



SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

2021 GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE ON PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT

*Co-organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
and the United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and
Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI)*

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Division of International Protection – Geneva

Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and
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Preparation of the Roundtable and of these Summary Conclusions were led by UNHCR and by the Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI). Inputs from LGBTIQ+ people with lived experience of forced displacement and/or statelessness, as well as from other humanitarian, human rights and development stakeholders across sectors have greatly enriched the Roundtable and its findings.

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¹ In alignment with a number of other United Nations organizations, UNHCR adopts the use of LGBTIQ+ to reflect the rich diversity of lived experiences among individuals whose SOGIESC differs from prevailing norms. Please keep in mind that usage of this terminology across UN agencies is not standardized. UNHCR uses LGBTIQ+ as an umbrella term to include all persons whose SOGIESC is not adequately addressed by the categories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex, in particular persons whose gender identity is fluid or non-binary.

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I. PREAMBLE

1. From **07-29 June 2021**, the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** and the **Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI)** co-convened the **2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer (LGBTIQ+) People in Forced Displacement**.
2. The invitation-only Roundtable was held on a secure Internet platform, with over 600 participants from throughout the world joining as representatives of humanitarian, human rights and development organizations at every scale, including civil society organizations led by LGBTIQ+ people with lived experience of forced displacement and/or statelessness; community-based, national and international non-governmental organizations; philanthropic and private sector entities; members of UN agencies; and selected States active in supporting forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons.
3. The month-long Roundtable consisted of high-level opening and closing plenaries, as well as thirteen interactive thematic working table discussions on specific areas of practice that are salient to the experiences of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons.
4. While attendance at the high-level opening and closing plenaries was open to a broader range of invited participants, participation in each thematic working table discussion was limited to a maximum of 40 persons. These thematic discussions aimed to identify stakeholder perspectives on the key challenges, innovations and proposed ways forward to assist displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons through specific areas of practice, as well to facilitate deeper exchange among stakeholders from diverse communities. Each thematic discussion was co-moderated by a team of two subject matter experts who had been selected on the basis of their leadership in the area of practice, as well as for complementarity of geographic, cultural and sectoral perspectives. States were exempt from these thematic discussions.
5. The primary objectives of the 2021 Roundtable were to:
 - a. Track progress made in protection and solutions responses to forced displacement linked to SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics);
 - b. Identify current challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ people throughout the displacement cycle;
 - c. Share good practices in protection of and solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons;
 - d. Facilitate exchange, networking and coalition-building among a broad, multi-stakeholder constituency of allies across the humanitarian, human rights, and development ecosystems;
 - e. Identify priority areas for further collective action.
6. The 2021 Roundtable was the first of its scope that UNHCR has convened on the subject of LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement since 2010, when it had organized a 2-day expert discussion among asylum law and humanitarian protection specialists to explore paths forward for the development of international asylum jurisprudence and operational protection response, specifically in relation to addressing persecution which is linked to one's sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).² Participants at the 2010 meeting included 29 representatives from governments, NGOs, academia, the judiciary and international organizations in 16 countries.³

² UNHCR, *Summary Conclusions: Asylum-Seekers and Refugees Seeking Protection on Account of their Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, 2010. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4cff99a42.html>

³ Volker Türk, 'Ensuring Protection to LGBTI Persons of Concern', *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 25:1, March 2013. pp 120-129.

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7. This seminal 2010 meeting catalyzed a consultative process which resulted in, *inter alia*: Formulation of UNHCR's *Guidelines for International Protection N°9* (2012)⁴; internal stock-taking of protection mechanisms for highly vulnerable displaced and stateless populations, such as those fleeing persecution linked to their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)⁵; and the launch of ongoing interagency capacity-building efforts to help humanitarian professionals work more effectively with what was then understood as "LGBT" people in forced displacement.
8. Since the 2010 Roundtable, UNHCR has organized regular internal discussions to assess protection contexts and identify how to better protect LGBTIQ+ persons of concern. In 2019, it was agreed that a second Roundtable would be organized in 2020. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, this was subsequently rescheduled to 2021 and re-designed as an online event.
9. In preparation for the 2021 Global Roundtable, UNHCR conducted extensive desk reviews, stakeholder interviews and a series of in-person and online regional and cross-regional mapping discussions with forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people and with leading humanitarian, human rights and development practitioners who work with them.
 - a. From 2019-2020, UNHCR's Division for International Protection and its Regional Bureaus organized three regional LGBTIQ+ protection consultations, in the Asia-Pacific, Middle East-North Africa (MENA) and West and Central Africa regions. These were attended by a total of 75 formerly displaced LGBTIQ+ persons, civil society humanitarian and human rights practitioners, UNHCR and OHCHR staff. Similar multi-country consultations were also conducted by UNHCR's regional bureaus for Europe and for the Americas.
 - b. In autumn 2020, following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global health and mobility restrictions, UNHCR's Division of International Protection organized two online cross-regional multi-stakeholder consultations, which focused on:
 - i. *Mapping the Humanitarian Protection Landscape for LGBTIQ+ Persons in Forced Displacement* (42 participants, including from OHCHR, IOM and UNHCR)
 - ii. *Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion of LGBTIQ+ Persons in Forced Displacement* (co-organized with UNHCR Division of Resilience and Solutions, with 65 participants, including from UNDP, IOM and UNHCR)
10. The following *Summary Conclusions* do not necessarily represent the individual views of each participant, of UNHCR or of the Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Rather, they reflect broadly the collective understandings that emerged from the discussion. These conclusions may be understood as constituting a foundational roadmap for further action on the part of different stakeholders with regard to the protection of and solutions for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons throughout the world.
11. For a more comprehensive understanding, these *Summary Conclusions* should be read in conjunction with the [Discussion Paper](#) prepared by UNHCR in advance of the 2021 Roundtable, which sets forth the conceptual framework for the agency's ongoing work on protection and solutions for LGBTIQ+ persons in forced displacement.

II. CONTEXT

12. Within the past decade, the treatment of LGBTIQ+ persons has become the subject of increasing attention among a growing diversity of actors within international public organizations and national jurisdictions, including civil society organizations of every scale, academics, faith-based institutions and

⁴ UNHCR, *Guidelines on International Protection No. 9: Claims to Refugee Status based on Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees*, 23 October 2012, HCR/GIP/12/01. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/50348afc2.html>

⁵ UNHCR, *Protecting Persons with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities: A Global Report on UNHCR's Efforts to Protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Asylum-Seekers and Refugees*, 2015. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/566140454.pdf>

State authorities. The establishment of the Yogyakarta Principles⁶, the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10⁷ and the Mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity⁸ are recognized as key cornerstones in multilateral efforts to end the abuse and advance the protection of LGBTIQ+ people, through policy provisions for their protection and the full realization of their human rights.

13. Moreover, the Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity has contributed substantially to discussions on forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ persons, through the Mandate's regular thematic reports to the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council that highlight how the multiple, intersecting structural protection risks of LGBTIQ+ people are intensified when they are refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced or have irregular migration status, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁹
14. In 2019, UNHCR and the IE SOGI issued a joint statement¹⁰ urging States and other refugee protection actors to recognize and respond appropriately to the unique vulnerability and specific needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and gender-diverse (LGBTI) refugees, asylum seekers and other forcibly displaced persons. A joint press statement was released at the conclusion of the 2021 Roundtable.¹¹
15. Furthermore, robust programmes are being developed by a range of multilateral agencies to address the rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ persons¹², and a growing number of States have also recognized the need to protect LGBTIQ+ people through specific legislation to ensure their right to access asylum and enjoy full inclusion in national social welfare systems.
16. However, in many parts of the world, individuals are still subject to serious human rights abuses because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), particularly when these do not conform to dominant social and cultural norms. As of this writing, nearly 70 United Nations Member States criminalize consensual same-sex sexual acts *de jure* or *de facto*.¹³ Six States impose the death penalty, and sources indicate that the death penalty may be prescribed in five additional States, though with less legal certainty.
17. Severe persecution and discrimination from both State and non-State actors continue to force lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) persons – including children, adolescents and older persons, persons with disabilities – to leave their places of habitual residence in search of a safe environment in which they can fully exercise their rights. Many are forced to cross an internationally recognized national border seeking a safer environment. They may also be stateless - not considered as a national of any State under the operation of its laws.

⁶ *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, March 2007. Geneva: International Commission of Jurists.

⁷ *Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10: Additional Principles and State Obligations on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics to Complement the Yogyakarta Principles*, November 2017. Geneva: International Commission of Jurists.

⁸ UN Human Rights Council, *Resolution A/HRC/RES/32/2, Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, 30 June 2016.

⁹ Idem. See also the following reports from the UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: UN Human Rights Council, A/HRC/38/43, Inaugural report by Victor Madrigal-Borloz, 11 May 2018.

¹⁰ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/38/43>. UN General Assembly, A/74/181, Report on the socio-cultural and economic inclusion of LGBTI people, 17 June 2019. <https://undocs.org/A/74/181>, <https://undocs.org/A/74/181>; UN General Assembly, A/75/258, Report on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of LGBT Persons, 20 July 2020. <https://undocs.org/A/75/258>

¹¹ UNHCR, *UN Rights Experts Urge More Protection for LGBTI Refugees*, 1 July 2019, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/7/5d19bdc04/un-rights-experts-urge-protection-lgbti-refugees.html>

¹² UNHCR, *Global Roundtable Charts Joint Action for Protection of Forcibly Displaced LGBTIQ+ People: Joint Press Release by UNHCR and UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, 30 June 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/6/60db2d4f4/global-roundtable-charts-joint-action-protection-forcibly-displaced-lgbtqi.html>

¹³ United Nations, *The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Discrimination and Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex People: A Programmatic Overview*, 20 September 2019. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/LGBT/UN_LGBTI_summary_2019.pdf

¹⁴ International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), *State Sponsored Homophobia: Global Legislation Overview Update*. December 2020 Updated Edition. Geneva: ILGA.

18. *LGBTIQ+ persons in forced displacement experience multiple, compounding and intersecting stigmatizations and abuse, including but not limited to stigmatization related to both their diverse SOGIESC and their migration status:*
 - a. LGBTIQ+ people frequently experience continued harm during the onset of an emergency situation¹⁴, while in transit and upon arrival in places of asylum. This harm includes but is not limited to stigmatization, discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence, abuse by or lack of protection from security forces, arbitrary detention, refoulement, and exclusion from access to essential services.
 - b. Those who do cross a national border may arrive in countries where they face similar or higher risks of homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and interphobic violence from both nationals of the host country as well as from other displaced people. These risks are exacerbated by other factors, such as xenophobic hostility, misogyny, irregular migration status, socioeconomic marginalization, isolation from traditional support networks and trauma-induced physical and emotional duress.
19. Key actors engaged in operationally assisting LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people tend to be either specialized LGBTIQ+ human rights advocacy organizations, or else mainstream humanitarian and refugee assistance organizations with or without specialized SOGIESC teams. However, discursive, structural and capacity challenges within and among humanitarian and human rights actors have resulted in the perpetuation of distinct silos of engagement, each with its own norms, mandates, programmatic biases, funding and accountability mechanisms.
20. While there is increasing overlap between members of humanitarian and human rights ecosystems, the aforementioned silos continue to adversely impact LGBTIQ+ displaced persons, because LGBTIQ+ persons who are also refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced or stateless are sometimes assumed to be outside the scope of responsibility for actors who engage only with one aspect of their intersectional experience – the aspect linked to their forced displacement status, or to their SOGIESC. This distinction may also be reflected in the structures of government authorities, whereby agencies responsible for refugees, asylum and migration affairs are separate from those charged with protecting and upholding the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in general.
21. Thus, a key intention of the 2021 Global Roundtable was to explore the ways in which *an intersectional understanding*¹⁵ of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless individuals' complex experiences is reflected in specific policy and programmatic responses to address their protection and solutions needs, through both UN and civil society humanitarian and human rights architectures.

III. RATIONALE FOR ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK, METHODOLOGY AND PARTICIPANTS

22. The Roundtable was originally envisaged as a two-day, in-person expert meeting for a maximum of 100 participants from civil society, philanthropic and private sector entities, UN agencies and States. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the Roundtable co-convenors agreed to pivot to an *online consultative methodology*, acknowledging that while virtual consultations cannot always substitute for in-person interactions, cannot entirely overcome time zone navigation challenges and are not reliably accessible to persons with poor digital connectivity and/or physical disabilities, virtual consultations can also potentially broaden the range of participants who can take part in discussions, as they allow for a greater degree of flexibility in participants' physical locations.

