



The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 8 (12 December 2018)

Welcome to the [SOGICA project](#) newsletter.

Here is an update on the SOGICA project, as well as news from some of our Project Friends.

SOGICA survey

The SOGICA project team is nearing the end of our fieldwork and moving into the data-analysis stage but we still welcome your input to the project through our online survey which is running until March 2019. Many thanks to those of you who have already filled it in and if you haven't, please do! We are keen to have as much (anonymous) information through the survey as possible, to complement our qualitative fieldwork. We would also be grateful if you would forward the links to anyone you know with something to contribute. And please [email us](#) if you or anyone you are in contact with needs help completing the survey for language or any other reasons.

The survey is divided into two – one part for people claiming or who have claimed asylum, and one for people who work with or support them. We know that a lot of people do both, and that many LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum also work with organisations providing services, advice or campaigning, so please complete whichever one you prefer (or both from different perspectives if you wish).

- [Survey for people who have claimed asylum because of sexual orientation or gender identity, or for LGBTQI+ people claiming asylum in Europe](#)
- [Survey for people who work with or support LGBTQI+ people claiming asylum](#)

Publications

We're very happy to announce the publication of [a special issue on SOGI asylum of the Italian journal GenIUS](#)! Edited by our own Carmelo Danisi, the special issue has articles by all members of the SOGICA team as well as other contributions from experts in the field. Carmelo will present the SOGICA outcomes on 19 December 2018, 2.30 pm, at Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale – Dipartimento di Scienze umane e sociali (hall 1.2, Palazzo Mediterraneo, Via Marina, Napoli), at the invitation of the organisers of the cycle of Seminars 'Diritti, storie e cittadinanza delle persone LGBTQI' (eds. by A. Del Guercio, A. Gissi, D. Rizzo and L. Schettini).

[Many rivers to cross: the recognition of LGBTQI asylum in the UK](#), by Moira Dustin from the SOGICA team, was published in the 'International Journal of Refugee Law', earlier this year. Taking the UK experience, the article highlights the dilemmas faced by LGBTQI asylum seekers and their advocates in establishing the case for protection.

All recent publications – by the SOGICA team or individual members of it – can be found on the [SOGICA website publications page](#).

Recent and future events

SOGICA conference – save the date! SOGICA is organising a conference/workshop on **4th July 2019** at the [Goethe University Frankfurt](#). We are very excited to have reserved the University's ballroom (Festsaal) for the event, and will soon be drafting the programme. The conference will bring together refugees and people seeking asylum, NGO workers, activists, decision- and policy-makers, lawyers and academics in order to explore how the different experiences of LGBTQI* refugees in Europe are shaped not only by sexuality and gender, but also by intersections with and between other social identifiers (such as race, class, religion, disability, age). We also plan to explore how space, power and emotions shape the social relations between the different groups of people attending the conference, and reflect on the differences, as well as similarities between us all as the potential bases for forging fruitful collaborations. The conference will be organised in collaboration with partner organisations (let us know if you want to be one of them!) and will have a mixed format of presentations, podium discussions and moderated themed table discussions. Registration will be free. More information to follow in the New Year!

Please visit the [events page](#) of the website to see what else we have been doing.

New website resources

We have been furiously updating our database recently and it now has 700 items connected to SOGI asylum – including [newly published UK Home Office statistics](#), [a profile of SOGI asylum in Brazil](#), [analysis of the experiences of LGBTQ forced migrants in Belgium](#), and much more besides - all on the searchable [project database](#). As always, please [send us](#) any items you think we have missed.

We continue to add new life stories to our website on a regular basis, such as [Sasha's story in her speech](#) given on Transgender Day of Remembrance this year, which she was kind enough to share with us. Thank you Sasha!

Other news, including from our Project Friends

In October, Arcigay Palermo published [La Migration - manuale per operatori](#), an online manual for people working with LGBT asylum seekers and migrants. This is the first ever such report from the South of Italy so please spread the news and download it.

In the UK, [Micro Rainbow International](#) has ambitious plans to increase the number of safe homes it provides for LGBTI asylum seekers in 2019, and is asking for help in reaching their target. Please help by buying homeless LGBTI people seeking asylum a present from [Micro Rainbow's Amazon Wish list](#). They need toasters, kettles, bedsheets and much more!

[A blog](#) published in November by Gabriella Bettiga, Legal Officer at [UKLGIG](#), highlights the isolation often experienced by LGBTQI+ people claiming asylum who are detained.

UKLGIG sends occasional email newsletters with news about UKLGIG, and its services and activities, fundraising opportunities and developments affecting UKLGIG clients. You can [subscribe online](#) on UKLGIG's website.

In Italy, the not-for-profit organisation [MIT](#), set up to promote the rights of trans people, is doing important health and welfare work supporting trans people seeking asylum. MIT can be supported by giving donations through this [PayPal link](#).

Also in Italy, Arcigay Vercelli-Valsesia has published a 2019 Calendar for the project AfricArcigay, its LGBTI+ African migrant group. You can order your copy by donating 20€ or more on the [Facebook page](#). More info [here](#).

Ice & Fire's performance of [This Is Who I Am](#) on 18 December in Liverpool gives first-hand accounts of the experiences of LGBT+ people seeking asylum in the UK. There'll be an opportunity for discussion following the readings, before performances from 'Many Hands, One Heart'. The evening is brought to you in collaboration with Liverpool Community Development Service, 'Many Hands, One Heart' and Zest Event Management. Doors open at 6.30pm for food and welcome with the performance starting at 7pm. The event is free to attend with tickets [available here](#).

Getting involved

Our mailing list continues to grow and if you're reading this then you're probably already a subscriber, but please encourage colleagues and contacts who might be interested to subscribe – it's free and we send updates to subscribers every three months approximately.

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, including resources that might be useful for LGBTQI+ refugees and people seeking asylum. We post regularly on Twitter and Facebook, so please let us know if you have items we should be telling people about in-between newsletter issues. And please feel free to [email us](#) with any questions or suggestions.

The next newsletter will be in March 2019.

Thank you to all the people who have helped us in 2018. We hope you all have a good holiday and best wishes for 2019 from [Nuno](#), [Carmelo](#), [Moira](#) 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.

Freeman Building, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QE www.sussex.ac.uk

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](#).