with the UHAI team and would like to extend our special thanks to Roselyn Odoyo for all her support and work to make the event a success.

The ITF would like to thank the Ford Foundation, Arcus Foundation and American Jewish World Service for their support.

© 2019 International Trans Fund (ITF)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACRONYMS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACKGROUND</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rationale for the Trans Pre-Conference</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- International Trans Fund (ITF)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Conference Objectives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Agenda</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANS PRE-CONFERENCE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Opening</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 1: Setting the Scene</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 2: ‘Visibility...Voice...Freedom’:</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining the CFCS VII Theme from a Trans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perspective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 3: The Dawn of a Pan-African</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Movement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 4: Priorities of the African</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Movement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 5: Funding African Trans Movements</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 6: How to Apply for ITF Funding</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SESSION 7: Next Steps for the African</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Movement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Recommendations for Funders</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST-CONFERENCE SURVEY</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What We Learned</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX 1 - AGENDA</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRONYMS</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJWS</td>
<td>American Jewish World Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFCS</td>
<td>Changing Faces, Changing Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRL</td>
<td>U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EATHAN</td>
<td>East African Trans Health and Advocacy Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITF</td>
<td>International Trans Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSF</td>
<td>Open Society Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATF</td>
<td>Southern African Trans Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEU</td>
<td>Transgender Equality Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIA</td>
<td>Trans and Intersex Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UHAI-EASHRI</td>
<td>The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATF</td>
<td>West African Trans Forum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It was amazing to look towards a shared strategy in terms of what we could achieve collectively as trans persons on the continent.

– Trans Pre-Conference participant

The International Trans Fund (ITF) partnered with UHAI-EASHRI to hold a Trans Pre-Conference as part of Changing Faces, Changing Spaces (CFCS) VII on June 18, 2019. The Trans Pre-Conference brought together 35 participants from more than 15 countries in Africa, representing diverse trans sexual and gender minority groups. The main objective of the Trans Pre-Conference was to facilitate the participation of trans activists to engage in discussions on how to strengthen trans movement building in Africa. The agenda was structured to include a mixture of small-group activities and large-group discussions. Each area of the agenda was intentionally sequential, building on previous sessions to connect the threads of discussions and link issues and strategies. Learning was participatory and included plenary discussions, breakout sessions and opportunities to network and share experiences.

One of the key results of the Trans Pre-Conference was the creation of a Pan-African Task Force which comprised of five trans activists who will work towards creating a strengthened trans movement in Africa. The Task Force will strategize on solutions to the challenges facing trans groups and work to advance the priorities of the region.

Key Outcomes

The key outcomes from the Trans Pre-Conference were:

1. Transfer of skills and knowledge to trans activists on how to access new financial resources and apply for funding.
2. The representation of trans people at CFCS through the participation of 35 trans activists at the Trans Pre-Conference and main Changing Faces, Changing Spaces conference.
3. Increased knowledge and understanding of the challenges, opportunities and priorities of the trans movement in Africa.
4. Exchange of advocacy strategies among trans activists in the region.
5. The formation of a Pan-African Task Force to strengthen trans movement building in Africa.
6. Facilitation of information flow from trans activists to the ITF and other funders on the existing funding gaps affecting trans groups in the region.

Challenges & Priorities

The participants at the Trans Pre-Conference identified key challenges facing trans groups in Africa, which were as follows:

- Trans people experience high rates of mental health issues due to violence, discrimination and stigma.
- Severe lack of gender reaffirming healthcare for trans people across the continent.
• Poor leadership retention to support the sustainability of trans groups.
• Lack of funding for trans groups.
• Underrepresentation of trans youth and young people in programming.
• High rates of violence, discrimination and stigma experienced by trans people in their daily lives.
• Threats to safety and security for trans people.
• High rates of unemployment in trans communities and common experiences of poverty and homelessness.

The participants at the Trans Pre-Conference also identified key priorities of the trans movement in Africa:

Safety & Support
• Prioritize safety and security of trans activists to support movement building across the continent.
• Urgent need for culturally competent psychosocial support services for trans people.
• Prioritize work to promote gender affirming healthcare services, including medical transition services and psychosocial support.

