



The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 4

Welcome to this extraordinary issue of the [SOGICA project](#) newsletter – extraordinary because we realise we have too many time-sensitive items to wait until the next issue is due.

Call for participants

First we'd like to take the opportunity to repeat our call for participants. We've held a number of interviews now and are extremely grateful to those who have already contributed their time, including our friends in Naples, Bologna, Berlin, Cologne and London. Our project flier is now available in [German](#), as well as in [Italian](#) and [English](#), so please pass it on to anyone who might like to take part. We are particularly keen to talk to asylum seekers or refugees claiming on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. We would also like to interview people who work with or support SOGI asylum seekers and refugees, including lawyers, service providers, judges and NGO staff. Interviews will be held on a strictly confidential basis and we will give potential interviewees full information about the research to help them make up their minds about whether to take part.

Recent and forthcoming SOGICA publications

- [Queering Brexit](#), by Carmelo Danisi, Moira Dustin and Nuno Ferreira, was published last month. Published on [The UK in a Changing Europe](#), the blog highlighted concerns about potential regression on LGBTIQ+ progress in the wake of the EU referendum, asking 'How little can Little Britain get?'
- [Case C-473/16, F v Bevándorlási és Menekültügyi Hivatal \(formerly Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal\), Opinion of Advocate General Wahl, esd](#) was delivered on 5 October 2017. The case has worrying implications for the permissibility of psychological testing of LGBT asylum seekers. A blog piece on the case by Nuno Ferreira and Denise Venturi will shortly be published and will be posted on the SOGICA website and disseminated on Twitter and Facebook.

Forthcoming events

- An [international conference in Brazil](#) starting on 15 November will include a panel on LGBTQIA+ refugees, as well as a host of other events.
- After a 13 year battle over her right to remain, Aderonke Apata has finally been granted asylum in the UK. On [19 November there is a gathering in London](#) for all her friends and fans – it's a public event for anyone who wants to help her celebrate her victory and support the struggle against homophobia, xenophobia, racism and inflexible borders.
- Nuno Ferreira will be giving his Professorial Lecture on Wednesday 21 March 2018, 6pm, at the University of Sussex, Falmer campus. The topic will be around [sex](#) and [Europe](#), including issues of [migration](#) and [asylum](#). It would be wonderful to see many of you that day. If you'd like to receive an invitation with more details, please send an email to N.Ferreira@sussex.ac.uk with the subject "Professorial lecture" by Wednesday, 22 November 2017, confirming your interest and we'll make sure the University sends you the official invitation.

New on the SOGICA website

- [New accounts](#) of LGBTIQ asylum seekers' experiences are posted every week, and we are progressively populating the Useful links section with new resources, such as the [European Asylum Support Office \(EASO\) tool for identification of persons with special needs](#). Please [send us](#) your suggestions for additions to this (and any other) section of the website.

Other news

- Good news from the UK is that [Micro Rainbow International have opened the first housing specifically for LGBTI asylum seekers](#).
- It has been reported that [Karla Avelar, a transgender activist from El Salvador has sought refuge in Ireland](#). Karla left El Salvador because of concerns about her safety and that of her family. According to statements made by the director of sexual diversity for El Salvador's Secretary of Social Inclusion, approximately 600 LGBTI people have been killed in the country since 1993.
- Finally, UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG) is [recruiting a part-time LGBTQIA+ Asylum Seeker Support Worker](#). The deadline for applications is 5.00pm Monday 27th November 2017.

Getting involved

Information about getting involved, including how to sign up to receive future newsletters if you are not already on our mailing list, can be found on the [Get Involved](#) section of our website.

If you know of any items that should be included on our website or in our mailings, we would be very grateful if you would [send them to us](#). And please feel free to [email us](#) with any questions or suggestions.

Until our next newsletter in January, best wishes from [Nuno](#), [Carmelo](#), [Maira](#) and [Nina](#) at SOGICA

[SOGICA](#) – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge (2016-2020)

This project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), explores the social and legal experiences of asylum-seekers across Europe claiming international protection on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). Focusing on Germany, Italy and the UK as case studies, the project aims to determine how European asylum systems can treat asylum claims based on the claimant's SOGI more fairly.

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Email us at info@sogica.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

As well as updates on how the project is progressing, we may also send you information about other refugee studies related matters, including research and events at the University of Sussex and elsewhere.

We hope you find this information useful, but if you do not wish to receive future updates, please [unsubscribe from this list here](#).