¹⁴ An emergency situation is a large-scale forced displacement situation which requires an immediate response. See *UNHCR Emergency Handbook*, 4th edition (2015), <https://emergency.unhcr.org/about>

¹⁵ The concept of intersectionality was first introduced in 1989 by Kimberlé Crenshaw, in the context of understanding the lived experiences of black women through the intersection of gender-based oppression and racism. For a discussion on applying an intersectional approach to working with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons, see UNHCR, *Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Persons in Forced Displacement* (2021), <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4e6073972.pdf>

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23. Importantly, a virtual Roundtable format could offer opportunities for stronger, more inclusive participation from LGBTIQ+ persons with lived experience of forced displacement and from organizations that they lead, many of which are community-based and whose representatives may not have the requisite travel documentation and financial means to physically attend such events.
24. In January 2021, the Roundtable co-convenors established a multi-stakeholder Roundtable Advisory Core Group to guide the event's vision clarification, methodology design and stakeholder outreach. The Advisory Core Group confirmed the intention to center the perspectives of LGBTIQ+ people who have lived experience of forced displacement, as well as to meaningfully strengthen inclusive, diverse SOGIESC representation and collaborative exchange through the advantages of a virtual event methodology, while mitigating against digital security, accessibility and interpretation challenges.
25. It was agreed that the Roundtable would be structured according to the following format, following Chatham House guidelines for non-attribution of opinions expressed. Live interpretation in English, French, Spanish and where possible, Arabic, would be provided:
 - a. **A High-Level Opening Plenary** would convene several LGBTIQ+ refugee leaders in conversation with the IE SOGI, UNHCR and global civil society actors.
 - b. **13 smaller, operationally focused thematic working table discussions** would be held, each co-managed by a team of two subject matter experts who would represent both the humanitarian and human rights advocacy communities and provide geographic, cultural and sectoral complementarity.
 - c. **A High-Level Closing Plenary** would convene thematic working table Co-Managers to present their groups' key recommendations on next steps to a LGBTIQ+ refugee leader, a State representative, the IE SOGI and UNHCR.
26. The number of thematic working table discussions that a participating organization could attend would be based on its type, not exceeding 3 sessions maximum per organization. Each session could accommodate 40 persons maximum, not including Co-Managers and members of the organizing team.
27. Advisory Core Group members also provided suggestions on stakeholder outreach, to ensure meaningful participation from engaged actors in civil society, academia, philanthropic and private sector organizations, multilateral and government bodies. Invitations were extended to 22 States, selected on the basis of their active support to LGBTIQ+ persons in forced displacement and statelessness.

IV. PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

28. The following participants took part in the 2021 Roundtable:

Organization Type	Number of Registrants	Percentage of Total
Academic researcher	28	4.2
Civil society organization	204	30.7
Government	39	5.8
Independent	13	2.0
Philanthropic	21	3.2
Private sector	8	1.2
Refugee-led organization	78	11.8
United Nations ¹⁶	273	41.1
TOTAL	664	100%

¹⁶ Of the UN participants, 250 participants joined as UNHCR staff or affiliate workforce personnel. 11 joined as OHCHR staff and 4 as UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders, including the Independent Expert on SOGI as Roundtable Co-Convenor. Other UN agencies in attendance included ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, as well as members of UN-GLOBE. For a list of all participating organizations, see Annex II.

V. PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THEMATIC AREA OF PRACTICE

The following section outlines key priority recommendations for forward action, as identified by participants in each of the 13 thematic working table discussion groups that constituted the core of the 2021 Global Roundtable. These discussions were co-facilitated and attended by delegates from civil society and multilateral public organizations. Thematic working table discussion Co-Managers led the consultative formulation of each group's key recommendations.

The text of the below recommendations is as agreed upon by discussion group participants. Noteworthy cross-cutting meta-themes are highlighted at the end of this section.

A. Addressing Drivers of Forced Displacement

As of 2020, 80 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide. Among them are refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, stateless people, and other people of concern to UNHCR who seek protection from discrimination, abuse and persecution related to their real or imputed sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). At the time of this writing, consensual same-sex relations between adults are criminalised in 69 States and considered a capital offense in 6 states. The death penalty may be prescribed in five additional States, though with less legal certainty.

Many LGBTIQ+ persons are forced to flee their country of origin or place of habitual residence in order to avoid persecution and to safely exercise their rights. SOGIESC-relevant legislation, contemporary political climate, media influence, and prevailing cultural norms shape drivers of forced displacement for LGBTIQ+ persons in countries of origin, transit and destination. Perpetrators of violations include both State and non-State actors, such as police officers and members of the security forces; family and community members; neighbours, peers, employers and co-workers; educational, medical, faith-based and other cultural authorities; gangs and militias.

This thematic working table discussion aimed to: Collaboratively map the key drivers of forced displacement for LGBTIQ+ people; assess challenges and actions taken thus far at local, regional, and global levels; and recommend policy solutions. Priority recommendations are as follows:

1. **Recommendation: Provide material support which can be accessed by local civil society organizations (CSOs), for LGBTIQ+ persons experiencing forced displacement, including internal displacement.**

In many countries of origin, particularly those which criminalize consensual same-sex relations and/or gender diversity *de jure* or *de facto*, there are few available resources to materially support LGBTIQ+ people, including but not limited to human rights defenders, who are experiencing persecution from State and non-State actors, and who require emergency humanitarian assistance. Local LGBTIQ+ CSOs and human rights defenders must be able to access enhanced funding in order to support forcibly displaced persons:

- a. Empower LGBTIQ+ people who face forced displacement to build networks and community, with resources provided by supportive organizations at the national, regional and international levels
- b. Provide opportunities for safe houses and emergency humanitarian assistance.

2. **Recommendation: National governments and UNHCR's country operations must provide more tools to support LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people.**

Many LGBTIQ+ people who face persecution linked to their real or perceived SOGIESC reside in countries that criminalize consensual same-sex intimacy between adults and/or gender diversity, or whose human rights

protections against discriminatory behavior are weak. In addition, for those who are forced to flee due to SOGIESC-based persecution, neighbouring countries are often far from ideal safe havens, because nearby countries often exhibit similar patterns of violence and discrimination directed at LGBTIQ+ people. Nearly 90% of the world's forcibly displaced persons are hosted in low or middle-income countries within the same region as their countries of origin. Thus, national governments and UNHCR's country operations should:

- a. Carry out continuous consultations with LGBTIQ+ people (both forcibly displaced and non-forcibly displaced) to ensure that UNHCR programmes respond to their needs.
- b. Develop and carry out regular, trauma-informed and intersectionally-inclusive SOGIESC training for government and UNHCR officials.
- c. Implement disaggregated, ethical data collection and management on forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ persons, to adequately address the vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement.
- d. Strategically assess the parameters of bilateral cooperation agreements with countries of first asylum that discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people, including the use of development cooperation funds that may be instrumentalized by recipient countries to adopt discriminatory policies against LGBTIQ+ people.

3. Recommendation: Multilateral public organizations, national and regional jurisdictions, and transnational civil society organizations must collaboratively establish more robust regional and international mechanisms to support LGBTIQ+ persons who are experiencing persecution, or who are at risk of experiencing persecution.

There is a lack of coordination amongst regional and international CSOs and governments to support LGBTIQ+ persons who are forcibly displaced. Thus, it is necessary to:

- a. Provide more humanitarian corridors in LGBTIQ-supportive States to support forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people.
- b. LGBTIQ-supportive States in the global North are strongly encouraged to increase their resettlement capacity for LGBTIQ+ displaced people, while recognizing that long-term solutions cannot be dominated by Northern states.
- c. Establish and invest in a robust, centralized international multi-stakeholder network to regularly share data, research, programmatic best practices and solutions for LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement.
- d. Advocate for legislative reform in States that criminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults and/or diverse SOGIESC and invest in increased partnerships with LGBTIQ+ displaced populations and LGBTIQ+ CSOs globally.

B. Reception Conditions and Outreach to LGBTIQ+ Displaced and Stateless People

During flight and after arrival in asylum countries, LGBTIQ+ individuals often continue to be subject to the same abuse from which they fled. Importantly, they are often unable to access support or protection from other displaced people with whom they share a common national, ethnic, political or religious background. Upon arrival to the country of asylum, some LGBTIQ+ persons are forced into isolation to protect themselves and have no adequate or timely access to accurate information on how and where they can claim asylum or access assistance. LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons reportedly often feel unable to approach or discuss their situation with designated authorities, whether UNHCR personnel, national authorities or frontline humanitarian protection staff. LGBTIQ+ persons frequently perceive that authorities and other humanitarian actors traditionally responsible for ensuring refugee protection have no experience with or exposure to LGBTIQ-specific issues and may additionally be unable or unwilling to protect them.

In asylum countries that host LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons:

1. **Recommendation:** Mandatory and continuous professional orientation and education should be undertaken by all relevant personnel in UNHCR, Government agencies, security guards, contractors, and civil society service providers who engage with LGBTIQ+ displaced people on a frontline capacity.

Training must include:

- a. Introduction to foundational SOGIESC topics salient to LGBTIQ+ displaced people;
- b. Contextualization of intersectional oppressions, including, *inter alia*:

Homophobia, transphobia, biphobia and intersexphobia; Colonial histories of how national penal codes have come to criminalize non-conforming SOGIESC; Addressing implicit biases and presumptions; Using respectful terminology and communication; Understanding intersectional experiences of LGBTIQ+ displaced people, including for children and adolescents, older persons, persons with disabilities, non-binary persons, ethnic-linguistic minorities, and specific experiences particular to all members of the LGBTIQ+ communities

Invest in ongoing research to ensure that curriculum is kept up to date.

While the complexity of « mandatory » is understood, it is recommended as a goal in terms of its importance, noting that in some venues where countries criminalize diverse SOGIESC, this may be difficult to accomplish, but should be benchmarked.

2. **Recommendation:** Establish and regularly implement Safe Space protocols and a refugee-targeted orientation process for all State-run reception centres that accommodate LGBTIQ+ displaced people, whether within the general refugee/asylum seeker population, or in targeted facilities:

- a. Establish separate facilities or protected areas of accommodation.
- b. Appoint trained and dedicated personnel to work with LGBTIQ+ displaced persons.
- c. Display identifying materials, guidelines and resources, information on LGBTIQ-friendly and trauma-informed service providers.
- d. Partner with trusted LGBTIQ+ focused civil society partners and contractors.

For LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced persons:

- e. Provide written materials and guidance in pertinent languages for LGBTIQ+ displaced people.
- f. Provide a description of the rights of LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers and of the acceptability to self-declare their SOGIESC.
- g. Provide referrals to telephone or online helplines, and to a continuously updated list of safe service providers and support services, to include: Medical services, Mental health and psychosocial services, Legal aid representatives, Safety guidelines (depending on the environment for LGBTIQ+ displaced people)

3. **Recommendation:** Advocate for Legal Reform and Funding Support

- a. Formulate strengthened advocacy efforts from civil society organizations and/or UNHCR and the IE SOGI to State authorities, including regional multi-country authorities.
- b. UNHCR, IE SOGI and States to review region-specific methods to expedite pathways for LGBTIQ+ displaced people who are languishing in hostile host situations, noting that LGBTIQ+ displaced people experience compounded hostility in places of protection, due to criminalization of consensual same-sex relations and social stigma in asylum countries
- c. UNHCR, IE SOGI and States to discuss innovating safer pathways for LGBTIQ+ displaced persons

- d. Related programming and opportunities for funding that include LGBTIQ+ specific civil society partners, through outreach to embassies, donors, philanthropic sector, local and global governments

C. Building the Evidence Base: Ethical Data Collection, Reporting and Management

The appropriate, comprehensive and meaningful inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons in humanitarian response efforts is strongly linked to the ability to systemically identify them and ethically obtain data on their SOGIESC, on the Protection risk they experience, and on their specific needs for support. However, LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people remain significantly under-identified and under-documented in humanitarian response efforts, which makes it difficult to ensure that they can access proper protection and that humanitarian actors can fulfil accountability responsibilities. Although UNHCR has been continually upgrading its registration systems and procedures for refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons of concern to UNHCR, stakeholders share that these systems do not yet consistently capture critical data needed to appropriately identify diverse SOGIESC, related risks and the subsequent support.

