



Christa Leigh Steele-Knudslie, 42

Christa was one of the founders of the New England Trans Pride event 10 years ago, organized and produced Miss Trans New England and other pageants, and was loved and known by many in both the local and national trans community. "Her thing was always that transgender women are beautiful and need a venue for trans women to be seen as beautiful," her longtime friend Justin Adkins said. Christa was found dead in her home on January 5 in North Adams, Massachusetts. Her husband has been arrested in her murder and has pleaded not guilty.



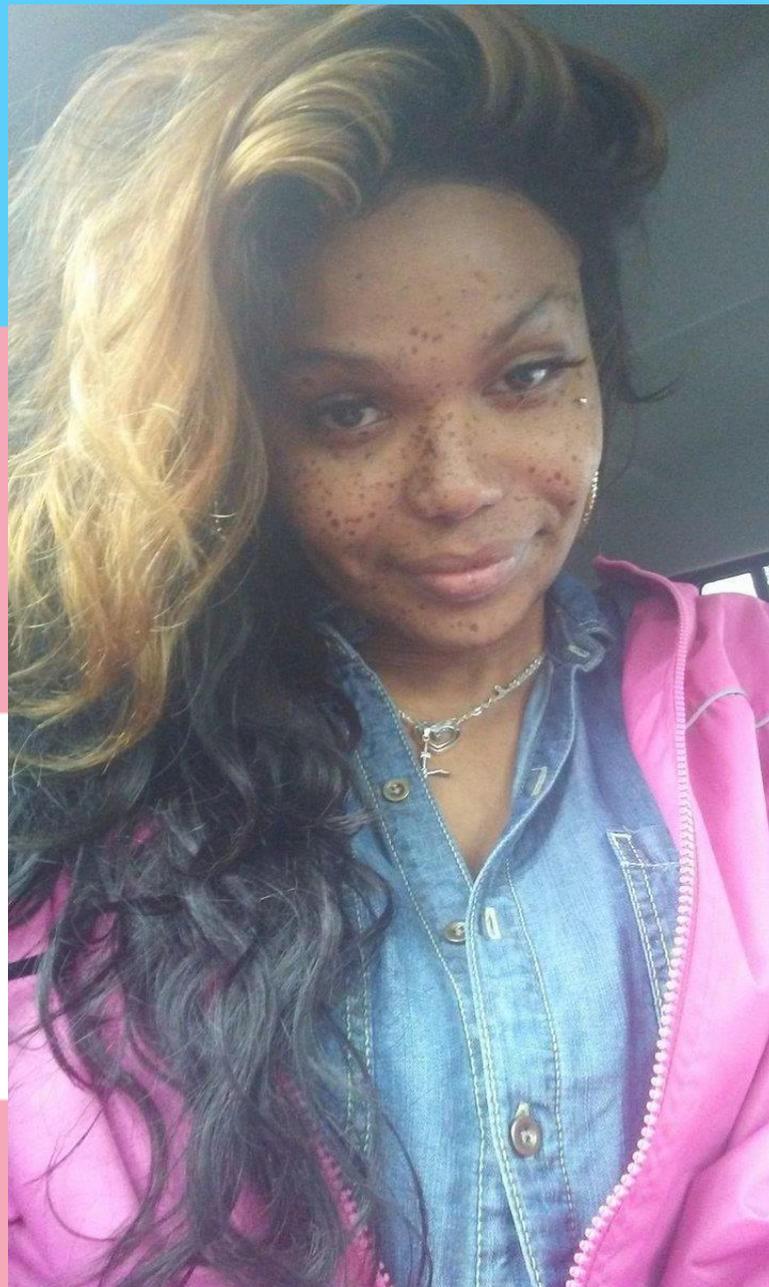
Vicky Gutierrez, 33

Vicky was a young trans Latina woman from Honduras, and a member of TransLatin@ Coalition's Los Angeles organization. She often joined the team for their daily lunches, provided for free to anyone in need. Friends refer to her as "the nicest girl in the world," whose "smile would give anyone comfort," and "an inspiration for many of us." Vicky was stabbed and had her body set ablaze inside her Los Angeles home on January 10.



Celine Devonne Walker, 36

Celine’s friends shared their condolences on social media and describe her as “low-key” and “amazingly talented.” Celina was fatally shot in a hotel room on February 4 in Jacksonville, Florida. It was not known for several days that Walker was trans because local police claimed to not refer to victims as transgender. Investigators are still looking for a suspect in her death.



Tonya Harvey, 35

A friend of Tonya's expressed her condolences on Facebook, writing: "I knew her since I started transitioning, she was so sweet and loving." Tonya was fatally shot on February 6 in Buffalo, New York. Friends, family, and community members held a rally on the steps of City Hall in downtown Buffalo to demand justice for Harvey and bring awareness to the violence against transgender people.



Zakaria Fry, 28

Zakaria's loved ones shared condolences on Facebook, with one friend saying: "You were my older sister. You took care of me and loved me like family. I'll forever love you. I'm sorry." Zakaria went missing in New Mexico in mid-January. Her body was later found 40 miles outside of Albuquerque on February 19. Albuquerque Police arrested and charged Charles Spiess with two open counts of murder.