Advocacy
• Promote legal gender recognition for the liberation of trans people.
• Develop advocacy tools for trans organizing in the region.
• Develop trans positive media advocacy programs, including advocacy materials to support trans visibility campaigns.
• Document the experiences of trans people across the continent and represent these challenges with a unified voice.
• Develop and implement trans inclusive programming in all mainstream organizational work.
• Prioritize inclusivity and intersectionality in trans work, for instance including differently abled trans people and trans youth.
• Promote socio-economic justice as a core component of trans activism.
• Create safe spaces to respond to poverty and homelessness for trans people.
• Develop trans specific solutions to challenges facing trans people.
• Trans activism should be valued contextually as groups are working in countries across the region and therefore face different challenges.
• Pressing need for enhanced collaboration between existing trans networks.

Leadership Development & Capacity-Building
• Identify and support strong leaders to represent trans issues.
• Identify existing leadership opportunities for trans people.
• Develop trans educational programs in organizational work plans.
• Support trans organizations to build their professional capacity.
Recommendations for Funders

Trans-led groups in Africa are doing innovative and strategic work across the continent to build trans movements and promote trans rights. However, these groups are severely underfunded, with trans activists working tirelessly on the frontlines with limited remuneration or support, often in hostile or dangerous situations. This can and does lead to the burnout of trans activists and the lack of sustainability of trans-led groups. There is an urgent need for funders to focus on supporting trans-led organizing and sustaining trans leaders in Africa.

The Trans Pre-Conference identified recommendations for funders:

• Support the development and sustainability of trans networks across Africa.
• Increase core funding/general support for trans-led organizations across Africa, including underrepresented areas like francophone West Africa and North Africa.
• Support the development and sustainability of the Pan-African Task Force.
• Engage with grassroots trans organizations to better understand the needs and priorities of groups and support innovative responses.
• Provide capacity-building support in addition to financial resources.
BACKGROUND

The ITF and UHAI-EASHRI partnered to host a one-day Trans Pre-Conference on June 18, 2019 at the bi-annual Changing Faces, Changing Spaces (CFCS) conference. The conference was held at an undisclosed location in Kenya to ensure safety and security of participants. The Trans Pre-Conference took place one day before the main CFCS conference and was open to participants that self-identified as trans. There were 35 participants in attendance from across the African continent and interpretation was provided in English, French and Kiswahili. The main objective of the Trans Pre-Conference was to facilitate the participation of trans activists to engage in discussions on how to strengthen trans movement building in Africa.

Rationale for the Trans Pre-Conference

There has been an increase in the visibility of trans people across the globe and in many jurisdictions there has been tangible progress for the rights of trans people. However, in most regions of Africa, these gains are yet to be felt. African trans people face significant criminalization, including moral policing, restrictions on bodily autonomy and violence such as involuntary sterilizations, arbitrary arrests and forced anal testing. In Africa, only two countries enable legal gender recognition and one requires sterilization.1 Access to gender-affirming healthcare is almost non-existent, for example, 77% of the trans and gender non-conforming community in East Africa has not accessed any hormonal therapy, and trans people report facing harassment when attempting to access care.2 In addition, there are common experiences of sexual assault, homelessness and unemployment.

The participation of trans activists in Pan-African conferences with a focus on LGBTI and/or sex work has historically been restricted by lack of funding and limited scholarships for individuals. This has led to little or no visibility of trans groups in these spaces. It is important to support and amplify trans voices to better address the issues facing the region by ensuring the inclusive participation of trans people in safe spaces.


International Trans Fund (ITF)

The ITF is a participatory grantmaking fund made up of trans activists and funders. The mission of the ITF is to mobilize sustainable resources for strong, trans-led movements and collective action, and to address and eliminate funding gaps impacting trans groups across the globe. The ITF aims to increase the capacity of the trans movement to self-organize and advocate for trans people's rights, self-determination and wellbeing. Over the past two grant cycles, the ITF has disbursed 20% of all its grants to trans-led groups in Africa and West Asia, which equates to US$233,000. This has included grants being awarded to 10 groups on the continent representing seven different countries and two regional networks.