1. **Recommendation: Create environments in which it is safe for LGBTIQ+ persons to share their experiences, and revise systems and practices to better respect the diversity, intersectionality and authorship of those experiences.**
 - a. Revise UNHCR's vulnerability criteria and data collection systems to capture root causes.
 - b. Instead of adhering to existing categories that force persons of concern to emphasize certain vulnerabilities over others, revise database input fields and complement with open narrative, to register the complexity of intersectional factors that impact an LGBTIQ+ displaced person.
 - c. Support LGBTIQ+ CSOs to participate in the humanitarian system and learn from them about risks for LGBTIQ+ persons and strategies for creating safe and dignified contexts for sharing stories.
 - d. Identify positionality of asylum adjudicators, caseworkers and interpreters.
 - e. Allow LGBTIQ+ displaced people sufficient time to self-disclose, prepare and present their experiences in ways that respect their ownership of their stories, while also providing them access to legal and psycho-social support.
 - f. Include LGBTIQ+ personnel in public institutions that work directly with LGBTIQ+ persons of concern.
 - g. Invest in research to identify best practices and to develop guidelines.
2. **Recommendation: Encourage collection of data on the experiences of LGBTIQ+ people by supporting humanitarian staff to overcome the fear of failure and to effectively mitigate fear of doing harm.**
 - a. Develop and fund training for public and civil society personnel collecting data on and with LGBTIQ+ displaced people on matters including key issues for LGBTIQ+ people, safe and effective use of tools and respectful engagement with LGBTIQ+ people including best practices on use of diverse SOGIESC terminology.
 - b. Adapt or develop tools available to staff, to ensure they are fit for purpose for working with LGBTIQ+ people.
 - c. Encourage partnerships with LGBTIQ+ CSOs that deepen staff situational awareness and confidence.
 - d. Ensure data confidentiality across the entire data management and reporting system
3. **Recommendation: Enhance data collection through language appropriate training for UN, NGO, Gov and CSO personnel.**
 - a. Develop training that includes short, innovative introductory videos appropriate for the broader public.
 - b. Humanise training sessions, using interactive role plays to assess implicit bias and fears.

D. Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms: Legal Gender Recognition, Alternatives to Detention, Protection from Refoulement

Legal Gender Recognition

Acquiring accurate legal documentation is particularly challenging for forcibly displaced transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex persons, whose self-determined gender is often not reflected in official documents issued by UNHCR or by government authorities in either their countries of origin or asylum. In countries where non-nationals are not permitted to make legal changes to their gender marker in official documentation, this creates serious problems for them when they must present identification documents, such as at checkpoints, ports of entry, entrances to government premises, or when applying for residence permits, rental accommodation and access to national health, banking, employment, education and other services.

1. **Recommendation: UNHCR and associated humanitarian authorities should issue a strong public statement on the need to ensure legal gender recognition via self-determination for all persons of concern, as part of advocacy to States to recognize the right to legal gender recognition for all refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced people on their territory.**
2. **Recommendation: UNHCR to draft authoritative guidelines on how to operationalize legal gender recognition throughout its chain of care.**
 - a. Develop consultatively determined protocol on how to engage LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons in ways that centre their self-determination and promote dignity and respect.
 - b. These guidelines should draw from learnings in countries where there is no centralised form of legal gender recognition, or where alternate means of legal gender recognition have been established in the absence of local provisions.

Enable all refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced people to amend their name and gender markers, based on self-determination and irrespective of details contained in identification documents issued to them from any country of nationality, by providing options for, *inter alia*:

- c. Amending details on all UNHCR administrative identity documents from the point of initial registration and through all subsequent official interactions, based on the person of concern's free and informed choice, including the option of using a non-binary gender marker;
 - d. Issuing travel documents with these correct details, where travel documents are available to those who do not have or unable to obtain a travel document from a country of origin, recognising that a travel document with the incorrect name and gender marker is not usable for its stated purpose;
 - e. Accessing any local administrative, regulatory or legal procedures for correcting one's name and gender marker, irrespective of the applicant's immigration status, criminal record, length of time domiciled in the place of application or because their birth was not registered there;
 - f. Advocating for gender recognition systems that are simple, accessible, confidential, administrative processes based on self-determination, free and informed consent and bodily autonomy without any abusive requirements, including medical procedures or certifications, and that provide a multiplicity of gender marker options;
 - g. Recognising that transgender and intersex persons who have not had access to legal gender recognition are most often using travel documents that list their incorrect name and gender marker. These persons should not be understood as possessing a usable travel document, and as such are eligible for whatever document is issued to other persons of concern to UNHCR who do not have or who cannot obtain a travel document from their country of origin, issued with their correct name and gender marker.
3. **Recommendation: UNHCR, States and civil society organizations to consider creating pathways for admission and protection on human rights grounds for transgender and gender non-**

conforming persons who have particularly acute persecutory risks and/or heightened vulnerability profiles.

- a. Similar programmes that have been put in place for torture survivors or survivors of trafficking can be referenced as models for developing this mechanism.
- b. In addition, legal gender recognition based on self-determination should take place simultaneously within this special dispensation and with regards to consideration for durable solutions, such as third-country resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries.

Arbitrary Detention

LGBTIQ+ persons and those perceived to be such may be at risk of arbitrary arrest and detention by security forces in countries of asylum, whether on the basis of their irregular displacement status, their real or perceived SOGIESC, or a combination of the above. Transgender and visibly gender non-conforming people are at particularly high risk of arbitrary detention. While in detention, LGBTIQ+ persons are at risk of further harassment and abuse at the hands of guards and other inmates, including sexual and gender-based violence, “protective isolation” and denial of necessary medical care, and in the case of transgender persons, gender-affirming treatments.

1. **Recommendation: Raise awareness on and fully leverage the procedures of the Human Rights Committee, Committee Against Torture and the Special Procedures Mandate Holders to make interventions in refoulement cases with known SOGIESC links.**
 - a. Highlight the accessibility and roles of these human rights mechanisms for humanitarian protection actors who work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people.
 - b. UNHCR to analyse refoulement cases to determine how many are linked to a claimant’s diverse SOGIESC and what trends exist, and to communicate this to the appropriate interlocutors among Special Procedures Mandate holders and treaty bodies.
 - c. UNHCR to determine if targeted interventions are necessary.

It was noted that human rights mechanisms do not have systematic access to information on arbitrary detention and refoulement and therefore cannot always provide an analysis. Given the distinct mandates and work methods of human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures, it is important to ensure that the appropriate focal points are engaged in monitoring arbitrary detention and refoulement of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons.

2. **Recommendation: Given the linkages between the particularly acute risks of arbitrary detention experienced by LGBTIQ+ displaced people and available [durable] solutions, stakeholders must recommit to exploring third-country resettlement, complementary pathways such as employment and educational scholarship programmes, as well as humanitarian visas and corridors that take into account LGBTIQ+ displaced people’s needs.**
3. **Recommendation: UNHCR, States and other stakeholders to mitigate against the pervasive idea that SOGIESC-based refugee status functions as a ‘pull factor’ which leads to an increase in fraudulent asylum claims.**
 - a. Highlight due diligence and risk management systems that are already in place.
 - b. Expand sensitization training on the needs of LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers and focus on operationalizing system-wide SOGIESC inclusion.

Protection from Refoulement (Deportation)

Despite international human rights frameworks in place to safeguard persons in need of international protection from refoulement, LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people may not always be well-informed of their right to claim this protection. They do not consistently have access to UNHCR and partner organizations about the available services and legal assistance relevant to refugee status determination (RSD) and asylum procedures.

Without legal representation and sometimes assistance from civil society advocates, many will continue to experience refoulement from asylum countries.

1. **Recommendation:** International human rights standards, including but not limited to the Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights Protections of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations, help guide States in their responsibilities. This includes a presumption against detention and refoulement, especially for LGBTIQ+ displaced persons with particular vulnerabilities and who are at risk of violence or abuse. These standards, along with the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, need to be used strategically to bring international visibility to the issue.
 - a. Translate these human rights standards into UN Country teams, so that they hold a singular voice and mandate in protecting people with diverse SOGIESC from arbitrary detention and refoulement.
 - b. Capacitate local CSOs on how to support LGBTIQ+ displaced persons and their needs, through knowledge-sharing and other resources.
2. **Recommendation:** Renew emphasis and commitment to [durable] solutions, such as: Third-country resettlement, community-based private sponsorship, complementary resettlement pathways, self-referrals or referrals from organizations other than UNHCR, and alternatives for humanitarian visas and corridors that can be developed in collaboration with Embassies.
3. **Recommendation:** Map actionable solutions from different contexts and regions to strengthen the evidence base for expanded advocacy efforts that link human rights mechanisms, international human rights institutions with practical implementation.

E. Safe Shelter and Accommodation

Availability of safe and dignified shelter for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced persons is a fundamental concern for LGBTIQ+ persons who often arrive in a country of asylum with no support networks in place, and who often cannot turn to other members of their ethnolinguistic or faith diaspora for assistance. Homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and intersexphobic attitudes among both host nationals and other forcibly displaced and stateless people create significant challenges for LGBTIQ+ displaced persons to find and sustain safe shelter and accommodation, exposing them to multiple protection risks including violence and exploitation.

1. **Recommendation:** All refugee service providers should be trained on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) topics, and on topics specific to LGBTIQ+ refugee protection. Training target audiences should include, *inter alia*, frontline practitioners in the legal, social welfare, medical, mental health, housing and other agencies, whether through civil society, host government agencies, UNHCR focal points or other UN agency personnel.
 - a. The training should focus on specific needs, situations and vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.
 - b. All agencies providing direct services to refugees, including face-to-face and virtual support, should establish safe spaces (non-discrimination zones) for LGBTIQ+ refugees in their offices and online. This may include buddy systems, contact people, and hosting events that bring LGBTIQ+ refugees together for peer support.
 - c. Ensure access to trans- and intersex specific healthcare and step-up provisions of mental health support for LGBTIQ+ refugees, as well as capacity building in relation to livelihoods.
2. **Recommendation:** UNHCR, refugee-assisting organizations and social service providers must work with LGBTIQ+ led organizations and community groups as formal implementing partners to provide holistic protection services for LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement. Services include:

- a. Provision of safe physical shelter in safe neighbourhoods
- b. Mental health and psychosocial support
- c. Cash assistance
- d. Livelihoods training

Moreover, UNHCR and partners must provide a clear graduation plan for LGBTIQ+ displaced people who are receiving these protection services. The graduation plan is to be situated within the architecture of clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures, and it would provide the necessary resources for civil society organizations to offer LGBTIQ-specific interventions and service provisions. Where possible, provide direct support to facilitate self-reliance and create as-safe-as-possible spaces for LGBTIQ+ individuals or small communities. Direct support can take the form of cash for micro loan programmes, goods and other supplies.

3. Recommendation: Provide safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ displaced persons, while taking into account that accessing such a space usually requires an individual to disclose their SOGIESC.

- a. Therefore, safety and confidentiality all around such spaces must be guaranteed.
- b. Safe spaces can be physical (such as housing) or virtual (digital community groups).

F. Refugee Status Determination and Building Asylum Capacity

LGBTIQ+ persons seeking international protection in forced displacement experience a myriad of barriers to the adjudication of their asylum claims. A lack of systematic and comprehensive data on SOGIESC-based protection claims makes it difficult to assess overall refugee recognition rates by country or region. According to stakeholders, practices vary, and some jurisdictions are more restrictive than others. It is reported that some caseworkers, lawyers and asylum adjudicators lack a sufficiently nuanced understanding of what sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics entail. Notable challenges in the legal protection of LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers include evidentiary burdens in asylum claims; challenges in satisfying criteria for well-founded fear and/or membership of a particular social group; jurisprudential and credibility challenges; and, implicit biases and/or stereotypes held by caseworkers, lawyers and asylum adjudicators.

1. Recommendation: Improve the asylum process for SOGIESC asylum claimants by:

- a. Rendering procedures – including border and accelerated procedures – more appropriate by fostering a friendly and welcoming environment; ensuring claimants’ privacy during interviews; ensuring decision-makers are specially trained on SOGIESC matters; engaging interpreters who are unquestionably neutral and have received SOGIESC-specific training; avoiding harm and re-traumatization by authorities (for example through intrusive questioning or repeated interviews); and avoiding excessively long asylum procedures (instead ensuring timely main interviews and first decisions on asylum claims), without detriment to the quality of the decisions.
- b. Ensure high-quality and free-of-charge legal counseling and representation for all asylum claimants by lawyers with SOGIESC-specific expertise and sensitivity, as well as psychological and social support to help claimants (especially if traumatized) structure their personal narratives, complemented by a greater support role in the legal procedure for UNHCR and LGBTIQ+ and refugee CSOs, support groups and activists.

2. Recommendation: Increase levels of localized research, training, support and evaluation in SOGIESC asylum by:

- a. Ensuring all decision-makers undertake good quality and accessible training on intercultural awareness, general SOGIESC matters and SOGIESC asylum claims, reflecting

appropriate and culturally sensitive terminology and understanding of the diverse, subjective, intersectional and complex nature of the experiences of SOGIESC claimants, heavily relying on the real-life experiences of SOGIESC refugees and their support groups, and allowing for some decision-makers to become specialised on SOGIESC matters.

- b. Increasing the integrity and quality of decision-making to eliminate the culture of disbelief and avoid inappropriate lines of questioning and use of stereotypical assumptions in interviewing techniques and credibility assessment (for instance, the expectation of universally common experiences and characteristics among all LGBTIQ+ people, such as negative feelings about oneself), as well as avoiding the reductive or exclusive use of guidelines/models or approaches that excessively rely on a culturally insensitive interpretation of LGBTIQ+ identities.
- c. Increasing and improving the training and quality control of interpreters, including on ethics and confidentiality, and making available more translated versions of resources on SOGIESC terminology, to ensure linguistic, cultural and interpersonal competencies, with an emphasis on SOGIESC knowledge and sensitivity.

