



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge – SOGICA

Invitation to register The SOGICA conference 7-8 July 2020

The [SOGICA](#) project final conference is now open for registration and we are pleased to invite you to reserve your place. The conference will take place at the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK on 7-8 July 2020. The conference will:

- present the SOGICA project findings and recommendations;
- give a platform to academics, policy makers, practitioners, activists and refugees addressing sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) asylum in innovative ways;
- foster interdisciplinary, cross-sector and international engagement between individuals with an interest in this topic, including those most directly involved as asylum claimants in European countries.

About the project

SOGICA – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge' is a four-year project (2016-2020) funded by the European Research Council (ERC). Based in the School of Law at the University of Sussex, it aims to produce the necessary evidence base for a more just and humane asylum process for individuals seeking refuge in Europe on the basis of their SOGI.

To this end, since 2016, the project has studied the social and legal experiences of SOGI asylum claimants across Europe, by exploring the European Union (EU) and Council of Europe (CoE) frameworks and by focusing on Germany, Italy and the UK as case studies. During this time, SOGICA has carried out more than 150 interviews and focus group discussions with asylum claimants, refugees, decision-makers, practitioners, and experts in the field, and has conducted observations of hearings of SOGI claimants in courts and tribunals. The team has produced [a number of publications](#) on different aspects of SOGI asylum (such as credibility, persecution, discretion, domestic and European adjudication of these claims) and [made presentations at conferences and seminars](#) across Europe. A database of materials, website of resources and network of more than 1,000 friends and allies beyond academia has been established. The SOGICA project will conclude in 2020 with the publication of a monograph and further peer-reviewed articles, all of which are intended to inform fairer SOGI asylum processes in Europe and greater sensitivity and humanity for SOGI minorities outside the legal process.

Deadline

The registration deadline is 30 April 2020.

Who should attend

We look forward to welcoming asylum claimants and refugees, academics, policy makers, practitioners, activists, and anyone with an interest in sexual orientation and gender identity asylum. Registration is being publicised alongside our [call for submissions](#) which closes on Wednesday 22 January 2020.

Fee and bursaries

Conference registration is free. However, we are keen to provide bursaries to enable some of the project participants – asylum claimants, refugees and activists – to take part, and do not have the resources to do this. We are thus asking participants who feel able to do so to contribute to a bursary fund using the link on the University of Sussex registration web page. We are very grateful to everyone who contributes. All funds raised will pay for modest travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses of individuals who have generously contributed to the SOGICA fieldwork without reimbursement and who would otherwise be unable to take part in the conference.

Please let us know when you register if you would like to apply for a bursary and we will contact you after the closing date for registration.

Registration is limited to 100 people on a first-come-first-served basis. If you register and subsequently find that you are unable to attend, please email us at info@sogica.org and we will offer your place to someone else.

Accommodation

Accommodation in Brighton is in high demand and can become expensive or unavailable. We therefore encourage you to make your accommodation arrangements as soon as possible. You can follow [this link](#) to choose from some alternatives made available through Visit Brighton, including some accommodation at the University of Sussex. You may also wish to look into [Couch Surfing](#) or [Hospitality Club](#) for cost-free alternatives. If you are willing to share your home or rented accommodation for free with another conference participant, please let us know and we can put you in touch with other participants we are not able to afford accommodation.

Specific requirements

Please let us know of your dietary and access requirements when you register and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Further details, including the provisional programme and keynote speakers, will appear on the [project website](#) in due course.

Please feel free to contact info@sogica.org with any questions you have about the event.

Thank you and we hope to see you in Brighton in July!



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