

# PROJECT SOLACE

## JUSTIFICATION

### *Academic Research*

(U.S. Transgender Survey, National Center for Transgender Equality, 2015)

### Legal transition

- Only 11% of respondents reported that *all* of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred, while more than two-thirds (68%) reported that *none* of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred.

### Hormones treatment and surgery

- One in four (25%) respondents experienced a problem in the past year with their insurance related to being transgender, such as being denied coverage for care related to gender transition or being denied coverage for routine care because they were transgender.
- More than half (55%) of those who sought coverage for transition-related surgery in the past year were denied, and 25% of those who sought coverage for hormones in the past year were denied.
- One-third (33%) of those who saw a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender, with higher rates for people of color and people with disabilities. This included being refused treatment, verbally harassed, or physically or sexually assaulted, or having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to get appropriate care.
- In the past year, 23% of respondents did not see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and 33% did not see a doctor when needed because they could not afford it.

### Psychological therapy

- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents experienced serious psychological distress in the month before completing the survey (based on the Kessler 6 Psychological Distress Scale), compared with only 5% of the U.S. population.

- Forty percent (40%) have attempted suicide *in their lifetime*, nearly nine times the rate in the U.S. population (4.6%).
- Seven percent (7%) attempted suicide *in the past year*—nearly twelve times the rate in the U.S. population (0.6%).

## Lifestyle

- **Family:** A majority of respondents (60%) who were out to the immediate family they grew up with said that their family was generally supportive of their transgender identity, while 18% said that their family was unsupportive, and 22% said that their family was neither supportive nor unsupportive.
- **Religion:** Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents who had ever been part of a spiritual or religious community left due to rejection. Forty-two percent (42%) of those who left later found a welcoming spiritual or religious community.
- **Employment:** The unemployment rate among respondents (15%) was three times higher than the unemployment rate in the U.S. population (5%), with Middle Eastern, American Indian, multiracial, Latino/a, and Black respondents experiencing higher rates of unemployment. Also, one in six (16%) respondents who have ever been employed—or 13% of all respondents in the sample—reported losing a job because of their gender identity or expression in their lifetime.
- **Housing:** Nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents experienced some form of housing discrimination in the past year, such as being evicted from their home or denied a home or apartment because of being transgender.
- **Social life (gyms, restaurants, retail stores and other types of public services/accommodations):** One in five (20%) respondents did not use at least one type of public accommodation in the past year because they feared they would be mistreated as a transgender person.

## *Market Research*

(Project Solace Survey, 2019)

## In the US

- 69% of respondents shared they are in early or middle stages of their transition processes.

- 44% of respondents shared they do not have access to enough resources to continue with their transition processes.
- 70% of respondents shared they use Internet-based sources to plan their transition processes.
- 50% of respondents shared they would like to gather information to plan their transition processes from an app, while 57% of them specified they would like to have access to a web-based solution.
- Some respondents shared they face barriers to transition because they do not have enough information, including uncertainty about particular interventions.
- 75% of respondents shared they use Internet-based sources to socialize with other transgender people.

### In Mexico

- Nonprofits

Amicus, an organization based in the State of Guanajuato, which provided legal advice to transgender individuals for their transition processes has expressed interest on the service. In particular, Rebeca Lorea, responsible of the legal division within the organization said:

“We have received several requests seeking advice on who to contact for receiving medical, psychological, supporting groups and even for seeking employment, which we unfortunately cannot provide. This solution would contribute a lot as a source of reliable information, as well as an empowerment tool for trans people in the country”

## SUSTAINABILITY

### *Funding Sources*

#### Arcus Foundation

Arcus approaches its social justice grantmaking in a manner that respects the wisdom, power, and self-determination of LGBTQ communities.

#### Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice & Funding Queerly Giving Circle

The Funding Queerly Giving Circle is a group of young donors working in partnership with the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. We give personally, raise money, and mobilize resources for LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex) community organizing groups led by and for communities of color, indigenous communities, poor communities, and/or rural communities (this includes trans-led initiatives).

#### The Overbrook Foundation

The Foundation's gender rights program currently funds organizations working to build the reproductive justice movement and those challenging overly broad religious exemptions being used to undermine LGBT rights, reproductive justice and racial justice.

#### Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Expanding the voices, dignity and interests of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities, including women, children, people living in poverty, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBT people, and people affected by armed conflict and mass atrocities.

### *Potential Partners*

#### National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) / Organization of American States (OAS)

The Global Division of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce launched a research partnership to generate the quantitative data to show the magnitude and effects of these stories. NGLCC Global, the Organization of American States (OAS) Department of Social Inclusion, and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights' LGBTI Rapporteurship committed to a long-term project to generate these data in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## LEGAL FEATURE

### Roadmap

1. Get informed
  - Tailored for each State
  - Each document has a different process (provide a list of documents that each person would need to modify?)
  - Ideally you would follow a specific order
  - Some process are not conforming with your right to privacy
  - You can choose to challenge existing laws or accept the current legal procedure
2. Collect your documentation
  - Tailored for each State
  - Each document requires specific documentation
  - Some documents can cost money
3. Consider contacting professionals
  - Provide contacts of nonprofits that can help
  - Provide contacts of attorneys
4. Start with the process
  - Users would indicate if they have started/finished with the processed for modifying each document
5. Goal is having all docs ready?

## THEORY OF CHANGE

INPUT	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	SHORT-TERM RESULTS	LONG-TERM RESULTS
-Human Resources -Financial Resources -Funders/Sponsors -Partners	1 Develop the app 2 Develop contents 3 Pull data 4 Outreach (nonprofits) 5 Advertisement (audience) 6 Maintenance	* Finalized app * Updated content * Exposed nonprofits * Informed individuals * Generated data	1 Established partnerships 2 Active usage	1 Greater possibilities for transitioning 2 Community building	Improving the quality of life of transgender people
METRICS	METRICS	METRICS	METRICS	METRICS	
		*Social media indicators (views, likes, shares, followers) *Number of nonprofits contacted	# of partnerships # of active users # new users	% of users that report advancement in their transition Rate of activity (disaggregate)	Use metrics from Transgender Survey and add a question related to resources <b>(maybe claim a correlation between lowering the percentage of people that are not able to transition and the existence of the app)</b>

