



# SOLIDARITY

## Partnering for Change

Solidarity is the third of three resources that address issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. Solidarity encourages and supports awareness-raising and the building of links between different organisations (e.g., LGBT, asylum and refugee support, rights campaigning organisations) working with LGBT asylum seekers. As some points are relevant to all areas of LGBTI asylum work, the reader may want to refer to the other two documents Safety and Solidarity.

**All three documents are also available in PDF format at [www.equality-network.org/our-work/intersectional/asylum](http://www.equality-network.org/our-work/intersectional/asylum)**





# Forging Links



## Issue

It can be daunting to approach an organisation from a different equality strand for the first time. Organisations can feel worried that they or people who use their services will experience prejudice. But it is vital that different equality organisations work together on LGBTI Asylum cases because they are complex.

## What You Can Do

Remember that a variety of organisations working together will provide a much better support system for your service provider. There are more organisations interested in providing better support for LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees than you may realise. Be brave and take the first steps toward developing relationships with people who will ultimately make your job easier.

Most organisations have very little time to develop new networks.

Join existing networking groups that focus on multi-strand and/or intersectional work, such as The Glasgow Action Group, The Dumfries Action Group, and Dynamic Diversity in Edinburgh. These kinds of groups encourage relationship building between organisations, so that they can more efficiently and confidently work together on complex cases.

While most organisations do their best to understand all aspects of equality, it is difficult to find the money for the numerous types of training required.

Set up a training swap with a partner organisation. This will also develop the partnership. Join partners' email lists and social media pages to more easily keep up to date with free training opportunities.

Valuable fledgling partnerships can often be severely jeopardised by even small misunderstandings and miscommunications, especially if partners expect or fear prejudice.

Be patient with yourself and with your new partners, especially during the early stages. Remember that the aim of the partnership work is to learn from each other because no organisation gets all aspect of equality work right all the time. Be forgiving of partners' mistakes and gaps in knowledge as well as your own. Do not let these discourage you from continuing very valuable work.



# Sharing & Collaboration



## Issue

LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees often need multiple referrals to meet their intersectional needs. Organisations that focus on a particular equality strand may not be aware of the latest services offered by other organisations that specialise in areas outside of their own focus.

## What You Can Do

Stay up-to-date with the services offered in your area and look for possible overlaps. If you discover that another organisation provides a similar service, contact them to see whether you can collaborate to increase your expertise on different aspects of LGBTI asylum cases.

Asylum seekers and refugees with intersectional needs may not feel safe to discuss all aspects of their identities with you and may have limited access to information about other organisations and equality strands.

Provide an information package about other organisations or signpost users to other services during your early contact with asylum seekers and refugees and offer to connect them directly.

Asylum seekers and refugees often need to go through several organisations before their needs are met. It can be emotionally difficult and time-consuming for asylum seekers and refugees to repeat their stories over again for each agency.

Discuss options for offering collaboration that would allow some meetings to take place with staff from different agencies. In some cases, carefully negotiated collaboration on services can help you to educate staff on issues from other equalities strands and create a more well-rounded response to people's intersectional needs.



# Unity & Diversity Through Arts & Culture

## Issue

People seeking services can feel stuck between single strand organisations and be unsure if all aspects of their identities are respected by all service providers. Without visible partnership work, it is difficult for people to find out if organisations will understand and address the different kinds of prejudice they can experience in daily life and within organisations.

## What You Can Do

You can find creative ways to appeal to people with needs in multiple equalities strands and develop partnerships across organisations, even with limited finances. Collaborate on fundraising events, social events, spoken word performances, art shows, and talent nights that strengthen understanding of ethnic, religious, sexual, and gender diversity and promote unity across different equalities strands and make limited resources stretch further and have more impact.

Display information resources from diverse equalities strands in your office. People look for visual “clues” that you are welcoming and inclusive.

Organisations often struggle with how to address the diverse needs of people who access their services. LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees often have multiple intersectional needs and can have difficulty finding environments in which all of their identities are respected and welcomed.

Creative activities can be emotionally healing and help people to build friendships. Offering events such as crafts or cultural storytelling sessions can bring people from different backgrounds together and increase mutual understanding.



# Tools For Awareness



## **Basic information about the asylum process in accessible language:**

[www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/the\\_asylum\\_process\\_made\\_simple.html](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/the_asylum_process_made_simple.html)

## **NHS factsheet about health care for asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland:**

[www.hris.org.uk/index.aspx?o=6604](http://www.hris.org.uk/index.aspx?o=6604)

## **Article on differences between gay and transgender issues:**

[www.madikazemi.blogspot.co.uk/2011/04/transgender-rights-not-simply-gay.html](http://www.madikazemi.blogspot.co.uk/2011/04/transgender-rights-not-simply-gay.html)

## **Article on intersex people and intersex rights:**

[www.renecassin.org/campaigns/current-campaigns/240-intersex-rights.html](http://www.renecassin.org/campaigns/current-campaigns/240-intersex-rights.html)

## **Detention activist toolkit and other detention-related resources:**

[www.renecassin.org/campaigns/current-campaigns/detention-of-asylum-seekers.html](http://www.renecassin.org/campaigns/current-campaigns/detention-of-asylum-seekers.html)