The Trans Pre-Conference was an opportunity for the ITF to advance its objectives by supporting the trans movement in Africa to highlight issues facing trans organizing, showcase the challenges facing trans groups, including accessing funding, and develop a strategy to strengthen movement building in the region. In developing the agenda for the Trans Pre-Conference, the ITF's Program Officer worked closely with current ITF grantee partners in the region to co-create an agenda that prioritized the voices and needs of the trans movement in Africa. As part of the ITF's efforts to support trans groups to access non-financial resources, the ITF successfully delivered funding information to strengthen the capacity of trans people to apply for funding. The ITF also introduced trans activists to a range of funders supporting trans work in the region through a funder panel. The Trans Pre-Conference was an example of good practice in supporting trans movements through the empowerment of trans people and a community-led approach to creating a vibrant and safe space to actively support organizing, strategizing and networking.

Conference Objectives

The objectives of the Trans Pre-conference were:

- Facilitate the participation of trans activists on the continent in a Pan-African space where they can network and co-create a collective agenda with activists and allies of the LGBTI and sex worker movements on the continent.
- Support African trans activists to gain skills, share experiences and develop advocacy strategies to strengthen trans movement building.
- Convene African ITF grantee partners in one space for collective strategizing and solicit feedback on ITF’s practice and capacity-building activities.
- Serve as a temperature check and opportunity for outreach and communication on the ITF’s past and upcoming grant cycles; which included mapping emerging issues and funding themes.
- Deliver a funding workshop aimed at providing practical grantwriting skills to African trans activists and supporting them to apply to ITF’s fourth grant cycle.
Participation

The Trans Pre-conference brought together 35 participants from more than 15 countries in Africa, representing diverse trans sexual and gender minority groups. Trans people face discrimination on a day-to-day basis in various aspects of life. Among the numerous challenges trans people face, they are denied opportunities to engage in regional advocacy due to limited funding to travel and lack of legal gender recognition. In African countries where trans individuals cannot change the gender marker on their travel documents, they face barriers and violations when trying to travel across the region. Some trans people fear exercising their right to travel documents due to the high rates of stigma and discrimination at State-run agencies.

Agenda

The Trans Pre-Conference agenda was structured to include a mixture of small-group activities and large-group discussions. Each area of the agenda was intentionally sequential, building on previous sessions to connect the threads of discussions and link issues and strategies. Learning was participatory and included plenary discussions, breakout sessions and opportunities to network and share experiences.
TRANS PRE-CONFERENCE

OPENING

The Director of the ITF opened the Trans Pre-Conference by welcoming the participants. He shared information about the ITF and how it seeks to support trans movement building across the globe. He explained that the ITF wanted to facilitate a safe and vibrant activist space that was responsive to the needs of the participants and stressed that they should comfortably take up the space and drive the agenda and outcomes. The ITF committed to bringing recommendations derived from the Trans Pre-Conference to the philanthropic community.

SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE

The Program Officer of the ITF explained the objectives of the Trans Pre-Conference and shared the agenda with the participants (see Appendix 1).

SESSION 2: ‘VISIBILITY...VOICE...FREEDOM’: DEFINING THE CFCS VII THEME FROM A TRANS PERSPECTIVE

The speakers were trans activists with experience working at the grassroots level in different regions of Africa including Swaziland, South Africa, Togo and Uganda.

Key issues

- Visibility should be defined to meet the trans community’s needs. It is important to define visibility through the experiences of trans people and the lens of trans activists’ work.
- Legal gender recognition is an issue when it comes to visibility because most states do not truly recognize trans people even when the laws do not directly criminalize them (e.g. South Africa).
- There is a need to engage with trans youth through social media. There is work being done in online forums and studies should be conducted to determine how to engage with youth to solve the erasure of trans youth voices.
- Visibility of trans people is often limited to the societal perception that consider trans people to be homosexuals.
- There should be increased advocacy for the human rights and safety of trans people. This includes publication of advocacy materials and engagement with police forces to inform them of how impersonation laws negatively impact trans people.

“In my country, you have to be quick on your feet and run if anything threatening happens.
– Trans woman from Togo
• There are significant differences in how people talk about their identities and the terminologies that they use, which is particularly true across generations. Diverse voices need to be heard.
• There are challenges to trans people achieving visibility, voice and freedom; difficulty in changing their legal documents, high rates of violence and discrimination, unemployment and many other issues.
• The safety and security of trans people should be promoted in the work that activists do.
• The inclusion of trans people from rural communities in programming is important to visibility, voice and freedom.
• There are more challenges than opportunities and there is a severe lack of sustainable programs for trans people.
• Funders should make more commitments to support trans-led groups and increase funding to the region.