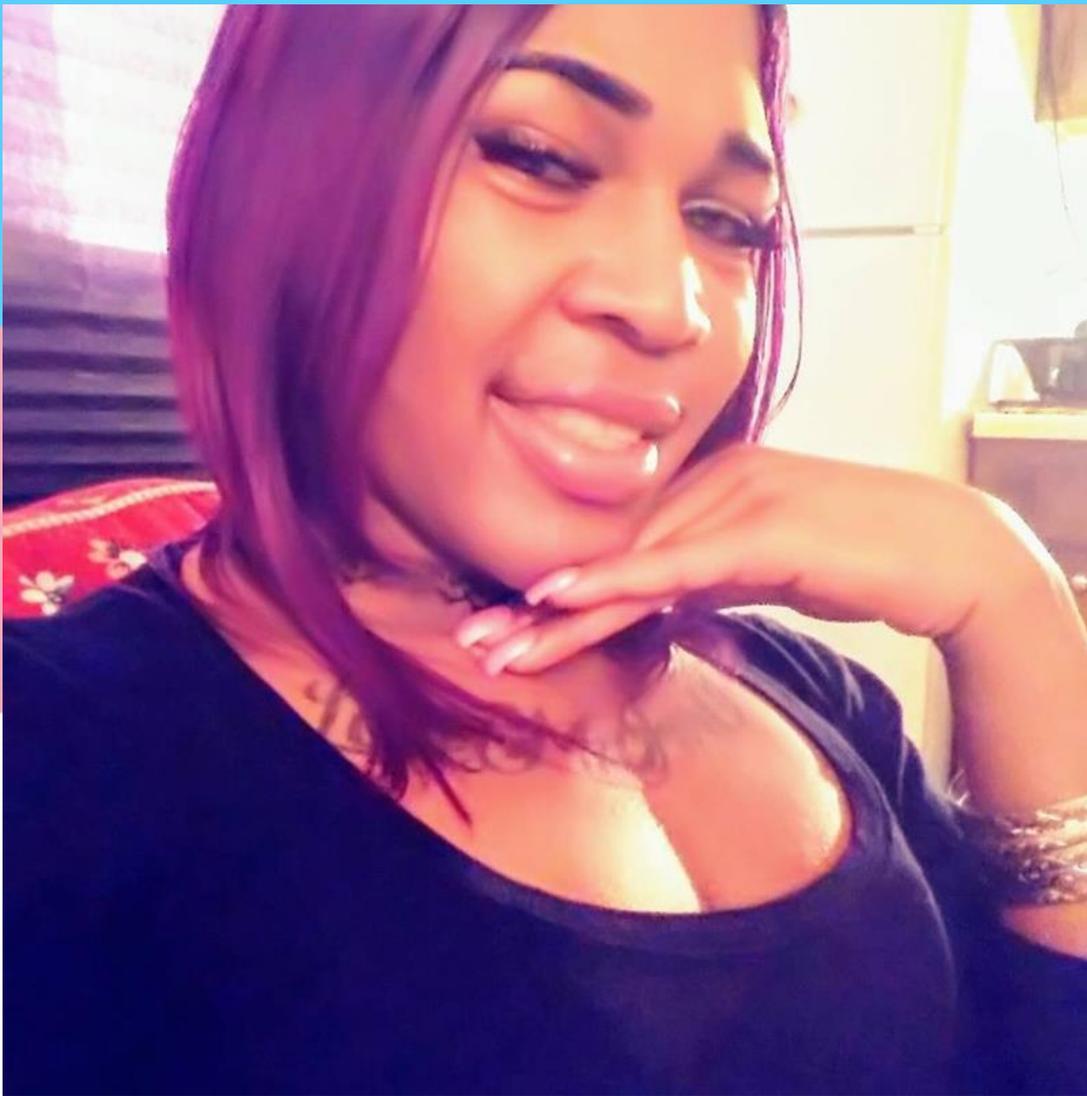
Phylicia Mitchell, 45

Phylicia's longtime partner, Shane Mitchell, described her as "funny and kind" and that "everyone loved her." Shane said he met Phylicia some three decades ago in downtown Cleveland after Phylicia ran away from what he called a "dysfunctional" family in Pittsburgh. The two quickly hit it off and began a relationship that spanned the rest of Phylicia's life. Phylicia was shot and killed outside her home on February 23 in Cleveland, Ohio. On April 10, Cleveland.com reported that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Gary Sanders. Sanders was charged with aggravated murder in Phylicia's death.



Amia Tyrae Berryman, 28

Amia worked in home health care in Baton Rouge. A friend was quoted saying, “She didn’t have much support [from] family with her lifestyle so she made family with her peers in the LGBT community of Baton Rouge.” Amia was fatally shot at a local motel on March 26 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Few details are known about the crime, and police report they have no suspects or persons of interest at this time.



Sasha Wall, 29

A friend of Sasha's expressed condolences on Facebook, writing, "Sasha Wall you had me always taking photos of you, you stayed ready for the camera. I will miss you my beautiful sister. I cannot sleep, I hope they find who did this." Sasha was fatally shot on April 1 in Chesterfield County, South Carolina. The FBI is assisting with local investigators, and are analyzing phone records and collecting DNA evidence.