

## TURNING TRAUMA INTO RESISTANCE

- TRAUMA June Dowell-Burton - Panel 1

“So Sakia happened and then there was Newark Pride Alliance. I was pretty outraged about it just because it was just stupid and senseless. So I met Laquetta and James. I think I met Laquetta first and she was just like this big boisterous lesbian and loud and present. Almost scary though and intimidating, her persona. But now I understand why she has had that too. I was the newbie on the block but now I understand why she had to be that way. And then I just started being active. Newark Pride Alliance was just founded based off of the Sakia Gunn death and they wanted to bring awareness about LGBT issues especially safety, which is because I think back then there’s also a string of gay murders that was going on at the time. Just to say okay look this crap has to stop.”