

For The Gworls Announces New Affiliate Offerings to Black Transgender People

New services complement the organization's mission to combat the enormous barriers that Black transgender people face with regards to their safety, health, and well-being

NEW YORK – November 05, 2021 – <u>For The Gworls</u>, the mutual-aid organization that provides rental and affirmative surgery assistance to Black transgender people across the globe, has today announced a new suite of offerings, including free gender-affirming wigs and tarot/ astrology readings to Black transgender people.

Transgender people are becoming more visible in American society and popular culture, though millions are still fighting for true equality because of their gender identity and/or expression. These barriers are exacerbated for Black transgender and femme-identifying people who oftentimes experience deeper inequality compared to white transgender people.

"We understand the importance of expanding our offerings to provide Black trans people with services that help them feel comfortable with their gender expression," said Asanni Armon, founder of For The Gworls. "These new services act as an extension to the work we're already doing, as physical wellness intimately intertwines with emotional and spiritual health."

Ahmad Saeed, co-founder and resident DJ of For The Gworls, added, "Our goal is to relieve some of the intrapersonal burdens Black trans people face outside of rent, surgery costs, or medical fees. We're now offering a more holistic approach to wellness in our community. Taking care of financial and physical needs are imperative, but Black trans people deserve emotional and spiritual health, too."

For The Gworls will be partnering with <u>Rapture</u> (also known as Myles E. Johnson) and <u>SunChild</u>, two queer spiritual advisers who will be offering joint <u>tarot and astrology readings</u> (or individual readings) for all Black trans people looking for spiritual guidance and enlightenment. According to SunChild, "Our outward lives are ever-changing, and the one thing that will anchor us is a devotion to our inward, spiritual sustenance and maintenance. The practice of astrology catalyzes greater self-actualization, as this process of spiritual nourishment, care, and evolution is continuous."

Rapture (better known as Myle E. Johnson) added, "For The Gworls has done an amazing job at helping our Black trans community survive and navigate interlocking systems of oppression. I intend to help our community gain and use nonmaterial[Jw3] resources to thrive through spiritual counseling and guidance. Spirituality is a muscle that so many members of our community might feel barred off from exploring and grounding in, and I am over the moon — and a few

other stars and planets — to take down the monetary boundary that sways Black trans folks away from getting routine spiritual services done."

LGBTQ+ people continue to report acts of discrimination in public accommodations and at work, and have to deal with outdated and archaic laws along with pervasive biases, making them ultimately pay an unfair price for being who they are. Transgender people, especially Black transgender people, pay a particularly steep price. Discrimination and higher costs collude to reduce earning power and savings and keep Black transgender people in poverty.

<u>LacedTogether</u>, the gender-affirming hair program, will be accepting donations of recycled hair and wigs, reconstructing them, and allocating the restored units to Black trans people in need. "More important than the euphoria that's experienced when our gender is affirmed, is the safety we feel," said JB Veras, the founder of LacedTogether. She adds, "I hope that less and less of our sisters face violence, and more of us can walk confidently into spaces and feel safe and beautiful."

For The Gworls understands the impacts of these barriers on transgender people's health, safety, and economic security. "We hope to alleviate the emotional stressors of gender dysphoria and provide an open space for personalized spiritual guidance outside of traditional religious settings," said Saeed. Advocates, activists, and policymakers are taking steps towards greater protections for transgender Americans, and For The Gworls is excited to be a part of the ever-evolving movement.

"I hope our affiliate offerings help Black trans people feel as comfortable and in love with themselves as possible wherever they are in their transition. How we see ourselves is integral to our mental and emotional alignment." Armon said. "A deep spiritual understanding of ourselves and our connection to our ancestors is crucial to our transition processes, as well. We hope to provide Black trans people with this."

The mutual-aid organization has also announced record growth including:

- Over \$1.5M in redistributed aid as of July 2021
- Processed over 300+ rental applications and over 100+ for medical funds
- 16x YoY social media growth
- Reopening affirmative surgery applications in early 2022

For The Gworls will soon be launching a new merchandise collection, which will include silk-lined hoodies, silk scarves, masks, jogger sets, and more, all ranging in a variety of skin tones for women and men of color. Follow us on social media to get updates on availability!

Connect with For The Gworls:

- Visit us online
- Connect with @ForTheGworls on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>

• <u>Donate</u> to For The Gworls

About For The Gworls

Initially birthed by throwing "rent parties" for Black transgender people in New York City, For The Gworls is a trans-led, mutual aid collective that now supports Black trans people across the globe. Founded in 2019 by Asanni Armon and Ahmad Saeed, For The Gworls assists with rent and gender-affirming surgeries, along with its newly developed medical fund designed to help recipients with treatment copays and travel assistance to avoid Covid-19 exposure via public transit.

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