## **Legal assistance and list of expert witnesses for fighting deportation of LGBT asylum seekers:**

[www.petertatchell.net/asylum/asylumadvice.htm](http://www.petertatchell.net/asylum/asylumadvice.htm)



## Faith

**Metropolitan Community Church – Glasgow**  
[www.mccinglasgow.moonfruit.com](http://www.mccinglasgow.moonfruit.com)

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## Health & Wellbeing

**Edinburgh Women’s Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre**  
[www.ewrasac.org.uk](http://www.ewrasac.org.uk)

**LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing**  
[www.lgbthealth.org.uk](http://www.lgbthealth.org.uk)

**NHS Complaints Information**  
[www.hris.org.uk/patient-information/information-about-health-rights/charter/feedback-and-complaints](http://www.hris.org.uk/patient-information/information-about-health-rights/charter/feedback-and-complaints)

**NHS factsheet about health care for asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland:**  
[www.hris.org.uk/index.aspx?o=6604](http://www.hris.org.uk/index.aspx?o=6604)

**See also:**  
[www.nhs.uk/carersdirect/guide/asylum-support/pages/asylum-support.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/carersdirect/guide/asylum-support/pages/asylum-support.aspx)

**NHS Open Road Project**  
[www.openroadproject.com/resources.html](http://www.openroadproject.com/resources.html)

**NHS Scotland Gender Reassignment information**  
[www.nhsinform.co.uk/health-library/articles/g/gender-dysphoria](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk/health-library/articles/g/gender-dysphoria)

**NHS Scotland Gender Reassignment Protocol**  
[www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2012\\_26.PDF](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2012_26.PDF)

**Quay Services in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire**  
[www.quayservices.co.uk/index.html](http://www.quayservices.co.uk/index.html)

**Rape Crisis Scotland**  
[www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)

**Saheliya**  
[www.saheliya.org.uk](http://www.saheliya.org.uk)

**The Welcoming Project**  
[thewelcoming.btck.co.uk](http://thewelcoming.btck.co.uk)



## Housing

### Positive Action in Housing

[paih.org](http://paih.org)

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## Legal

### GayLawNet UK LGBT Asylum

[www.gaylawnet.com/laws/uk.htm#asylum](http://www.gaylawnet.com/laws/uk.htm#asylum)

### National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

[www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk)

### UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group

[www.uklgig.org.uk](http://www.uklgig.org.uk)

### Asylum Aid

[www.asylumaid.org.uk](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk)

### Stop Hate UK

[www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)

### Guidelines on International Protection No. 9: Claims to Refugee Status based on Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/50348afc2.html>

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## LGBT Asylum and Migration

### Gay in the UK LGBT Asylum & Refugee Support

[www.gayintheuk.webs.com](http://www.gayintheuk.webs.com)

### Justice for Gay Africans

[www.jfga.org.uk](http://www.jfga.org.uk)

### Iraqi LGBT

[www.iraqilgbt.org.uk](http://www.iraqilgbt.org.uk)

### Iranian Queer Railroad

[www.irqr.net](http://www.irqr.net)



**SIPD (Uganda & E. Africa Intersex Org.)**  
[www.sipd.webs.com](http://www.sipd.webs.com)

**Somali Gay Community**  
[www.somaligaycommunity.org](http://www.somaligaycommunity.org)

**Lesbian Community Project in Manchester**  
[www.lesbiancommunityproject.co.uk](http://www.lesbiancommunityproject.co.uk)

**LGBT Asylum News**  
[www.madikazemi.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.madikazemi.blogspot.co.uk)

**Unity Centre Glasgow LGBT Helpline**  
[www.unitycentreglasgow.org/?page\\_id=366](http://www.unitycentreglasgow.org/?page_id=366)

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## Support for Organisations

**BEMIS Scotland**  
[www.bemis.org.uk](http://www.bemis.org.uk)

**Equality Network**  
[www.equality-network.org](http://www.equality-network.org)

**LGBT Youth Scotland**  
[www.lgbtyouth.org.uk](http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk)

**Organisation Intersex Internationale**  
[www.intersexualite.org](http://www.intersexualite.org)

**Scottish Refugee Council**  
[www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

**Scottish Transgender Alliance**  
[www.scottishtrans.org](http://www.scottishtrans.org)



These documents are based on findings from the 2011 Sanctuary, Safety, and Solidarity report on issues facing LGBT asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. The Sanctuary, Safety, and Solidarity report was produced by Equality Network, BEMIS Scotland, and GRAMNet, with funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and additional support for printing the summary version from Glasgow Refugee Asylum & Migration Network (GRAMNet) and Glasgow Human Rights Network (GHRN).

The FULL 202-page research report and a 22-page summary version is available to download at [www.equality-network.org/our-work/intersectional/asylum](http://www.equality-network.org/our-work/intersectional/asylum)



**EQUALITYNETWORK**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights in Scotland



**BEAUIS**

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

Thanks to the Equality and Human Rights Commission for funding  
this resource as part of the EveryoneIN project  
and to the Scottish Transgender Alliance for content assistance.



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Published April 2013

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