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[Tobi Hill-Meyer](#)

It's been a rough week and I'm still trying to piece together different parts of this. You say it wasn't THRI's decision to close down the portal -- then who's decision was it? Was it the TVTP board's decision? Was there a TVTP board or was it just Allison? Was it Allison's decision?

As one of the kickstarter backers of the portal, I'd like to know what exactly happened to it and why it can't be resurrected. If THRI can't afford to purchase it, how much is it? A community fundraiser to save the portal might surprise you in how much it could raise. Is it really too expensive, or is Allison refusing to sell it? Why was an important community resource such as this owned by an individual person rather than the non-profit overseeing its operation?

Just that dynamic of having a non-profit overseeing and putting resources toward something that the ED now claims sole ownership of (something of so much value that the non-profit can't afford to buy it back) raises concerns of embezzlement. There's probably a reasonable explanation and that's not what's happening here, but without details those are the questions that get raised. With a major LGBT org and the trans health clinic they ran having shut down over ED embezzlement just a few years ago, it's something we have to be aware of.

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[Transgender Human Rights Institute](#)

We appreciate the suggestions regarding the Portal. Should we consider rebuilding the tool, we will consult professionals with the appropriate skill sets.

As noted, the THRI did not create, own, fund or operate the portal. This is a popular misconception. Our organization came into being after its creation and had no involvement in its day to day operation, other than to provide our time as case researchers when possible. Ownership was never transferred to the organization. The money raised by the kickstarter was spent for its creation, server space, and connection bandwidth, and initial data loading, including thousands of historical cases, and the constant need to keep it accessible for users, but limit vulnerability from outside sources.

Assailant data is valuable and not always available, particularly since so many crimes against transgender people go unsolved. Our society is victim-focused. Gathering assailant data as it is available would be a good thing.

Race is not as easily solved. Shifting to the personal point of view here, I reported and did initial research from news reports on a number of incidents to the portal; crimes committed in the USA and around the world as they came to my attention. Leelah's was one of them. My personal experience was that news articles did not specifically say things like "X" was black or white, or native American, or a person of color. We could make assumptions, but assumptions are not facts. Followup on these cases was further restricted by not having enough volunteers to work as researchers on cases to contact police departments, coroners offices, court houses, etc. to gather followup data. Early on, the TVTP made it a point to warn transgender volunteers that case research could be both psychologically damaging and/or triggering for emotionally vulnerable people.

Regarding Leelah's Law, this project was always an effort of more than just the THRI and the push towards presentation of the petition and then developing the plan for what happens afterwards will continue. The Leelah's Law campaign will continue, though the parties involved may need to change.

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