Key points
The speakers’ presentations and open discussions highlighted the following need to:

• Strategize while engaging in advocacy for visibility, voice and freedom.
• Refine advocacy tactics to ensure they are realistic and sustainable.
• Promote activist wellness and wellbeing.
• Creation of safe spaces.
• Access gender affirming healthcare, including access to medical transition services.
• Work together as a trans movement despite differences or challenges and build synergies with the broader community.
SESSION 3: THE DAWN OF A PAN-AFRICAN TRANS MOVEMENT

The speakers were trans activists with rich experience working with sub-regional networks in Africa, including representatives from East Africa Trans Health and Advocacy Network (EATHAN), Southern African Trans Forum (SATF) and West African Trans Forum (WATF).

Key issues
• The three network representatives presented the organizational mandates of their networks. They highlighted the work being done which includes access to information, advocacy, safety and security trainings, capacity-building programs, research and advocacy.
• There was a recognition of the successes and challenges faced by the networks which include; lack of mental health supports, lack of gender reaffirming healthcare, challenges with leadership retention and lack of funding.

Key points
The speakers’ presentations and open discussions highlighted the following need to:
• Create an ideal African trans movement with the understanding that for movements to work effectively they must work together to create change and visibility.
• Develop ownership of self-identity. African trans movements can educate other regional movements on the contextual challenges of trans organizing in African countries.
• Secure commitment from local and national groups to work with networks.
• Support networks to create benchmarking programs for research and learning, provide internship programs to inform national programming for trans groups.
• Bring trans networks together.
• Promote safety and security when violations are reported.
• Collect trans specific data including the documentation of rights violations and violence.
SESSION 4: MAPPING OUT PRIORITIES OF THE TRANS MOVEMENT IN AFRICA

The Trans Pre-Conference facilitated a participatory group session where trans activists broke away into three groups to identify priorities of the African trans movement. It was agreed that there was a need to develop the priorities of the trans movement in the region in order to move forward with action points on strengthening movement building. The three priorities areas were guided by the CFCS theme ‘Visibility…Voice…Freedom.’

The three groups identified rapporteurs who reported back about the discussions in each group and shared the key points under each thematic area:

i) Visibility
   • Safety and security should be a priority.
   • Trans groups should develop psychosocial support services for trans people.
   • Need for more media advocacy programs.
   • Trans groups should develop advocacy materials to support trans visibility campaigns.
   • Creation of safe spaces to respond to poverty and homelessness for trans people.
   • Need for capacity building for trans organizations.
   • Existing regional trans networks should collaborate in their work.
   • Intersectionality should be incorporated in trans work.
   • Develop trans educational programs in organizational work plans.

ii) Voice
   • Safety and security should be a priority.
   • Trans groups should document the experiences of trans people and represent these challenges with a unified voice.
   • Identify strong leaders to represent trans issues.
   • Advance a united approach for a Pan-African trans movement.
   • Identify trans groups working on a regional level.
   • Develop trans specific solutions to challenges facing trans people.
   • Develop an advocacy tool for trans advocacy in the region.
   • Repackage social media messages and identify target audiences to enhance media advocacy for trans people.
• Create opportunities for trans youth.
• Identify the existing opportunities for trans people.
• Enhance sensitization and awareness raising projects.
• Prioritize work around gender affirming healthcare services.

iii) Freedom
• Prioritize inclusivity and intersectionality in trans work, for instance including differently abled trans people.
• Trans people should advocate for freedom of speech and expression.
• Trans work should be valued contextually as groups are working in countries across the region and therefore face different challenges.
• Legal gender recognition must exist for trans people to be fully liberated.
• Safety and security should be a priority.
• Freedom cannot be fulfilled without socio-economic justice.
• The trans movement must be united.
• Need to support organizational development.

The ITF documented the feedback and stated it would be captured for the Trans Pre-Conference report.

