

2024



Annual Report



3 Our Mission

5 2024 in Review

6 Vision and Values

8 Theory of Change

13 Programs and Impact

14 Success

16 Who We Are

19 Finances

20 Challenges for 2025

Contents

“

We help **Trans***, **Intersex**,
and other **Queer** people
flee places where it is
dangerous to be trans,
world wide. We legally
and securely help them
reach **places** of **safety** and
reasonable **quality of life**.



47

Trans, Intersex, or Queer people
rescued in 2024. Plus a trans guy's
elderly mom, another's loving wife,
and a trans woman's cute children.

2024 In Review

We enter 2024 prepared for a critical campaign year with a PR plan in place, "Get Out Before The Election". Few listen

We are taking on very difficult cases. We rescue a trans woman from Boko Haram

Demand in the USA explodes. We react quickly. Fortunately we have much already prepared.

We develop a strong volunteer corps.

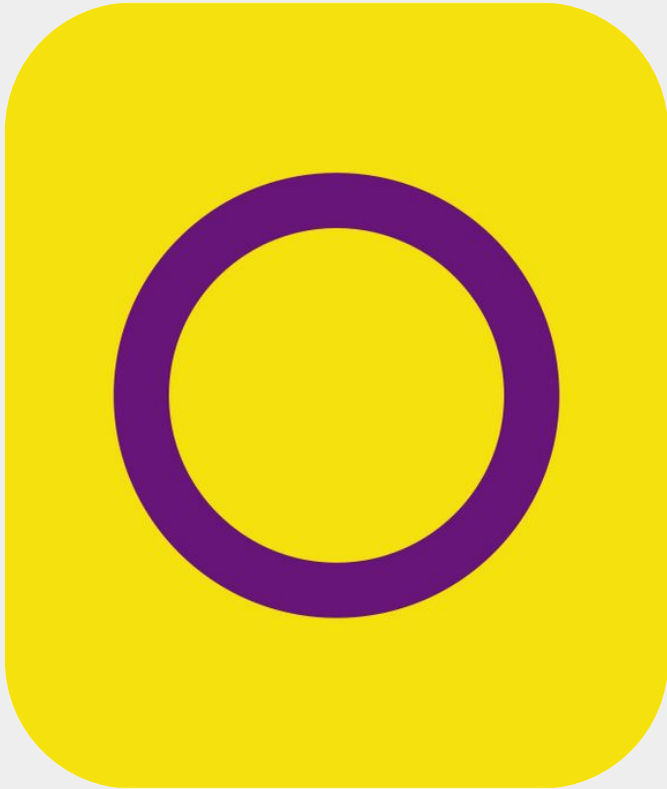
Continued emergency evacuations and safe relocations in high risk regions

Moved from a Startup NGO to a growing, professional organization

Trump Election

Americans do listen to our 'get a passport' message. Many do get one.

Vision Values



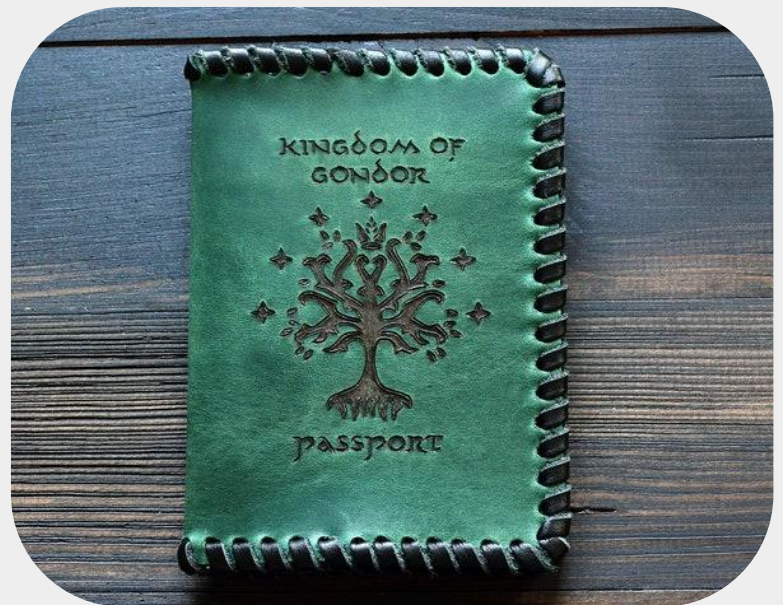
Every Trans* Person Has Value

We value the words “world wide” in our mission. We will try to save a trans person anywhere. If you call us from an arctic ice floe a TR volunteer will start learning about the Canadian SAR presence in the arctic. If you are in Afghanistan or Yemen, your life has as much value as if you are in an easier place to work, and we will not abandon you.

