



Seeking refuge without harassment, detention or return to a 'safe' country

Breakfast Event on LGBTI Refugees and Asylum

12 April 2016, 9h-10h45, Room Louise Weiss S 3.5, European Parliament, Strasbourg

Introduction

ILGA-Europe¹, the LGBTI Intergroup and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup are glad to invite you to a breakfast event focussing on LGBTI asylum seekers in the current refugee management crisis. Indeed, it is important to shed light on how the proposed measures to stop the arrivals of migrant in the EU will impact on LGBTI asylum seekers, among other vulnerable groups.

A significant number of people applying for asylum in EU Member States are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI), many of whom are at risk of persecution precisely because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Moreover, LGBTI asylum seekers are often at risk of additional danger during their journey and upon arrival in the country where they seek asylum, which can take the form of harassment, exclusion, sexual violence, or other forms of violence.

In 2015, the numbers of asylum seekers arriving in Europe increased exponentially. Many reports showed how minorities, including LGBTI people, were being specifically targeted in ongoing conflicts. While the current refugee situation is not unprecedented, Member States have reacted by closing their borders and often leaving refugees in very difficult situations.

The current political climate in the EU and most of its Member States is one of rejection and fear, calling for measures to stop "these people" from coming without addressing the root causes. In this context, the European Commission proposed to adopt an EU-wide list of "safe countries of origin" and to collaborate intensely with Turkey. The Dutch government and the European Commission even proposed to qualify Turkey as a "safe third country" and send thousands of people back from Greece to Turkey by boat.

As explained in [ILGA-Europe's Briefing paper of February 2016](#), these measures will not provide a durable solution and would even put millions of people at risk in our neighbouring countries. Moreover, they will have a disproportionate negative impact on LGBTI asylum seekers, both in the Member States and outside.

¹ ILGA-Europe is the European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) Association.

Programme

The event will be facilitated by Michael Cerulus, Senior Policy Officer at ILGA-Europe

9:00	Introduction by ILGA-Europe
9:10	Fast-tracking procedures, “safe country” mechanisms and LGBTI asylum seekers. And what about Turkey? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kati Piri MEP, initiator of the Motion for a resolution on Turkey• Mehmet Akin, LGBTI Activist from Turkey
9:40	Coming out of the closet to get asylum: do’s and don’ts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jean Lambert MEP, Co-President of the ARDI Intergroup• Paul Dillane, Executive Director at UKLGIG
10:10	Reception conditions and integration of LGBTI asylum seekers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activist from RFSL (Swedish LGBT Federation)• Paul Dillane, Executive Director at UKLGIG

For more information, please contact:

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