3. Recommendation: Enhance the quality of analysis and decision-making in SOGIESC asylum by:

- a. Committing to urgently and periodically revising the UNHCR 2012 *Guidelines for International Protection N°9* and existing training materials in light of the latest academic, policy and research findings on SOGIESC matters and human rights law, so as to ensure asylum procedures are sensitive to the heterogeneity, rights and needs of SOGIESC asylum claimants, avoid adopting any model for the assessment of the credibility of the claimant's asserted SOGIESC, and are more solidly grounded in LGBTIQ+ refugees' real-life experiences.
- b. Assessing credibility on the basis of an individual, balanced, intersectional and holistic evaluation of all the evidence submitted by the claimant (including their testimony and other corroborative evidence) and other available evidence (such as Country of Origin Information), placing due value on the claimant's self-identification, without expectations of 'emotional journeys' or reliance on culturally unsound and inappropriate stereotypes, and respecting the principle of the benefit of the doubt.
- c. Carrying out the assessment of the risk of persecution on the basis of future risk of harm (as opposed to focusing only or mainly on past persecution), fully taking into account the extent to which claimants would enjoy effective protection upon return, the levels of social discrimination, the access to social, economic and cultural rights, the role of private actors, the diversity of SOGIESC refugees (not only in terms of SOGIESC, but also in terms of age, socio-economic and educational background, religion, disability, health, etc.), the cultural/relational/intersectional nature of SOGIESC, and an understanding of the complex detrimental impact of criminalizing laws – both secular and religious – on everyday life, independent of whether or not prosecutions occur or the law is officially implemented.
- d. Making more effective use of Country of Origin Information by improving its quality, adopting a culturally sensitive approach, relying on local LGBTIQ+ groups' expertise, data collection and research, and paying due attention to the need to exempt SOGIESC claims from the scope of 'safe country' assessments.

G. Digitalised Protection Spaces: Challenges and Opportunities

Across geographic regions, it has been observed that digital and online spaces have become increasingly prominent in shaping how forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ people live throughout their entire displacement experience, including how they maintain contact with loved ones and community members while they are on the move, present evidence and liaise with humanitarian and human rights actors (including government authorities) on their asylum claims, obtain information on protection referral services, as well as advocate for their rights.

However, online spaces and the digital ecosystems in which they are situated present both dangers and opportunities for LGBTIQ+ displaced people, who rely increasingly on these spaces for support. Online spaces have, on the one hand, become frontiers for surveillance and monitoring by homophobic and transphobic hate crime perpetrators, and on the other, innovative spaces to harness ideas, capacities and resources and communication to generate positive protection outcomes for LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement. This thematic discussion intended to draw out participants' experiences in leveraging digital methods to strengthen protection of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people.

1. **Recommendation:** Develop an intersectional and comprehensive review of digital technology initiatives and good practices that are used for work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people, or that are used elsewhere in development work and that can potentially be used by LGBTIQ+ actors.
2. **Recommendation:** Support the improvement of infrastructure and capacity of humanitarian actors, so that they can use/ leverage digital solutions to be inclusive of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people. Includes developing guidelines for:
 - a. Online safety and protection
 - b. Digital literacy
 - c. Strategic and ethical data collection
 - d. Information-sharing
 - e. Inter-cultural community-building
 - f. Access to financial services
3. **Recommendation:** Create and invest in regional and sub-regional learning and innovation platforms/ hubs that bring together multidisciplinary stakeholders. These platforms will serve to co-create scalable digital solutions that serve LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people.

H. Gender-Based Violence: Prevention, Risk Mitigation, Response

LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons are at particularly high risk of experiencing discrimination, gender-related persecution, sexual violence and gender-based violence (GBV), particularly against women and girls of diverse SOCIESC. Evidence suggests that many displaced and stateless persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) have experienced gender-based violence in either or both the country of origin and asylum. Trans and gender non-conforming displaced persons are at particular risk of experiencing GBV, including but not limited to social stigmatization, emotional harassment, physical violence and sexual abuse. The physiological, emotional, and social repercussions can be devastating and life-threatening. It can be the reason for flight and seeking asylum. Among the many challenges and risks faced, displaced LGBTIQ+ persons may encounter disproportionate barriers to essential health care services and a significant lack of survivor-centered care.

1. **Recommendation:** Capacitate and implement a community-based approach to preventing, mitigating and responding to gender-based violence amongst LGBTIQ+ refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers.

- a. Engage local LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations in host countries and LGBTIQ+ refugee-led organizations in the humanitarian response. They are best placed to know the risks, protection strategies, and availability of LGBTIQ+ friendly response services. Responses should be led by LGBTIQ+ organizations and individuals. This is also a way to promote the localization agenda.
 - b. Many traditional CSO and host government service providers lack the expertise to provide LGBTIQ+ inclusive and sensitive services, and their staff may display homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and intersex-phobic attitudes.
 - c. Many host countries and countries of origin have anti-LGBTIQ+ policies in place which heighten the protection risks including of gender-based violence faced by LGBTIQ+ refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers, thereby reinforcing the need to engage and learn from local LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations.
 - d. LGBTIQ+ populations need safe spaces to share their stories and seek support from both fellow LGBTIQ+ individuals, as well as from mental health specialists and other service providers.
2. **Recommendation: Funding should be more accessible and targeted towards LGBTIQ+ needs and programming, while donors should be encouraged to collaborate with LGBTIQ+ organizations. This requires a re-thinking of often onerous funding models, grant application and reporting processes. All humanitarian actors have responsibilities to ensure that their programs and services are LGBTIQ+ sensitive and inclusive.**
- a. Collaboration between the myriad of actors at all levels needs to be increased and roles and responsibilities need to be elaborated and coordinated.
 - b. The majority of current humanitarian responses are heteronormative and fail to recognize and take into account the differing needs and priorities of LGBTIQ+ populations.
 - c. All humanitarian actors must provide unbiased, non-discriminatory services based on needs, irrespective of personal views and host government policies.
 - d. Response services for LGBTIQ+ survivors require engagement of all sectors, for example: Mental health and psychosocial support, health/sexual and reproductive health services, protection, support to survivors of gender-based violence, livelihoods, and shelter.
 - e. Existing guidance focuses primarily on refugee status determination and resettlement processing. Concrete sectoral guidance is needed to enhance protection, mitigate risks, and respond to the needs of LGBTIQ+ survivors.
 - f. Referral pathways need to be identified, be user-appropriate and solidified.
3. **Recommendation: Asylum processes must be LGBTIQ+ sensitive recognizing the myriad of protection risks and types of violence faced by LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers.**
- a. LGBTIQ+ populations are incredibly diverse and the risks faced vary by population groups and individuals.
 - b. Risks are faced pre-flight, during flight, and in-countries of asylum. Perpetrators may be family members, fellow refugees, host community members, and authorities such as police, border patrols, etc.
 - c. LGBTIQ+ individuals may hesitate to share their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or diverse sex characteristics, out of fear of stigmatization and discrimination.
 - d. Accelerated asylum processes may put LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers at heightened risks, as their reasons for claiming asylum might not surface before trust and rapport is developed.
 - e. Less visible violence, like those perpetrated by family members (i.e marital rape) needs to be recognized during the asylum process. Provision of evidence must be gender-sensitive.

I. Pathways for Safe Inclusion in Health Services

LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and/or stateless persons regularly experience stigma and discrimination while seeking health services, leading to disparities in access, quality and availability of healthcare. Laws that criminalize same-sex relations or that target persons due to their gender identity or expression exacerbate negative health outcomes for LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement. LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless people with immune-compromised systems are at particular risk of exposure to COVID-19. The discontinuation of access to treatment for chronic diseases during the pandemic increases their risk. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) consider transgender people and men who have sex with men, including gay and bisexual men, to be among the key populations at risk of contracting HIV. Moreover, in many countries, forcibly displaced and stateless transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex persons experience intensified stigmatization, socioeconomic marginalization, and criminalization. This presents serious barriers when they seek to access essential medical care, mental health support and gender-affirming hormone treatments.

1. **Recommendation: Provide more sustainable health services through long-term funding and projects. LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people should be involved in the process of tailoring and implementing these projects, so they have more autonomy and be empowered.**
 - a. Empower LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people, community support organizations and peer workers
 - b. Include LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, displaced and stateless people in working groups and committees when developing initiatives and plans to improve services directed at LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced populations.
 - c. Develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and community awareness initiatives.
 - d. Ensure longer-term funding and other resources for sustainability.
2. **Recommendation: Undertake more research on the intersection of health and LGBTIQ+ forced displacement, that includes LGBTIQ+ displaced people and data collection in safe(r) settings. The research will enable creating educational resources and training tools that are addressed to healthcare providers, government officials and all stakeholders involved.**
 - a. Train health care providers and early childhood care practitioners on trauma-informed SOGIESC-specific foundational understanding, values clarification, specific needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced people, and referral pathways.
 - b. Formalize referral pathways and partnership agreements with health care providers, health facilities and other CSOs through memoranda of agreement or understanding.
 - c. Establish an international network of SOGIESC-competent health specialists, including mental health practitioners, who work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced populations. This network should facilitate knowledge exchange and resource-sharing through regular workshops, meetings, and other fora.
3. **Recommendation: Network and collaborate with already established, community led LGBTIQ+ organizations and groups on the ground, in order to fill in the gaps of the system in place.**
 - a. Develop and maintain ethical, confidential registration and data systems for LGBTIQ+ displaced people and adhere to international protocols for patient confidentiality.
 - b. Build capacity to work with LGBTIQ+ displaced populations, including in the teaching curricula of medical and nursing schools, as well as among State public health personnel at all levels.
 - c. Partner with civil society organizations that are already active in supporting LGBTIQ+ displaced people and leverage their expertise to inform policy and programmatic guidelines.

- d. Undertake further research on the intersection between LGBTIQ+ health needs and forced displacement
- e. Recruit dedicated staff to lead policy and programmatic health interventions on LGBTIQ+ displaced populations.
- f. Provide authoritative guidance on how to respectfully and effectively work with LGBTIQ+ displaced people.

Participants of this thematic discussion also noted the following health challenges:

- Closure of public health services during the COVID-19 pandemic increases difficulties for LGBTIQ+ persons
- Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services are mainly labelled for women and restricted for other groups within forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ communities
- Health care providers often lack awareness of the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ communities who are displaced
- Care seekers experience lack of legal documents, language barriers, lack of access to hormone therapy or specialised care, concerns over lack of confidentiality from health care providers. This results in LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced persons attempting to access 'black market' or private facilities and assuming the financial burdens of traveling far distances to access health care.
- Gender binary systems used by majority of public health providers do not collect or use critical data needed to appropriately identify an LGBTIQ+ person's SOGIESC
- Lack of mental health and psychosocial support personnel who are capacitated to work with LGBTIQ+ displaced persons.
- Lack of confidentiality on the part of health care providers.
- A follow-up discussion on the health priorities of cisgender lesbian and bisexual women and queer or questioning forcibly displaced persons must be convened.
- Intersex persons may be subject to non-consensual medical interventions by family members and health professionals, who lack knowledge and understanding of their primary and/or secondary biological sex characteristics
- Intersex persons are excluded from public health services, as the level of intersex-competent service in national health systems is generally low

J. Access to Rehabilitation from Torture

In asylum countries that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct, LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people who are survivors of torture often live in a state of fear. This fear may be on account of arbitrary detention or reprisals by host country authorities; stigmatization and abuse by host communities; and, fear of continued torture and ill-treatment even after having fled the country of origin. Family members or partners and the people who are close to survivors may continue to be at risk, while at the same time, family members may also be perpetrators of torture of LGBTIQ+ displaced people. Moreover, LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement face both structural and logistical challenges to access mental health and psychosocial services and other rehabilitation services, while reports of the de-prioritization of LGBTIQ+ populations within torture rehabilitation programs continue to also create access barriers.

1. **Recommendation: Continuous professional education should be undertaken by all relevant members and personnel in the UN bodies, Government agencies, CSOs, rehabilitation centers who engage with LGBTIQ+ torture survivors. Training should include, *inter alia*:**
 - a. Appropriate interviewing techniques with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people and orientation how memory recall works for torture survivors. Refugees should not be re-traumatized or humiliated by state authorities through inappropriate questions.
 - b. Legal and medico-health professionals should enhance their knowledge on SOGIESC language and terminology.
 - c. LGBTIQ+ activists and CSOs should know how to safely and correctly collect forensic evidence that an LGBTIQ+ asylum claimant has survived torture.

