



The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 10 (13 June 2019)

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

Below is the regular quarterly update from the SOGICA project team.

### **SOGICA publications**

The SOGICA team is very happy to have been awarded second place in the [Annual competitive call for book proposals for the IMISCOE Springer Series](#). Having finished our fieldwork, the SOGICA team members are now writing up our findings for the book to be published next year.

All publications by the SOGICA team and individual members can be found on the [SOGICA website publications page](#).

### **Future events**

On 29 June, Nina will give a presentation titled: [Rainbow paradise Europe? Legal and social experiences of LGBTQI \\* Refugees from an intersectional perspective](#). The event is in Cologne and hosted by Rainbow Refugees Cologne with the support of the Nikolaus Gülich Fund of the Cologne Greens.

On 2 July, on behalf of SOGICA, Carmelo will give a presentation at the [Summer School on Diversity and Migration, University of Antwerp](#). Although the official deadline has passed, some places are still available at the Antwerp Summer School.

There is still time to register for the SOGICA conference [Under the European Asylum Rainbow: intersectional queer challenges](#) on 4th July 2019, at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. The conference is free to attend but registration is required. We hope to see you on the 4th July 2019!

In September, Nuno will present 'An Exercise in Detachment: The Strasbourg Court and Sexual Minority Refugees', at the [UACES 49th Annual Conference, University of Lisbon](#).

### **Recent events**

In May, Moira and Nuno spoke at the workshop [Contemporary challenges facing LGBT+ asylum seekers: UK and global perspectives](#), at the University of Reading ([podcasts of the event](#) are available).

In March, Carmelo gave a presentation on 'The protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation: The potential role of the ECHR in safeguarding SOGI asylum seekers' at the University of Bologna's School of Law.

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

## New website resources

The SOGICA project [table of UK case law](#) and [list of Home Office Country Policy Information Notes](#) were both updated in April with the help of Rosa Jones.

In addition, more than 100 new items have been added to the [SOGICA database](#) since the last newsletter.

We continue to highlight individual narratives of LGBTQI+ people claiming asylum on the [Life Stories](#) section of our home page. We hope this helps us remain aware of the human cost of flawed asylum processes for the people involved. And if you are seeking international protection on sexual orientation or gender identity grounds, or have done so, and would like to be involved in SOGICA, feel free to send us a story to be considered for publication on our website.

## Other news, including from our Project Friends

A [report by the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee](#) published in March 2019 recommended that the 'Government should recognise that LGBTQI+ people are vulnerable in immigration detention, thereby extending the recognition that it already affords to trans and intersex people to all LGBTQI+ individuals'. UKLGIG published [a press release](#) about the report.

A blog on the UKLGIG website argues that [Decision-making processes at both UK and Swedish agencies are based on enduring stereotypes](#).

Micro Rainbow has published useful [Tips for interpreters working with LGBTI asylum seekers](#).

[Muhammad's inspiring story](#) on the Micro Rainbow website tells of his journey from Pakistan to the UK, the hurdles he has faced along the way, and the comfort he has found in Micro Rainbow's social inclusion programme.

The Micro Rainbow International Foundation has published the stories of [Zaid](#) and [Abdul](#), highlighting some of the difficulties people face with accommodation, poverty and legal uncertainty.

In January, Forced Migration Current Awareness had a [thematic focus on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#), including the issue of GenIUS with SOGICA contributions.

S. Chelvan, Barrister at No. 5 Chambers, is giving a talk titled [At the end of the rainbow: Where next for the queer refugee?](#) on 19 June at the University of Portsmouth.

17-23 June is [Refugee Week](#) in the UK, with a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities. There are [many events taking place in Brighton & Hove](#), home of the SOGICA project.

On 23 June at the Southbank Centre in London, Women for Refugee Women is hosting [A Day in Our Lives](#), a performance by refugee women with opening remarks by actor Juliet Stevenson. Also performing will be Rainbow Sisters, a group of lesbian and bisexual asylum-seeking women. Members hail from many of the approximately 70 countries around the world that still criminalise being LGBT+.

UKLGIG has a monthly drop-in legal advice service in Birmingham for LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum. The next session is Monday 24 June. UKLGIG also run quarterly workshops on statements, interviews and evidence specifically for LGBTQI+ women and trans people who are seeking asylum. The next session is on Wednesday 17 July. Details are on the [UKLGIG website](#). In addition, please note - UKLGIG has moved! If you are signposting anyone to one of their [monthly asylum meetings in London](#), please give them the new address: 7-14 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YR.

Those in London are invited to join the [MRI Foundation](#), official charity partner, at the 10K Pride Run on 10 August.

Africa Arcigay's Pride [A Braccia Aperte](#) in Vercelli took place with great success on 11 May 2019. Further info [here](#).

Earlier this month, SOGICA research assistant [Vitor Lopes Andrade](#) coordinated a panel on [Gender and sexual orientation perspectives on migration studies](#) at the [7th Congress of the Portuguese Anthropological Association](#). Vitor also delivered a paper titled SOGI-based asylum: a brief genealogy.

In May, Dr Richard Mole chaired [a roundtable](#) at UCL in London on Queer Asylum in Europe with speakers including Peter Grady (UNHCR), Baroness Liz Barker (House of Lords), Paul Dillane (Kaleidoscope Trust and LGBT Advisory Panel) and Moud Goba (Micro Rainbow International and UK Black Pride). The [recording of the event](#) is now available.

The Fundamental Rights Agency's [EU LGBTI Survey](#) is looking for responses from anyone who considers themselves to be LGBTI, who is aged 15 years and above and lives in the European Union, Serbia or North Macedonia.

In Italy, the not-for-profit organisation [MIT \(Movimento Identità Trans\)](#), 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](#).

The [SOGIESC mailing list](#) hosted by ILGA Europe, was launched to discuss strategies, share relevant developments, materials and good practices, and to connect those working on issues around sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristic (SOGIESC) in the context of international protection in Europe. Participation in this list is reserved for NGOs, legal specialists, practitioners, academics and scholars. State/government or political institution representatives, students as well as journalists and other media representatives are currently not eligible.

UKLGIG, the leading national charity supporting LGBTQI+ people through the asylum and immigration system, is [seeking a new trustee](#). Please apply by 9.30 am on Tuesday 16 July 2019 by sending a CV and covering letter to [recruitment@uklgig.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@uklgig.org.uk).

## 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.

Finally, a huge thanks to all of you who took the time to complete our survey. Your responses will be included in the analysis of our findings.

The next newsletter will be in September 2019. In the meantime, please feel free to [email us](#) with any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes from [Nuno](#), [Carmelo](#), [Moira](#) and [Nina](#) at SOGICA