SESSION 5: FUNDING AFRICAN TRANS MOVEMENTS

The ITF Director moderated a panel with diverse funders who had experience funding in Africa and supporting trans-led groups. There were funder representatives from UHAI-EASHRI, U.S. State Department, Open Society Foundations (OSF), Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA), American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. The panelists were asked to share information about their organizations and how trans-led groups can access funding. There was a question and answer period followed by a break for networking.
SESSION 6: HOW TO APPLY FOR ITF FUNDING

The ITF shared information about our grantmaking process to equip trans activists with skills and knowledge on how to apply for funding. The session enabled the participants to interact with ITF staff and seek clarity on how to apply for the fourth grant cycle that will open in October 2019.

SESSION 7: NEXT STEPS FOR THE AFRICAN TRANS MOVEMENT

In the final session of the day, the participants of the Trans Pre-Conference engaged in a facilitated discussion about the next steps. As part of this session, it was decided that there was a need for a Pan-African Task Force and five members representing the sub-regions of East Africa, South Africa and West Africa were selected to sit on the Task Force. The Task Force is aimed at forging closer collaboration and communication between the sub-regions (east, west and southern) hoping to expand the network to north and central sub-regions with time. A commitment was made by the Task Force to work towards developing a clear roadmap for the trans movement in Africa. There will be a report back at the next African Trans Pre-Conference.
OUTCOMES & RESULTS
The main objective of the Trans Pre-Conference was to facilitate the participation of trans activists to engage in discussions on how to strengthen trans movement building in Africa. This event served as a platform for trans activists from Africa to share their experiences, exchange information on the challenges and opportunities facing trans communities, strategize to devise solutions to their problems and network with other organizations.

One of the key outcomes of this collective effort was the formation of the Pan-African Task Force comprising of trans activists from East Africa, South Africa and West Africa. The primary purpose for the Task Force was to advance the priorities and recommendations from the Trans Pre-Conference. The Task Force will serve as a mechanism to increase knowledge and understanding of trans organizing across the region, contribute to networking and information flow on the existing trans groups in Africa. The ITF is very supportive of this outcome as it is a demonstration of collective and organized action at a continental level to better facilitate support at the local and grassroots levels.

The Trans Pre-Conference has created a blueprint for future efforts for regional mobilization and engagement that will further strengthen trans movement building and self-organizing to address the challenges faced by trans communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS
Trans-led groups in Africa are doing innovative and strategic work across the continent to build trans movements and promote trans rights. However, the feedback from these groups is that they are severely underfunded which hinders their efficacy and the sustainability of the trans movement. Many trans activists are working tirelessly on the frontlines in very hostile environments where they regularly face discrimination, stigma and violence. This can and does lead to the burnout of trans activists and the lack of sustainability of trans-led groups. There is an urgent need for funders to focus on supporting trans-led organizing and sustaining trans leaders.

The Trans Pre-Conference identified recommendations for funders:
• Support the development and sustainability of trans networks across Africa.
• Increase core funding/general support for trans-led organizations across Africa, including underrepresented areas like francophone West Africa and North Africa.
• Support the development and sustainability of the Pan-African Task Force.
• Engage with grassroots trans organizations to better understand the needs and priorities of groups and support innovative responses.
• Provide capacity-building support in addition to financial resources.
POST-CONFERENCE SURVEY

The ITF circulated an anonymous, online post-conference survey to all participants. The intent was to get feedback on the Trans Pre-Conference in order to better understand participant’s experiences and improve future events. The post-conference survey was available through SurveyMonkey in English and French and was open for 17 days. There was a 66% response rate.

Results

In order to better understand the experiences of trans activists at the Trans Pre-Conference, the ITF asked participants to indicate how much they agreed or disagreed with specific statements. When asked if the participant had gained knowledge of existing trans organizations in the region, 100% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement. When asked if the participant had gained knowledge on the challenges facing trans movements in the region, 91% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement. When asked if the participant made meaningful connections with other trans activists, 91% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement. When asked if the participant thought that the Trans Pre-Conference would change the lives of trans people in the region, 78% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement.
When asked if the Trans Pre-Conference has contributed to movement building in the region, 87% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed.
The ITF also asked participants to share their level of satisfaction with the panel sessions at the Trans Pre-Conference, 91% of participants said they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the panel sessions. 