2. Recommendation: All refugee service providers should strengthen the coordination between them on the topic of combating torture and access to rehabilitation of its victims.

- a. The stakeholders should facilitate stronger knowledge sharing, exchange, mutual capacity building and coordination between the different communities of practice that work on any of the intersectional aspects of a LGBTIQ+ displaced torture survivor's life:
 - i. Torture rehabilitation practitioners and networks
 - ii. LGBTIQ+ human rights organizations
 - iii. Refugee rights and assistance organizations
- b. State authorities should increase cooperation with CSOs and consult LGBTIQ+ refugees who are themselves torture survivors, to advise on what kind of services they need and what kinds of programmes and interventions should be funded.
- c. Torture rehabilitation centers, that work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people who have survived torture, should create a working group among them to issue guidelines on the matter.
- d. Local CSOs should create specialized projects and grants' applications aiming to aid LGBTIQ+ torture-survivors.

3. Recommendation: Advocate for legal reform and funding support.

- a. States should be reminded of their international obligations, for example, under the Geneva Convention, that provides the States' duty to assist LGBTIQ+ individuals who are torture survivors and who have a forced displacement background.
- b. Standards of legal proof required for LGBTIQ+ asylum claims should be less bearable and take into account the fact that the claimant is both an LGBTIQ+ individual and a torture survivor.
- c. The UN humanitarian and human rights bodies should be clearer to State authorities about the existence of LGBTIQ+ torture victims, their needs for rehabilitation and the standard of legal proof required for both asylum and redress.
- d. "conversion therapy" practices should be abandoned and politics that limit the freedom of choice of young people identified. They should use *Do No Harm* principles when working with young people who may be experiencing gender dysphoria.
- e. States must invest funds to establish multifunctional, integrated rehabilitation centers and programmes, with staff who are capable of working effectively with LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers.

K. Livelihoods and Sustainable Economic Inclusion

While the majority of displaced persons encounter difficulties in accessing opportunities for education, training and employment in countries of asylum, certain factors impact LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced persons especially acutely. LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced persons, especially those who dropped out of primary or secondary school studies due to bullying, are disproportionately represented in the informal workforce in asylum countries. Long asylum adjudication waiting times subject LGBTIQ+ displaced persons, including adolescents, to severe economic pressures. Many LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons, especially transgender women and LGBTIQ+ youth, resort to high-risk sex work as part of a strategy to meet their basic needs, thus facing health and security risks. Cash assistance, while appreciated, is often insufficient to cover real costs of living, and may create situations of dependency.

1. Recommendation: Ensure that LGBTIQ+ refugees in safety and dignity can access decent work opportunities in law and practice.

Recognizing all challenges implied when advocating for refugees, it is important to realize that LGBTIQ+ refugees face extra challenges of integration, just for being who they are. Therefore, it is important to set up a global, regional and in country strategy to advocate specifically for LGBTIQ+ refugees' rights to work and to be included as economic actors. For this, it will be important that governments join efforts with international organizations, civil society, economic actors and particularly LGBTIQ+ based organizations to make sure that LGBTIQ+ refugees:

- a. Have access to (refugee/asylum seeker) legal status which would allow them to enjoy all rights, particularly the right to work
 - b. Be protected and enjoy safe environments, free of any phobia that may impugn against their integrity, dignity and safety
 - c. Regulate and support market actors' efforts to create and enable environments to promote more diverse and friendly working opportunities for the LGBTIQ+ population.
2. **Recommendation: Engage with a diverse range of labor market actors and assure funding for tailored programming to promote sustainable economic inclusion of LGBTIQ+ displaced people.**
- a. Engage and support initiatives that include market actors as main drivers of economic inclusion for forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ populations.
 - b. Create spaces to build, spread and exchange best practices among the range of labor market actors which is aligning their strategies so that they do not leave anyone behind.
 - c. Assess and understand the needs of the labor market, so that interventions that are promoted for economic inclusion programming fill gaps, create sustainable solutions and promote win-win relationships. Market actors have a unique opportunity to be agents of change that promote integration, resilience, and self-sufficiency of the most vulnerable people, including the LGBTIQ+ displaced population.
 - d. Governments and international organizations should support resource mobilization for particular programming that will allow social and economic inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ refugees and host communities. Donors need to allow LGBTIQ+ organizations access to this funding, as they know the particular challenges and needs that the community has in terms of integration. Moreover, it is important that INGOs and other organizations find ways to exchange knowledge with local LGBTIQ+ organizations, so that best practices in the field of livelihoods can be tailored to the reality and contexts of the LGBTIQ+ community.
3. **Recommendation: Listen to voices of LGBTIQ+ refugees, create safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTIQ+ refugees, and assure that UNHCR's current and future humanitarian partners are verified as LGBTIQ+ inclusive.**

Throughout this thematic discussion, *"Nothing about us without us"* was a clear message received from LGBTIQ+ participants who had direct lived experience of forced displacement.

- a. Encourage all stakeholders to actively seek the recommendations of the LGBTIQ+ displaced community members themselves. It is important to create safe spaces for the community to debate and exchange ideas to promote economic inclusion that can drive long-term solutions. This will be achieved only if the LGBTIQ+ displaced community is the one that promotes and drives changes, supported by a structure of development and humanitarian actors that join efforts to advocate for the rights and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people.
- b. Moreover, it is a responsibility of the governments, the civil society, the international organizations and other stakeholders to make sure that humanitarian and development partners that are promoting livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions hold the capacity to attend LGBTIQ+ refugees in safe, neutral faith base, and inclusive spaces.

L. Solutions: Third Country Resettlement, Complementary Pathways for Admission to Third Countries, Integration

LGBTIQ+ displaced persons may spend years in a country of first asylum that may not offer significantly better legal protections or social acceptance of non-conforming SOGIESC than what they left behind. LGBTIQ+ displaced persons often experience homophobic, transphobic and xenophobic attitudes in countries of first asylum,

sometimes rendering local integration in countries of first asylum untenable. As homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and intersexphobic prejudice remains deeply entrenched in many LGBTIQ+ persons' countries of origin, voluntary repatriation may not be a viable option for the majority of LGBTIQ+ displaced people. Thus, resettlement to an LGBTIQ-friendly third country is the preferred solution requested by LGBTIQ+ refugees. Some LGBTIQ+ refugees expect to automatically be considered for this option, despite the fact that fewer than 1% of UNHCR's total population of recognized refugees are resettled, and resettlement is not guaranteed for even highly vulnerable categories of refugees. Complementary pathway channels are already used by a number of LGBTIQ+ refugees to secure protection in third countries. Some of these opportunities, notably through community sponsorship, are made possible through active support of engaged citizens and LGBTIQ+ advocacy organizations in these countries. Channels include humanitarian admission programs; humanitarian visas; community sponsorship pathways of refugees; labour mobility pathways; education; and family reunification.

1. **Recommendation: CSO Referral to a Humanitarian Visa with Community Sponsorship**

Expand to Civil Society Organizations referral or self-referral for humanitarian visas in a crisis; Link with a community sponsorship program that provides appropriate settlement supports and a guaranteed pathway to permanent status.

Rationale: When Human Rights crisis against LGBTIQ+ persons occur, leaving the country to access refugee protection may exacerbate exposure to risk or be impossible. LGBTIQ+ persons often face distinct, complex barriers to national, as well as international protection as well as greater risks to safety and lives than the general refugee population. Given the experience and knowledge of civil society actors, in particular LGBTIQ-refugee-led organizations, there is strong interest to participate in the development of a specialized and accessible humanitarian visa which would include LGBTIQ+ refugees and their families.

Therefore, it is recommended that LGBTIQ+ persons at risk in countries of persecution or asylum be able to self-refer or be referred by CSOs to obtain a humanitarian visa. Criteria and visa processing would consider the distinct and often urgent risks within LGBTIQ+ to ensure respectful access for women, gay, transgender, intersex, and HIV+ people.

Family reunion criteria would encompass the composition of LGBTIQ+ families. CSOs would comply with established integrity safeguards.

Such a visa could be linked to a community sponsorship program led by LGBTIQ+ CSOs to ensure that individuals are appropriately destined and well supported in communities suited to integration of LGBTIQ+ refugees. It is critical that this visa/sponsorship pathway would lead to permanent status, without hidden barriers related to health, education or employment status.

2. **Recommendation: Data Collection, Communication, Training and Collaboration Throughout the Resettlement Ecosystem**

Enhance coordination and capacity building cross the resettlement eco-system by invigorating collaboration, formalizing partnerships, conducting respectful disaggregated data collection, providing clear communication, and holding knowledge exchanges and training among States, international organizations (including UNHCR, IOM, RSCs), LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations (including LGBTIQ+ refugee-led CSOs).

Rationale: LGBTIQ+ refugees often face distinct challenges, risks and adversity when they try to access refugee protection, resettlement or local integration programs. Safe access to relevant information and respectful, responsive assistance is critical. Designing more responsive programs, requires *a better understanding of scope and extent of the LGBTIQ+ community with international protection needs, and variations in their trajectories and outcomes, disaggregated and safely shared.* Civil Society actors, including LGBTIQ+ refugee led CSOs, have considerable experience providing safe, respectful supports. Knowledge sharing, collaboration and training among LGBTIQ+ CSOs, international organizations, such as the UNHCR and IOM, and states would promote greater understanding, and foster the creation of more aware, inclusive and responsive programs. CSOs and states in turn, will be better positioned to provide supports throughout asylum and resettlement if they have access to accurate disaggregated data, clear communications and opportunities for collaboration.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- a. *UNHCR and States, in consultation with CSOs, conduct appropriate respectful collection of data, exercising extreme care for the safety of individuals and security of their personal information, disaggregating data, and engaging in careful stewardship, including anonymization and access controls.*
- b. International organizations, in particular those working with LGBTIQ+ people, and States engage CSOs in developing training tools that would promote a human rights based and empathic understanding of SOGIESC refugees.
- c. UNHCR and States engage CSOs with LGBTIQ+ refugee experience in developing and sharing tools and communications that facilitate access for LGBTIQ+ persons to necessary resources and information. These tools and communications can be formalized and incorporated into State, international community and civil society structures.
- d. UNHCR foster collaborations and partnerships with CSOs and States to promote consistent communication, coordination and knowledge exchange.

3. Recommendation: Settlement Supports in Countries of Arrival (= third country resettlement)

Develop and promote *settlement criteria, policies and programs that recognize the distinct and amplified challenges that LGBTIQ+ refugees face.*

Rationale: Successful settlement is a complex and challenging process for all refugees, and LGBTIQ+ refugees face distinct challenges created by the interaction of psychosocial impacts of SOGIESC persecution, uneven recognition, rights and access to services for LGBTIQ+ persons, as well as stigma and discrimination related to racism, homophobia and transphobia and other social status.

Further, LGBTIQ+ refugees often arrive alone and must establish new social networks among LGBTIQ+ communities, co-national, diasporic and wider communities where they may face continued stigma or discrimination.

LGBTIQ+ refugees face greater settlement challenges when they encounter discrimination, subtle and overt, in reception centres, while seeking housing, gainful employment, health and community services. There are considerable gaps in the capacity and responsiveness of both settlement service providers and LGBTIQ+ focused CSOs in countries of arrival to respond to the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Resettlement reception and support programs for refugees arriving to new countries require review and updating for more inclusive policies that take into consideration the particular integration needs of LGBTIQ+ refugees. Specifically, it is recommended that:

- a. LGBTIQ+ refugees should be placed in communities with active LGBTIQ+ communities and responsive services, as opposed to more isolated and sometimes more conservative communities where they may face stigma, discrimination and possibly, rejection.
- b. Access to gender affirming care, HIV care and LGBTIQ+ refugee responsive mental health care should be factors considered in placement and settlement.
- c. The duration and scope of settlement supports should be adequate to cover the additional complexity. This may not only require exceptional case management and support, but also additional financial support as needs are addressed and integration matures.
- d. Community sponsorship is seen as one way to address isolation and foster good social networks for arriving LGBTIQ+ refugees.

M. Strengthening Organizational Capacity and Accountability

Humanitarian, LGBTIQ+ human rights and development organizations, while complementary in many ways, do have distinct mandates, operational strategies and cultures. Yet these communities need to work together much more closely in order to protect LGBTIQ+ displaced persons, particularly in situations of protracted displacement. UNHCR recognizes the need to strengthen its own staff capacity on SOGIESC protection and is training personnel

to increase their understanding of LGBTIQ-specific protection topics, as well as to address attitudes. Efforts to maintain continuous positive visibility on LGBTIQ+ persons of concern and on SOGIESC protection themes have also improved protection outcomes.