We are not effective altruists. We do not believe in saving those who are easiest to save. We work to save those in the most immediate danger first, but we save everyone. We help the rich and the poor. We helped a trans woman figure out how to export her private plane when she fled. We bought another shoes, as they would not let her on the plane without them.

No One's Life Should Depend On A Cardboard Book

We should not divide the world into areas and give each person a little book with their area's name on it. Then tell one, “You have the good name on yours, and the ‘good’ gender. You may go where you will”, and tell another, “You have the bad name on yours, and you don't look like you match the Gender letter stamped in yours. You shall die.”



Our Vision and Values



Do Real Work With Donor Funds

The work we do is brutally hard. We've had volunteers beaten and jailed. We've had volunteers mentally fold up. And it is expensive. We could pay staff to give seminars in Amsterdam about the plight of Iraqi Trans people. We choose instead to help get trans people out of Erbil and Algiers.

It is expensive work. Sometimes we have to fly passengers on crazy quilt routes. One of our passengers went from Qatar to Turkey to S Africa back to Turkey to India to Malaysia to Sweden.

We have passengers who have been 'stuck' en-route for as long as nine months. But they eventually find freedom. Yes, we could do seminars in Amsterdam. But none of us want to do that.

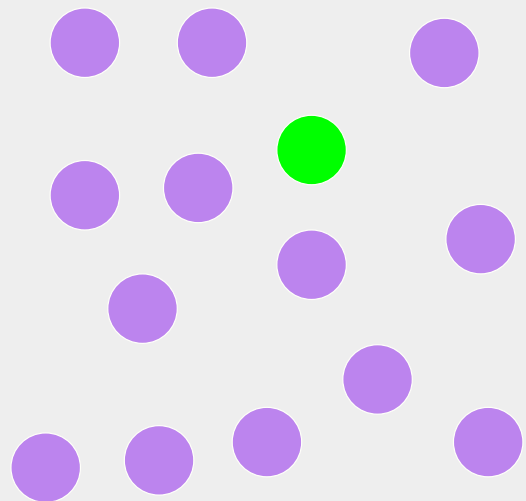
It's not the sophisticated way to play the grants game. But it produces lasting change for our clients. The Torah says if you save one Jew you save the whole world. Harvey says without hope, life is not worth living.

A Small Group of Thoughtful, Committed Citizens

One day in the USA our director was in line at the Safeway bakery behind the kind of old man who drove a pick-em up truck. When his turn came, he ordered "A sheet cake, with some gay stuff on it". His son had just come out.

Good people come from everywhere. We're a coalition of trans parents, Jews, radical trans activists, and good people who think doing spy stuff is cool. We are cis, trans, and other. We have volunteers in over half of earth's time zones, and over 110 degrees of latitude. Our youngest volunteers are minors. Our oldest are pensioners. Many of us are from MENA and Africa.

We do not have a European 'head' and southern 'tail'. Our two Kenyans are our attorney and our accountant. Operations runs from SE Asia. IT is spread across the world.



“

I know that you cannot **live**
on **hope** alone, but without
it, life is not **worth** living. And
you, and **you**, and **you**,
gotta give em hope.

- Harvey Milk

Our Theory Of Change

At Trans Rescue we believe in the transformative power of hope. Without hope, life is not worth living. Our passengers tell us that over and over - "If I can't get out of here soon, I will kill myself". And you gotta give em hope. We hope you'll give em hope by supporting us, with your time, and with your money, and with your support. We give em hope. We hear regularly "I was going to kill myself until I found you." More painfully, our wait list is growing, and we now sometimes hear "then there is no hope. I am going to die".



