

RAISE COMMUNITIES NOT FLAGS



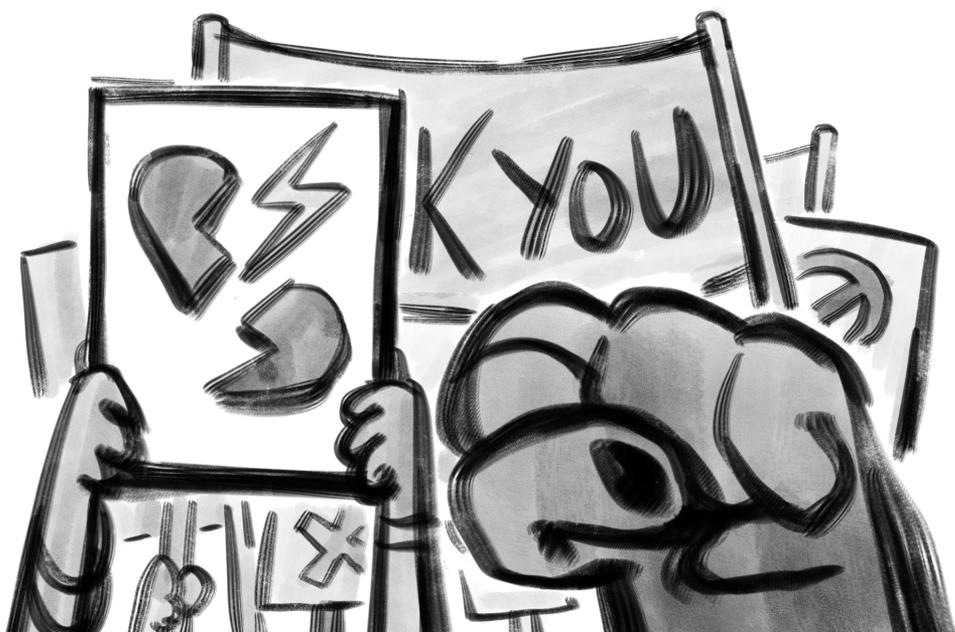
QT CASE - Queer Trans Community Action
Support & Education

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Queer Trans Community Action Support and Education

Fighting racism and conservatism in local organizing on Tkaronto

QT CASE is an initiative to fight back against the racism and conservatism settling into the local queer and trans communities, **oppose corporate, political and “non-profit” exploitation**, as well as rebuilding communities based in true grassroots efforts. QT CASE seeks to promote community-wide consensus based decision making models, direct action, community accountability, accessibility, community-based support, and community-based education models.



CALLS-TO-ACTION

1. Dismantle the TTA.
2. Abolish colonial flag-raising.
3. Build a community-wide consensus process.
4. Create a community process for unaccountable non-profits.
5. Form a community delegation to meet with and confront the 519, Sherbourne Health Centre, Salah Bachir and others about their active role in propping up the TTA and disrupting community practices.
6. Public acknowledgement by the government of systemic violence towards trans people.
7. Demand politically responsible commitments from the government to end violence towards trans people, including:
 - Homelessness
 - The opioid crisis
 - Access to medical care
 - Barriers to community autonomy

STOP Flag-Raising on TDoR

Flag-raising is an undeniably colonial act of celebration. TDoR is a day of mourning and resistance: systemic violence is not something to be celebrated. Homophobia and transphobia were brought over by colonizers who continue to dominate our community and oppress us. **The violence we face - the violence that TDoR recognizes and brings us together to resist - is racialized violence that disproportionately affects trans women of colour.**

The TTA has now approached the same colonial state that exists on this land illegitimately, to recognize us with a flag-raising ceremony without acknowledging their continued domination over POC and the transphobic violence **that they create and uphold.**

Raising a flag for TDoR is uncritically using a symbol of **colonial state authority** from a settler institution on unceded territory. It sends a hypocritical message which undermines our collective, anti-racist struggle against violence against trans people. There are very few spaces for TWOC and other marginalized trans people to reflect on our oppression and develop community, so **it's important for us to fight back against opportunists who claim to represent us, but actually exclude us from community spaces, and all aspects of political power and organizing.**

Who is the TTA?

The Toronto Trans Alliance (TTA) is a shell organization run by Boyd Kodak. Much like how corporations use shell companies to hide and move capital, the TTA deals in political capital. The origin of the TTA can be traced back to a power struggle between trans groups and community members with conflicting and competing objectives. If you visit their Facebook group (their only real community engagement), you will see that it simply serves as a space for others to share events.

There is virtually no organizational structure or process to be found.



For decades, conflicts in the trans community have either been resolved through informal community processes, or activity has stagnated due to unresolved disagreements. **This started to change when significant funding began flowing into organizations, which eventually morphed into the non-profits we see today.** This shift brought in a new culture of trans people employed as staff, serving on boards, and generally having specialized roles, stakes, interests, and more importantly, holding positions of power.

While this might sound positive - the situation we find ourselves in today is a direct result of these changes: **Conflict resolution through power struggles instead of community engagement.** By increasing trans representation organizations gain social capital. When you combine this capital with lack of accountability, trans communities suffer the consequences. This is how seemingly progressive structures can also feed back into the violent systems that attack our community.

In the case of the TTA, it's role as a shell organization serves influential people like Susan Gapka or Nicki Ward by providing them with increased social and political capital. Meanwhile, **many of these people hold racist, classist, and transphobic beliefs,** and their actions uphold violence against our community. For example: **inviting police presence at trans events, membership with right-wing groups like LGBTory, silencing and excluding homeless trans people, and even voicing support for Donald Trump.**

It is very important for us to be critical of who gains support from politicians and government systems.

For its entire existence the TTA has focused almost exclusively on holding a flag-raising at city hall. The flag-raising provides the TTA and those involved with political and social capital that they can then leverage in their careers and within other organizations, extending their control over many aspects of trans community organizing, services and resources.

Why Protest?

Illegitimate and unaccountable organizations like the TTA enforce systems of power and decision-making which erase the trans community's current practice and historical tradition of processing internal politics and creating resources & support structures.

These systems of power have already led to an increase in the amount of poverty, carceral violence, social isolation and other forms of systemic abuse that trans people experience.

The TTA has positioned itself as an umbrella group for all trans people in Tkaronto and is now formally recognized by the city government.

The TTA has a history of collaborating with Toronto city officials in ways that are insulting and harmful for trans people - exposing themselves as a racist and conservative group.

We refuse to allow conservatism and allyship theatre to grow within our community. We deserve better, and our community deserves better.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Connect with us and continue the conversation



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