1. **Recommendation:** Ensure all personnel in each organization assisting LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless individuals -- from high-level leadership to administrative support personnel -- takes basic SOGIESC training periodically, regardless of their function, as this is a mechanism to improve organizational culture and accountability; and ensure that the training is accessible in centrally-released, short, concise “bursts” on core topics such as terminology, communication and livelihoods.
2. **Recommendation:** Build a new, UNHCR-led infrastructure within the humanitarian space, that ensures the needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals are being met. This new infrastructure will include:
 - a. **At UNHCR: A dedicated special envoy or dedicated leadership position** to work on these issues at a high level as well as at the mission level, and to hold the mandate of creating an action plan based on the 39 priority recommendations of the 2021 Global Roundtable convening.
 - b. **A UN inter-agency task force on LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals** which is sponsored by the aforementioned UNHCR high-level envoy - this task force will work with the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group 2 on Accountability to Affected Populations* to create dialogue, establish a mechanism for communication between agencies and connect these agencies and dialogues with UNHCR leadership.
 - c. Establish **a bilateral network, led by LGBTIQ+ people with lived experiences in forced displacement**, that is funded by UNHCR, organized at the global level, and includes space for these individuals to come together to interact with one another and with UNHCR leadership.
3. **Recommendation:** Treat the smaller organizations who are working with LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals as the leaders and the knowledge base on the topic, by ensuring they are able to build sustainable programming and strategy through access to funding, not only through human rights funds but also through gender funding and other mechanisms.

Additional recommendations made related to training included : Providing regular trainings that account for the turnover and onboarding of personnel; providing training to the same personnel on a regular basis, rather than just once during their career; providing training with the clear and demonstrated support of the leadership of the office; and ensuring there is greater accountability in relation to personnel who display homophobia, biphobia, transphobia or intersexphobia either towards coworkers or the individuals the organization assists after taking the training.

VI. KEY CROSS-CUTTING META-THEMES

The following cross-cutting meta-themes have been identified by participants across multiple thematic working table discussions and may serve as reference points for further action.

Participants recommend that all stakeholders invested in supporting LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons should undertake the following:

1. Recognize and understand the **complex and intersectional quality of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons' experiences**, as the stigmatization and abuse they experience are due to multiple, overlapping, compounded and dynamic factors of social differentiation.
2. Center the **voices, perspectives, expertise and leadership of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons** during policy formulation, programme development and funding processes, at all levels.
3. Commit to building a solid evidence base by undertaking **ethical, systematic and disaggregated data collection, management and reporting of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons**, in order to verify statistical existence of and protection and solutions trends among LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons. Confidentiality, data integrity and data protection safeguards are necessary.
4. Strengthen the **long-term capacity of all frontline practitioners in various sectors and types of entities (civil society, State or UN) who work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons**, so that trauma-informed SOGIESC awareness and competencies are incorporated into the professional guidance, protocols and staff training in specific areas of practice, such as *inter alia*: registration procedures; asylum adjudication; shelter allocation; health care provision; access to torture rehabilitation services; gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response; livelihoods and economic inclusion/self-reliance programmes.
5. Create **a formal global structure, networks and funding mechanisms by which members of humanitarian, human rights and allied communities can exchange information, collaborate, coordinate and hold each other accountable on collectively protecting and supporting LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement and statelessness**.
6. Conduct strategic advocacy- to and with States - to:

Access to Asylum:

Mitigate against the pervasive idea that granting SOGIESC-based refugee status functions as a 'pull factor' which leads to an increase in fraudulent asylum claims. Highlight due diligence and risk management systems that are already in place.

Render border and accelerated asylum procedures more appropriate for LGBTIQ+ and other displaced persons, by avoiding excessively long asylum procedures (instead ensuring timely main interviews and first decisions on asylum claims), without detriment to the quality of the decisions.

Access to Legal Gender Recognition:

Issue a strong public statement on the need to ensure legal gender recognition via self-determination for all persons of concern, as part of advocacy (to States) to recognize the right to legal gender recognition for all refugees, asylum seekers and other forcibly displaced people on their territory.

Access to Livelihoods, Economic Inclusion and Legal Right to Work:

Support resource mobilization for particular, targeted programming that will facilitate social and economic inclusion of LGBTIQ+ displaced persons and host communities in asylum countries.

Access to Torture Rehabilitation Services:

Advocate to States about the existence of displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ torture victims, their needs for rehabilitation and the standard of legal proof required for both asylum and redress. Advocate for the establishment of multifunctional, integrated public rehabilitation centers and programmes, with trained staff who are capable of working effectively with LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers.

Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms:

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

Advocate for legislative reform in origin and asylum States that criminalize consensual same-sex adult relations and diverse SOGIESC. Strategically assess parameters of bilateral cooperation agreements with asylum States that discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people (displaced or not).

Raise awareness on and fully leverage the procedures of the Human Rights Committee, Committee Against Torture and the Special Procedures Mandate Holders to make interventions in refoulement cases with known SOGIESC links. Highlight the accessibility and roles of these human rights mechanisms for humanitarian protection actors who work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Review and innovate region-specific methods to expedite protection pathways for LGBTIQ+ displaced people in hostile host situations, noting that LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people experience compounded hostility in places of protection, due to criminalization of consensual same-sex relations and social stigma in asylum countries.

Translate international human rights standards into UN Humanitarian Coordinator and Country team strategies, so that they hold a singular voice and mandate in protecting people with diverse SOGIESC from arbitrary detention and refoulement.

Targeted Humanitarian Admissions Pathways:

Given the linkages between the particularly acute risks of arbitrary detention and refoulement experienced by LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people and [durable] solutions, UNHCR to renew emphasis and explore third-country resettlement, complementary pathways such as employment and educational scholarship programmes, community-based private sponsorship, self-referrals or referrals from organizations other than UNHCR, and alternatives for humanitarian visas and corridors that can be developed in collaboration with Embassies.

Expand referral or self-referral for humanitarian visas in a crisis to CSOs. Link with a community sponsorship program that provides appropriate settlement supports and a guaranteed pathway to permanent status. Advocate to LGBTIQ+ supportive States to provide more humanitarian corridors to support forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people.

Consider creating pathways for admission and protection on human rights grounds for transgender and gender non-conforming persons who have particularly acute persecutory risks and/or heightened vulnerability profiles. Similar programmes that have been put in place for torture survivors or survivors of trafficking can be referenced as models for developing this mechanism. In addition, legal gender recognition based on self-determination should take place simultaneously within this special dispensation and with regards to consideration for durable solutions, such as third-country resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries.

Resource Mobilisation:

Advocate for related programming and opportunities for funding that include LGBTIQ+ specific civil society partners, through outreach to embassies, donors, philanthropic sector, local and global governments.

The Co-Convenors of the *2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement* wish to express deep gratitude for the rich contributions shared by all stakeholders during this landmark multi-stakeholder consultative process and commit to review these proposed recommendations, with a view towards integrating them as their respective mandates permit.

All stakeholders across the above communities of practice are encouraged to regularly take stock and map progress against the collectively proposed recommendations. Follow-up discussions will continue to be periodically convened, to assess changes in the rights and protection landscapes for forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ people, as well as to collaboratively adjust and strengthen responses in line with the proposed actions and cross-cutting priorities.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNHCR

Accountability to Affected Populations: LGBTIQ+ Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons

Listen to and empower LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people, community support organizations and peer workers in frontline service delivery. Create inclusive and welcoming environments in which it is safe for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons to share their experiences, debate and exchange ideas, and engage with humanitarian decision-makers.

Revise systems and practices to better respect the diversity, intersectionality and authorship of those experiences by LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people. For example, in refugee status determination and asylum credibility proceedings, allow LGBTIQ+ displaced people sufficient time to self-disclose, prepare and present their experiences in ways that respect their ownership of their stories, while also providing them access to legal and social support. Identify positionality of asylum adjudicators, caseworkers and interpreters. Include LGBTIQ+ personnel in public institutions that work directly with LGBTIQ+ persons of concern.

At regional and country operation levels, carry out continuous consultations with LGBTIQ+ persons of concern to UNHCR and LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations to ensure that UNHCR interventions are responsive to their priorities and needs.

Include LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, displaced and stateless people in working groups and committees when developing initiatives and plans to improve services directed at LGBTIQ+ displaced populations.

Establish a bilateral network, led by LGBTIQ+ people with lived experiences in forced displacement, that is funded by UNHCR, organized at the global level, and includes space for these individuals to come together to interact with one another and with UNHCR leadership.

Encourage all stakeholders to actively seek the recommendations of the LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless community members themselves.

Revise UNHCR project partnership agreements to ensure that UNHCR's current and future humanitarian implementing and operating partners are verified as LGBTIQ+ inclusive.

Capacity Development of Humanitarian Professionals on Trauma-Informed SOGIESC Awareness and Competencies

Require mandatory and continuous professional orientation and foundational training on trauma-informed and intersectionally inclusive sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) topics and on topics specific to protection of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people. The training should focus on specific needs, situations, barriers and risks of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.

Training target audiences include, *inter alia*, frontline practitioners (including security contractors) in the legal, social welfare, medical, mental health, housing, livelihoods and other sectors, whether through civil society organizations, host government agencies, UNHCR staff focal points or other UN agency personnel.

Encourage collection of data on the experiences of LGBTIQ+ people by supporting humanitarian staff to overcome the fear of failure and to effectively mitigate fear of doing harm. Develop and fund language-appropriate training for UNHCR, public and civil society personnel collecting data on and with LGBTIQ+ displaced people on matters including key issues for LGBTIQ+ people, safe and effective use of tools and respectful engagement with LGBTIQ+ people including best practices on use of diverse SOGIESC terminology. Include interactive role plays and short videos appropriate for non-specialists.

Ensure that UNHCR refugee status determination staff and host government asylum case workers and adjudicators are specially trained on trauma-informed SOGIESC matters; Ensure all asylum decision-makers undertake good quality and accessible training on intercultural awareness, general SOGIESC matters and SOGIESC asylum claims, reflecting appropriate and culturally sensitive terminology and understanding of the

diverse, subjective, intersectional and complex nature of the experiences of SOGIESC claimants, heavily relying on the real-life experiences of SOGIESC refugees and their support groups, and allowing for some decision-makers to become specialized on SOGIESC matters.

Train health care providers and early childhood care practitioners on trauma-informed SOGIESC-specific foundational understanding, values clarification, specific needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced people, and referral pathways. Build capacity to work with LGBTIQ+ displaced populations, including in the teaching curricula of medical and nursing schools, as well as among State public health personnel.

UNHCR to ensure all personnel in each organization assisting LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals -- from high-level leadership to administrative support personnel -- takes mandatory basic SOGIESC training periodically, regardless of their function. Mandatory agency-wide staff training for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) can serve as a model. Provide regular trainings that account for the turnover and onboarding of UNHCR personnel; provide training to the same personnel on a regular basis, rather than just once during their career; provide training with the clear and demonstrated support of the leadership of the office. UNHCR to ensure that the training is accessible in centrally-released, short, concise “bursts” on core topics such as terminology, communication and livelihoods.

Coalition Building: Strengthening Linkages Between Generalized Humanitarian and LGBTIQ+ Civil Society Organizations

In all communities of practice, support LGBTIQ+ CSOs to participate in the humanitarian system. Learn from them about the risks for forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons, as well as strategies for creating safe and dignified contexts for sharing stories. Encourage partnerships with LGBTIQ+ CSOs that deepen humanitarian staff situational awareness and confidence.

Engage local LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations in host countries and LGBTIQ+ refugee- led organizations in the humanitarian response, especially with the smaller organizations who are working with LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals as the leaders and the knowledge base on the topic. They are best placed to know the risks, protection strategies, and availability of LGBTIQ+ friendly response services. Responses should be led by LGBTIQ+ organizations and individuals. This is also a way to promote the localization agenda.

UNHCR, refugee-assisting organizations and social service providers must work with LGBTIQ+ led organizations and community groups as formal implementing partners to provide holistic protection services for LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement. Services include, *inter alia*: Provision of safe shelter in safe neighbourhoods; mental health and psychosocial services; general health services; gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and responses; cash assistance; sustainable livelihoods training and inclusion.

UNHCR and States to engage CSOs with LGBTIQ+ refugee experience in developing and sharing tools and communications that facilitate access for LGBTIQ+ persons to necessary resources and information. These tools and communications can be formalized and incorporated into State, international community and civil society structures.

UNHCR to establish a bilateral network, led by LGBTIQ+ people with lived experiences in forced displacement, that is funded by UNHCR, organized at the global level, and includes space for these individuals to come together to interact with one another and with UNHCR leadership.

Coalition Building: General

Establish an UN inter-agency task force on LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals to work with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group 2 on Accountability to Affected Populations, to create dialogue, establish a mechanism for communication between agencies and connect these agencies and dialogues with UNHCR leadership.