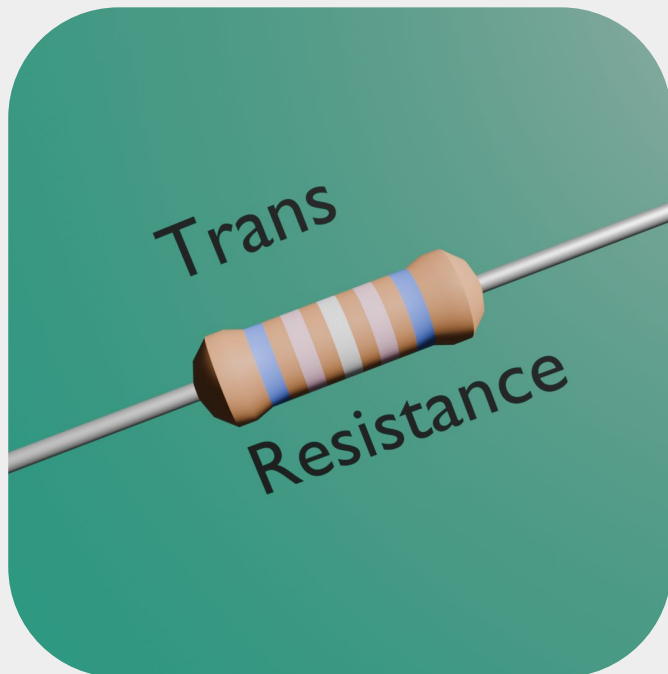
“

I will have hope

- Trans woman, after checking that we received her email and would help her

We believe in **concrete** actions.
Others talk of empowerment and
forming powerful coalitions of blah
de blah. **We move people.**
We believe every trans life has **value.**
We know we will never move
everyone. But **if we do not try** to save
each who comes to us, no matter
where they are, we are not spreading
hope. World wide. Not 'in places that
are easy'. **World wide.**





When we tell trans people in dangerous places that they have value, we encourage local resistance.

As Funkadelic put it, "Free your mind, and your ass will follow".

Our director, an American, started her activism in 1986. She originally saw herself as advocate for a group of people with a disorder. It's been a long road to free our minds.

In dangerous places, giving trans people hope empowers them to make other local acts of resistance. Even in the most dangerous places it is possible to resist. But the resister has to know their work is not futile.

A time capsule opened after 100 years contained a letter from a lesbian, outing herself. Our director used to write "A transsexual woman wrote this" on the bathroom wall. Former passengers have posted YouTube videos, wearing a disguise, addressing their neighbors.

But it starts with hope and a free mind.

Our passengers do arrive. And they bear witness for those who are left behind. The Romans would slaughter a defeated army, but leave one soldier alive to carry the tale home. They understood that the survivor carried their message, “Don’t mess with the Romans”, much more powerfully than any emissary or document.

It is easy for those who live in safety to ignore the voices of those in more dangerous places if they are only a few voices on the internet. It is not easy to ignore the powerful presence of living trans people who can speak with their own voices when they are in your local support group or at trans game night.

Like survivors who carry testimony forward, those we help bear witness for those left behind. Their stories travel further and speak more powerfully than any report or campaign ever could.

Our passengers leave behind communities who knew them. Family, neighbors, local authorities. All have their images of themselves as the good guys troubled. They must ask, “who are we, that one of us has

fled?” We have seen many times where locals had to decide whether to protect a trans person or help oppress them. Hotel owners, random shopkeepers, airline staff. And those decisions remain behind as part of the community zeitgeist, creating slow change.



Programs and Impact, 2024

We are a volunteer run Dutch NGO with about 20 volunteers, some of whom work virtually full time.

Our primary program is our **extraction program** - getting mostly college age trans people away from families and governments that are an active danger to them, out of their home country, and to a place of safety. We did it 47 times in 2024, including an Arab American who **crossed the Sahara desert** to escape and a rescue from the **Boko Haram** terrorist group.

We also run a robust education program to educate and motivate trans people in places like the US and UK to leave.

We turned from a 2023 dominated by work in Uganda following the passage of the 2023 Anti-homosexuality Act to **watching the US**, and to a lesser extent the UK, descend into places dangerous to trans people.