The ITF also asked a number of open-ended questions in order to get more nuanced and qualitative data from participants about their experience. For example, participants were asked what they liked least about the Trans Pre-Conference and several articulated that a one-day pre-conference was not long enough to provide depth and breadth to important conversations:

"I personally feel like the time allocated for the conference is very little. Perhaps in the future it could be two days at least because there are so many issues that are critical and need to be addressed but could not be addressed with the time that was there."

Another participant noted that there was "limited time for contextual learning and alliance building between organizations with similar mandates."

Other participants observed that francophone trans organizations and activists from West Africa are often excluded from spaces due to language and that funding does not always reach these communities.

Participants were also asked was they liked most about the Trans Pre-Conference:

"It was amazing to look towards a shared strategy in terms of what we could achieve collectively as trans persons on the continent."

"The Trans Pre-Conference, it was really very fruitful to me personally and to the trans community back here in Rwanda. And being exclusively trans individuals in the meeting room, this was solidarity."
It was altogether a great and healthy engagement with genuine will to institute a Pan-African spirit within the movement. I personally feel I gained more from the knowledge on East African organizing and West Africans than South African states whose contexts are least hostile than ours.

Well done it was a good and engaging space.

...A chance of speaking to different donors! We just need more time with them!

It was really amazing, I had great conversations with ITF staff and also other activists. I really loved the African Task Force that was established as we need to innately share ideas, methodologies and advocacy strategies to advance human rights for transgender community.
WHAT WE LEARNED

The Trans Pre-Conference was an incredible space for ITF staff to learn and engage with trans activists from across the continent and to develop a deeper understanding of the priorities, challenges and opportunities facing the trans movement in Africa.

Our key learning:

• Trans activists must lead in the development of the agenda and content for any movement building event. This should include the active and meaningful participation of diverse trans activists and trans-led groups.

• Ensure that events are organized in such a way that there is enough time to have in-depth discussions and an opportunity to devise concrete next steps. There should also be time for more informal discussions and networking.

• Provide high quality interpretation so all participants can actively engage and effectively communicate and be heard.

• Use an intersectional approach to ensure diverse participation at events and actively ensure the most marginalized and excluded activists are supported to attend events.

• Given the safety and security concerns, it is necessary to create a safe space for trans activists to share, learn and engage. Creating a safe space enables trans people to talk openly about the issues they are facing and find relevant solutions and effective approaches. Trans activists should be more meaningfully represented in international and regional LGBTQI and human rights events and conferences.

• Regional representation helps consolidate the African region and supports a Pan-African approach to activism. Trans activists from different regions should have the opportunity to articulate their diverse experiences and the challenges they are facing in their countries in order to develop context specific approaches.

• Funders that participate in activist spaces have a responsibility to engage in philanthropic advocacy to encourage the increase of resources flowing to trans movements.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30</td>
<td>Trans Pre-Conference Registration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:35</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Broden Giambrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35 - 9:00</td>
<td>SESSION 1 - Setting the Scene Trans Pre-Conference overview</td>
<td>Mukasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>SESSION 2 – ‘Visibility...Voice...Freedom’: Defining the CFCS VII Theme from a Trans Perspective Panel Discussion Panelists: Pinty (TransSwati), Lawrence Phiri Chipily (LITE Organization), Vanessa Afiwa (UNITY), Islèm Mejri, Amanda Beatrice (Transgender Equality Uganda)</td>
<td>Tebogo Nkoana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:15</td>
<td>Morning Tea Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 - 13:00</td>
<td>SESSION 4 – Mapping Out Priorities of the Trans Movement in Africa Group Work</td>
<td>Mukasa &amp; Vaito’a Toelupe Break away session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>SESSION 5 – Funding African Trans Movements Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Broden Giambrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 - 15:15</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15 - 16:15</td>
<td>SESSION 6 – How to Apply for ITF Funding</td>
<td>Vaito’a Toelupe &amp; Mukasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:15 - 17:20</td>
<td>SESSION 7 – Next Steps for the African Trans Movement Recommendations &amp; action points</td>
<td>Jabu Pereira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:20 - 17:30</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Mukasa &amp; Broden Giambrone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>