Establish and invest in a robust, centralized, international multi-stakeholder network to regularly share data, research, programmatic best practices and solutions for LGBTIQ+ persons of concern. Foster collaborations and

partnerships with CSOs and States to promote consistent communication, coordination and knowledge exchange. This is specifically mentioned for the following communities of practice:

Protection Functions Related to Accessing Torture Rehabilitation Services:

- Coordinate with the IE SOGI, OHCHR, human rights actors and torture rehabilitation providers to facilitate stronger knowledge sharing, exchange, mutual capacity building and coordination between the different communities of practice that work with LGBTIQ+ displaced torture survivors, namely: (1) Refugee rights and assistance organizations (2) Torture rehabilitation practitioners and networks (3) LGBTIQ+ human rights organizations.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response:

- Lead in facilitating collaboration between the myriad of actors at all levels and to clarify roles and responsibilities of each in responding to Gender-based Violence.
- Response services for LGBTIQ+ survivors require engagement of all sectors for example: mental health psychosocial support, health/sexual and reproductive health services, protection, gender-based violence, livelihoods, and shelter.

Health:

- Establish an international network of SOGIESC-competent health specialists, including mental health and psychosocial practitioners, who work with LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless populations. This network should facilitate knowledge exchange and resource-sharing through regular workshops, meetings, and other fora.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion:

- Engage with a diverse range of labor market actors and assure funding for tailored programming to promote sustainable economic inclusion of LGBTIQ+ displaced people.
- Engage and support initiatives that include market actors as main drivers of economic inclusion for forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ populations.
- Create spaces to build, spread and exchange best practices among the range of labor market actors which is aligning their strategies so that they do not leave anyone behind.
- Assess and understand the needs of the labor market, so that interventions that are promoted for economic inclusion programming to fill gaps, create sustainable solutions and promote win-win relationships.

Solutions:

- Convene a follow-up roundtable on long term integration in initial country of asylum as a durable solution of LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, as the vast majority of LGBTIQ+ persons of concern remain in countries of first asylum, and this issue was not fully addressed during the Global Roundtable. This follow-up roundtable should discuss the necessary legal, political, socioeconomic conditions for optimal long-term self-reliance of LGBTIQ+ persons of concern.

Emerging Practice: Digital Initiatives to Protect and Empower LGBTIQ+ forcibly Displaced and Stateless People

Develop an intersectional and comprehensive review of digital technology initiatives and good practices that are used for work with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people, or that are used elsewhere in development and that can potentially be used by LGBTIQ+ actors, centering LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people.

Create and invest in regional and sub-regional learning and innovation platforms/hubs that bring together multidisciplinary stakeholders. These platforms will serve to co-create scalable digital solutions that serve LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people.

Ethical Data Collection, Management and Reporting

Implement disaggregated, ethical data collection, management and reporting on LGBTIQ+ persons of concern throughout the case management system, in order to adequately assess their vulnerabilities and priorities.

Revise UNHCR's vulnerability criteria and data collection systems to capture root causes. Instead of adhering to existing categories that force persons of concern to emphasize certain vulnerabilities over others, revise database input fields and complement with open narrative, to register the complexity of intersectional factors that impact an LGBTIQ+ displaced or stateless person.

Revise the available gender markers for persons of concern in the data management and reporting system.

When considering persons of concern for local integration, third-country resettlement and participation in complementary pathways for admission to third countries: UNHCR and States, in consultation with CSOs, are to conduct appropriate respectful collection of data, exercising extreme care for the safety of individuals and security of their personal information, disaggregating data, and engaging in careful stewardship, including anonymization and access controls.

Ensure data confidentiality across the entire data management and reporting system. In health settings, develop and maintain ethical, confidential registration and data systems for LGBTIQ+ displaced people and adhere to international protocols for patient confidentiality.

Guidance, Tools and Research

Provide authoritative guidance to UNHCR and partner staff on how to respectfully and effectively work with LGBTIQ+ displaced people. Invest in research to identify best practices and to develop guidelines in various communities of practice and adapt or develop tools available to staff to ensure they are fit for purpose for working with LGBTIQ+ people. This is particularly recommended in the following contexts:

Legal Gender Recognition:

- Draft authoritative guidelines on how to operationalize gender recognition throughout UNHCR's chain of care.
- Develop consultatively determined protocol on how to engage LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons in ways that center their self-determination and promote dignity and respect.
- These guidelines should draw from learnings in countries where there is no centralised form of legal gender recognition, or where alternate means of legal gender recognition have been established in the absence of local provisions.

Refugee Status Determination:

- Assess credibility on the basis of an individual, balanced, intersectional and holistic evaluation of all the evidence submitted by the claimant (including their testimony and other corroborative evidence) and other available evidence (such as Country of Origin information), placing due value on the claimant's self-identification, without expectations of 'emotional journeys' or reliance on culturally unsound and inappropriate stereotypes, and respecting the principle of the benefit of the doubt.
- Carry out the assessment of the risk of persecution on the basis of future risk of harm (as opposed to focusing only or mainly on past persecution), fully taking into account the extent to which claimants would enjoy effective protection upon return, the levels of social discrimination, the access to social, economic and cultural rights, the role of private actors, the diversity of SOGIESC refugees (not only in terms of SOGIESC, but also in terms of age, socio-economic and educational background, religion, disability, health and other intersectional factors), the cultural/relational/intersectional nature of SOGIESC, and an understanding of the complex detrimental impact of criminalizing laws – both secular and religious – on everyday life, independent of whether or not prosecutions occur or the law is officially implemented.

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

- Make more effective use of Country of Origin Information by improving its quality, adopting a culturally sensitive approach, relying on local LGBTIQ+ groups' expertise, data collection and research, and paying due attention to the need to exempt SOGIESC claims from the scope of 'safe country' assessments.
- Increase the integrity and quality of decision-making to eliminate the culture of disbelief and avoid inappropriate lines of questioning and use of stereotypical assumptions in interviewing techniques and credibility assessment (for instance, the expectation of universally common experiences and characteristics among all LGBTIQ+ people such as negative feelings about oneself), as well as avoiding the reductive or exclusive use of guidelines/models or approaches that excessively rely on a culturally insensitive interpretation of LGBTIQ+ identities.
- Ensure high-quality and free-of-charge legal counseling and representation for all asylum claimants by lawyers with SOGIESC-specific expertise and sensitivity, as well as psychological and social support to help claimants (especially if traumatized) structure their personal narratives. Ensure claimants' privacy during interviews; and foster a friendly and welcoming environment.
- Engage interpreters who are unquestionably neutral and who have received SOGIESC-specific training; avoid harm and re-traumatization by authorities (for example through intrusive questioning or repeated interviews); Increase and improve the training and quality control of interpreters, including on ethics and confidentiality, and making available more translated versions of resources on SOGIESC terminology, to ensure linguistic, cultural and interpersonal competencies, with an emphasis on SOGIESC knowledge and sensitivity.
- In refugee status determination and asylum credibility proceedings, allow LGBTIQ+ displaced people sufficient time to self-disclose, prepare and present their experiences in ways that respect their ownership of their stories, while also providing them access to legal and social support. Identify positionality of asylum adjudicators, caseworkers and interpreters.
- Include LGBTIQ+ personnel in public institutions that work directly with LGBTIQ+ persons of concern.

Reception Conditions and Safe Outreach:

- Where possible, require administrators of collective shelters to establish and regularly implement LGBTIQ+ Safe Space protocols, protected areas and refugee- targeted orientation information, referral contact points and information on their rights and complaints mechanisms, to be made available in all State-run reception centres that accommodate LGBTIQ+ displaced people, whether within the general refugee/asylum seeker population, or in targeted facilities.

Allocation and Management of Safe Accommodation:

- UNHCR and partner organizations that provide direct services to refugees, including face-to-face and virtual support, should establish safe spaces (non-discrimination zones) for LGBTIQ+ persons of concern in their offices and online. This may include buddy systems, contact people, and hosting events that bringing LGBTIQ+ refugees together for self-support.
- UNHCR and partners must provide a clear graduation plan for LGBTIQ+ displaced people who are receiving these protection services. The graduation plan is to be situated within the architecture of clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures, and it would provide the necessary resources for civil society organizations to offer LGBTIQ-specific interventions and service provisions.

Access to Health Services:

- Undertake more research on the intersection of health and LGBTIQ+ forced displacement, that includes LGBTIQ+ displaced people and collects data collection in safe(r) settings.

Access to Rehabilitation from Torture:

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

- Encourage UNHCR protection staff, including Gender-based Violence (GBV), refugee status determination (RSD) and resettlement (RST) specialists, to undertake continuous professional education on needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced people who are torture survivors. Training should include: appropriate interviewing techniques with LGBTIQ+ displaced people and orientation how memory recall works for torture survivors. Refugees should not be re-traumatized or humiliated by state authorities through inappropriate questions. Legal and medico-health professionals should enhance their knowledge on SOGIESC language and terminology.

Alternatives to Arbitrary Detention and Refoulement:

- Analyse refoulement cases to determine how many are linked to a claimant's diverse SOGIESC and what trends exist. UNHCR to determine if targeted interventions are necessary.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion:

- Ensure that UNHCR's humanitarian and development partners that are promoting livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees hold the capacity to work with LGBTIQ+ refugees in safe, neutral, and inclusive spaces.

Solutions in Countries of Arrival:

- Develop and promote settlement criteria, policies and programs that recognize the distinct and amplified challenges LGBTIQ+ refugees face.
- Place LGBTIQ+ refugees in communities with active LGBTIQ+ communities and responsive services, as opposed to more isolated and sometimes more conservative communities where they may face stigma, discrimination and possibly, rejection.
- Consider access to gender affirming care, HIV care and LGBTIQ+ refugee responsive mental health care in placement and settlement.
- Provide adequate settlement supports taking into account the duration and scope of settlement supports to cover the additional complexity. This may not only require exceptional case management and support, but also additional financial support as needs are addressed and integration matures.
- Community sponsorship is seen as one way to address isolation and foster good social networks for arriving LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Policy Updates:

Establish and lead a new infrastructure within the humanitarian space that ensures the needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals are being met. UNHCR to create a fully funded, dedicated special envoy or dedicated staff leadership position to work on these issues at a high level as well as at the mission level, and to hold the mandate of creating an action plan based on the 39 priority recommendations of the 2021 Global Roundtable convening.

Moreover, UNHCR policy updates are recommended on the following:

Legal Gender Recognition

UNHCR to enable all refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced people to amend their name and gender markers, based on self-determination and irrespective of details contained in identification documents issued to them from any country of nationality, by providing options for, *inter alia*:

1. Amending details on all UNHCR administrative identity documents from the point of initial registration and through all subsequent official interactions, based on the person of concern's free and informed choice, including the option of using a non-binary gender marker;
2. Issuing travel documents with these correct details, where travel documents are available to those who do not have or unable to obtain a travel document from a country of origin,

recognising that a travel document with the incorrect name and gender marker is not usable for its stated purpose;

3. Accessing any local administrative, regulatory or legal procedures for correcting one's name and gender marker, irrespective of the applicant's immigration status, criminal record, length of time domiciled in the place of application or because their birth was not registered there;
4. Advocating for gender recognition systems that are simple, accessible, confidential, administrative processes based on self-determination, free and informed consent and bodily autonomy without any abusive requirements, including medical procedures or certifications, and that provide a multiplicity of gender marker options;
5. Recognizing that transgender and intersex persons who have not had access to legal gender recognition are most often using travel documents that list their incorrect name and gender marker. These persons should be understood as not possessing an usable travel document, and as such are eligible for whatever document is issued to other persons of concern to UNHCR who do not have or who cannot obtain a travel document from their country of origin, issued with their correct name and gender marker.

Refugee Status Determination

- UNHCR to urgently revise the *UNHCR 2012 Guidelines for International Protection N° 9* and existing training materials in light of the latest academic, policy and research findings on SOGIESC matters and human rights law, so as to ensure asylum procedures are sensitive to the heterogeneity, rights and needs of SOGIESC asylum claimants, avoid adopting any model for the assessment of the credibility of the claimant's asserted SOGIESC, and are more solidly grounded in LGBTIQ+ refugees' real-life experiences.

Solutions

- *CSO Referral to a Humanitarian Visa with Community Sponsorship*: UNHCR to expand to Civil Society Organizations referral or self-referral for humanitarian visas in a crisis. Link with a community sponsorship program that provides appropriate settlement supports and a guaranteed pathway to permanent status.

Staff: Human Resources Management

Recruit dedicated staff to lead policy and programmatic interventions on LGBTIQ+ displaced populations, such as in the areas of health and gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response.

Ensure there is greater accountability in relation to personnel who display homophobia, biphobia, transphobia or intersexphobia either towards coworkers or the individuals the organization assists after taking the training.