We conducted a **PR campaign** to get trans people out of the USA ahead of the Trump election, but few listened. It was only with Trump's election that they responded and demand exploded.

We spent much of the year haranguing trans Americans to get a passport. Many did listen - from our first survey in late 2023 to our last a few days into 2025, trans passport possession grew from **33%** to **75%**.



Success, one passenger at a time



Sabrina

Sabrina is a middle class trans woman who was slowly coming out to herself in Algeria. As it became obvious to those around her, she needed to leave more and more urgently.

At the same time, she owned real estate, businesses, and other property. No one would deal with the new Sabrina, and her finances were crumbling.

She called us in panic - an apartment building was being foreclosed. That would trap her in Algeria with no legal escape. A methodical, planned 'leave' became 'escape in 72 hours' instantly.

We responded. We got her out in just over 12 hours. She's now safer in a new country, waiting to be relocated to a trans friendly one. Meanwhile, she's volunteering for us, helping others like her.

Sonia -

It's hard dealing with non-accepting parents. If they're members of the notorious terrorist group Boko Haram, it's deadly. We were helping Sonia escape when they tumbled to our plan. Fortunately, she then escaped herself. We got her out of her home country, and she's now in a safer place, awaiting a chance to move on.



Success, one more passenger at a time



David

David is a trans man, the son of an Egyptian and an American woman, divorced. His father was awarded joint custody, took him to Egypt, and he was trapped there until he turned 18, when we helped him escape.

It was a brutal trip. He had to cross a large expanse of Sahara desert on foot.

He's out now, living in safety, in a loving home.

Namia -

Not every passenger has to flee to another country.

Namia's village head man accused her of witchcraft - a common way of dealing with any threat to the social order.

She fled, called a friend, who put her in touch with us. We got her to a large city and helped her get settled.



Who Are These People? Are They Dangerous?

We have a single volunteer, our Kenyan attorney, to whom we give a small stipend. Otherwise he would have to find what we are sure would be far more lucrative work. Otherwise, none of us are compensated. There are about 20 of us.

We are cis and trans, gay, straight, parents of trans people, from every corner of the world. We are from many backgrounds. For the vast majority of us, this is our first experience running a nonprofit organization. We are from journalism, tech, the fashion industry, education, advertising, psychology, law, and many other fields. Our number includes two CEOs of for-profits and people who are struggling financially. We are an elderly American and a young Algerian. Many of us are refugees ourselves, and some are former passengers.

We do such diverse work as sending money to passengers and writing press releases, planning routes from danger to safety and talking scared passengers down. Some of us do dangerous work in dangerous places. We try to avoid being dangerous. We never, ever forget that passenger's lives are in our hands.



The Adults Arrive

Not so long ago we were a rag-tag bunch of activist-y types doing it all from the hip. We're still doing it from the hip, but this has been a year of change and growth.

Erica Graham joined our advisory board at the start of 2024. She was recently retired from 25 years running a communications firm in Australia. She came on with the mission of transforming Trans Rescue, and in that she succeeded. TR is a different organization as we exited 2024, with more systems in place, with an internal capacity building capability, and with a much larger volunteer base. We thank her for her service.



Strategic Partners

Forbidden
Colours
Brussels

Equality
Georgia
Tbilisi

JAR,
Tokyo

Garabtaag
Kuala
Lumpur

AQNetwork
Kampala

Safe Place,
Nairobi

Gay Bar,
Melbourne

Our Finances

Amounts in Euros

Income

Individual Donations	77796
Grants	0
Total	77796

Expenses

Extraction & programs	68042
Other expenses	2192
Total	70234

Net Surplus 7558

Balance

Cash	7246
------	------

Challenges for 2025

We remain grossly under resourced
For the size of our mission

Operations must develop a true team
And proper processes

The United States will need massive
Support in 2025, and we have few
Resources for that effort

There is a constant increase in
demand for our services

Our volunteer corps is burning out

Stichting Trans Rescue Foundation
Schietbaanweg 103,
Enschede 7521 DA Netherlands
contact@transrescue.org
+31629252517
Signal: transrescue.17
KvK nummer 84793252