Establish and lead a new infrastructure within the humanitarian space that ensures the needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals are being met. Create a fully funded, dedicated special envoy or dedicated leadership position to work on these issues at a high level as well as at the mission level, and to hold the mandate of creating an action plan based on the 39 priority recommendations of the 2021 Global Roundtable convening.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Per the **Mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** to: Assess implementation of human rights standards; identify best practices and gaps; raise awareness; identify and address the root causes of violence and discrimination; engage in consultative dialogue with States and other relevant stakeholders to foster the protection of LGBT and gender-diverse persons; facilitate the provision of advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building and international cooperation to combat violence and discrimination:

The **UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** is encouraged to incorporate the human rights of *LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons* into all relevant aspects of its work, with attention to the complex, intersectionally compounded human rights violations experienced by forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons.

In partnership with multilateral and civil society humanitarian and human rights actors:

- Engage with LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people in the context of fact-finding country visits, thematic reports, advisory research and urgent appeals, where applicable.
- Bring international visibility to human rights violations experienced by persons at risk of forced displacement to their real or perceived SOGIESC, and help guide States in their responsibilities as duty bearers of international human rights standards, by:
 - Strategically engaging with treaty bodies, such as, *inter alia*, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Culture Rights, the Committee Against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
 - Strategically engaging with Special Procedures Mandate Holders, such as, *inter alia*, the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Situations of Human Rights Defenders, the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and the Rights of Migrants.
- Encourage SOGIESC-focused human rights defenders to strengthen exchange, coordination and collaboration with humanitarian actors who work with forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons.
- Highlight to humanitarian actors the accessibility and roles of human rights mechanisms that are relevant for LGBTIQ+ persons in situations of forced displacement and statelessness.

Call on State authorities in countries of displacement, transit and asylum to:

- Formally decriminalize consensual same sex relations and expressions of diverse SOGIESC.
- Formally depathologize diverse gender identities, expressions and sex characteristics.
- Formally institute and enforce legal protections against discrimination linked to diverse SOGIESC.
- Recognize the right to legal gender recognition via self-determination for all refugees, asylum seekers and other forcibly displaced and stateless people on their territory.
- Acknowledge the existence of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ torture survivors and their needs for rehabilitation, asylum and redress. Encourage States to establish multifunctional, integrated rehabilitation centres and programmes, with trained staff who are capable of working effectively with LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers and other forcibly displaced people.
- Foreground the situations of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ individuals more centrally in States' efforts to uphold the rights of all LGBTIQ+ people, including through advocacy, multilateral pooled and bilateral funding initiatives for LGBTIQ+ human rights organizations that work with LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

Accountability to Affected Populations: LGBTIQ+ Displaced and Stateless Persons

Listen to and empower LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless people, community support organizations and peer workers in frontline service delivery. Create inclusive and welcoming environments in which it is safe for LGBTIQ+ persons to share their experiences, debate and exchange ideas, and engage with humanitarian decision-makers.

Revise systems and practices to better respect the diversity, intersectionality and authorship of those experiences by LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless people.

At regional and country operation levels, carry out continuous consultations with LGBTIQ+ persons of concern to UNHCR and LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations to ensure that humanitarian interventions are responsive to their needs.

Include LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, forcibly displaced and stateless people in working groups and committees when developing initiatives and plans to improve services directed at LGBTIQ+ displaced populations.

Encourage all stakeholders to actively seek the recommendations of the LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless community members themselves.

Build the Evidence Base: Ethical Data Collection, Management and Reporting

Implement disaggregated, ethical data collection, management and reporting on LGBTIQ+ persons of concern throughout the case management system, in order to adequately assess their vulnerabilities and priorities. Support humanitarian staff to overcome the fear of failure and to effectively mitigate fear of doing harm.

Develop and fund language-appropriate training for personnel collecting data on and with LGBTIQ+ displaced people on matters including key issues for LGBTIQ+ people, safe and effective use of tools and respectful engagement with LGBTIQ+ people including best practices on use of diverse SOGIESC terminology. Include interactive role plays and short videos appropriate for non-specialists.

When considering persons of concern for local integration, third-country resettlement and participation in complementary pathways for admission to third countries: CSOs, in partnership with UNHCR and States, are to conduct appropriate respectful collection of data, exercising extreme care for the safety of individuals and security of their personal information, disaggregating data, and engaging in careful stewardship, including anonymization and access controls.

Ensure data confidentiality across the entire data management and reporting system. In health settings, develop and maintain ethical, confidential registration and data systems for LGBTIQ+ displaced people and adhere to international protocols for patient confidentiality.

Capacitate Humanitarian Professionals on Trauma-Informed SOGIESC Awareness and Competencies

Require mandatory and continuous professional orientation and foundational training on trauma-informed and intersectionally inclusive sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) topics and on topics specific to LGBTIQ+ refugee protection. The training should focus on specific needs, situations and vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.

Training target audiences include, *inter alia*, frontline practitioners in the legal, social welfare, medical, mental health, housing, livelihoods and other fields.

Capacitate LGBTIQ-focused Human Rights Professionals on Awareness and Competencies Related to Working with LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement

Require mandatory and continuous professional orientation and foundational training on trauma-informed and intersectionally inclusive topics specific to the needs, situations and vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.

Training target audiences include, *inter alia*, frontline practitioners in the legal, social welfare, medical, mental health, housing, livelihoods and other fields.

Coalition Building: Strengthening Linkages Among and Between Mainstream 'Generalist' Humanitarian, Human Rights and LGBTIQ+ Civil Society Organizations

In all communities of practice, support LGBTIQ+ refugee-led civil society organizations to participate in the humanitarian and human rights systems. Learn from them about the risks for forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ persons, as well as strategies for creating safe and dignified contexts for sharing stories. Encourage partnerships between LGBTIQ+ CSOs and non-SOGIESC-specialized CSOs to deepen staff situational awareness and confidence.

Engage local LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations in host countries and LGBTIQ+ refugee-led organizations in the humanitarian response, especially with the smaller organizations who are working with LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals as the leaders and the knowledge base on the topic. They are best placed to know the risks, protection strategies, and availability of LGBTIQ+ friendly response services. Responses should be led by LGBTIQ+ organizations and individuals. This is also a way to promote the localization agenda.

Refugee-assisting organizations and social service providers must work with LGBTIQ+ led organizations and community groups as formal implementing partners to provide holistic protection services for LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement. Services include, *inter alia*: Provision of safe, affordable shelter in safe neighbourhoods ; mental health and psychosocial services; general health services; gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and responses; cash assistance; sustainable livelihoods training and inclusion.

Engage UNHCR and States to work with civil society partners that have LGBTIQ+ refugee experience, to develop and share tools and communications that facilitate access for LGBTIQ+ persons to necessary resources and information. These tools and communications can be formalized and incorporated into State, international community and civil society structures.

Establish and invest in a robust, centralized, international multi-stakeholder network to regularly share data, research, programmatic best practices and solutions for LGBTIQ+ persons of concern. Foster collaborations and partnerships with UNHCR, IE SOGI, OHCHR and States to promote consistent communication, coordination and knowledge exchange. This is specifically mentioned for the following communities of practice:

Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response:

- Advocate for stronger intersectionally sensitive SOGIESC inclusion in humanitarian initiatives on Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response.
- Facilitate collaboration between the myriad of actors at all levels and clarify roles and responsibilities of each in responding to Gender-based Violence.
- Response services for LGBTIQ+ survivors require engagement of all sectors for example: mental health psychosocial support, health/sexual and reproductive health services, protection, support to survivors of gender-based violence, livelihoods and shelter.

Health Care Provision in Situations of Forced Displacement:

- Work with UNHCR and other relevant UN bodies to establish an international network of SOGIESC-competent health specialists, including mental health and psychosocial practitioners, who work with LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless populations. This network should facilitate knowledge exchange and resource-sharing through regular workshops, meetings and other fora.

Humanitarian Protection Functions Related to Accessing Torture Rehabilitation Services:

- Facilitate stronger knowledge sharing, exchange, mutual capacity building and coordination between the different communities of practice that work with LGBTIQ+ displaced torture survivors, namely: (1)

Refugee rights and assistance organizations (2) Torture rehabilitation practitioners and networks (3) LGBTIQ+ human rights organizations.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion:

- Engage with a diverse range of labor market actors and assure funding for tailored programming to promote sustainable economic inclusion of LGBTIQ+ displaced people.
- Engage and support initiatives that include market actors as main drivers of economic inclusion for forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ populations.
- Create spaces to build, spread and exchange best practices among a range of labor market actors which are aligning their strategies so that they do not leave anyone behind.
- Assess and understand the needs of the labor market, so that interventions are promoted for economic inclusion programming to fill gaps, create sustainable solutions and promote win-win relationships.

Guidance, Tools and Research

Invest in research to identify best practices and to develop guidelines in various communities of practice and adapt or develop tools available to staff to ensure they are fit for purpose for working with LGBTIQ+ people. This is particularly recommended in the following contexts:

Legal Gender Recognition:

- Following UNHCR's authoritative guidelines, draft internal policy on how to operationalize legal gender recognition throughout the humanitarian chain of care.
- Develop consultatively a protocol on how to engage LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons in ways that center their self-determination and promote dignity and respect.
- These guidelines should draw from learnings in countries where there is no centralised form of legal gender recognition, or where alternate means of legal gender recognition have been established in the absence of local provisions.

Refugee Status Determination:

- Asylum legal specialists to work with UNHCR and States to assess credibility on the basis of an individual, balanced, intersectional and holistic evaluation of all the evidence submitted by the claimant (including their testimony and other corroborative evidence) and other available evidence (such as Country of Origin information), placing due value on the claimant's self-identification, without expectations of 'emotional journeys' or reliance on culturally unsound and inappropriate stereotypes, and respecting the principle of the benefit of the doubt.
- Carry out the assessment of the risk of persecution on the basis of future risk of harm (as opposed to focusing only or mainly on past persecution), fully taking into account the extent to which claimants would enjoy effective protection upon return, the levels of social discrimination, the access to social, economic and cultural rights, the role of private actors, the diversity of SOGIESC refugees (not only in terms of SOGIESC, but also in terms of age, socio-economic and educational background, religion, disability, health and other intersectional factors), the cultural/relational/intersectional nature of SOGIESC, and an understanding of the complex detrimental impact of criminalizing laws – both secular and religious – on everyday life, independent of whether or not prosecutions occur or the law is officially implemented.
- Make more effective use of Country of Origin Information by improving its quality, adopting a culturally sensitive approach, relying on local LGBTIQ+ groups' expertise, data collection and research, and paying due attention to the need to exempt SOGIESC claims from the scope of 'safe country' assessments.
- Increase the integrity and quality of decision-making to eliminate the culture of disbelief and avoid inappropriate lines of questioning and use of stereotypical assumptions in interviewing techniques and

credibility assessment (for instance, the expectation of universally common experiences and characteristics among all LGBTIQ+ people such as negative feelings about oneself), as well as avoiding the reductive or exclusive use of guidelines/models or approaches that excessively rely on a culturally insensitive interpretation of LGBTIQ+ identities.

- Ensure high-quality and free-of-charge legal counseling and representation for all asylum claimants by lawyers with SOGIESC-specific expertise and sensitivity, as well as psychological and social support to help claimants (especially if traumatized) structure their personal narratives. Ensure claimants' privacy during interviews; and foster a friendly and welcoming environment.
- Advocate to UNHCR and States to engage interpreters who are unquestionably neutral and who have received SOGIESC-specific training; avoid harm and re-traumatization by authorities (for example through intrusive questioning or repeated interviews); increase and improve the training and quality control of interpreters, including on ethics and confidentiality, and making available more translated versions of resources on SOGIESC terminology, to ensure linguistic, cultural and interpersonal competencies, with an emphasis on SOGIESC knowledge and sensitivity.
- In refugee status determination and asylum credibility proceedings, allow LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people sufficient time to self-disclose, prepare and present their experiences in ways that respect their ownership of their stories, while also providing them access to legal and social support. Identify positionality of asylum adjudicators, caseworkers and interpreters.

Reception Conditions and Safe Outreach:

- Where possible, work with administrators of collective shelters to establish and regularly implement LGBTIQ+ Safe Space protocols, protected areas and refugee- targeted orientation information, referral contact points and information on their rights and complaints mechanisms, to be made available in all State-run reception centers that accommodate LGBTIQ+ displaced people, whether within the general refugee/asylum seeker population, or in targeted facilities.

Allocation and Management of Safe Accommodation:

- Civil society organizations that provide direct services to refugees, including face-to-face and virtual support, should establish safe spaces (non-discrimination zones) for LGBTIQ+ persons of concern in their offices and online. This may include buddy systems, contact people, and hosting events that bring LGBTIQ+ refugees together for peer support.
- Civil society organizations must provide a clear graduation plan for LGBTIQ+ displaced people who are receiving these protection services. The graduation plan is to be situated within the architecture of clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures, and it would provide the necessary resources for civil society organizations to offer LGBTIQ-specific interventions and service provisions.

Access to Health Services:

- Undertake more research on the intersection of health and LGBTIQ+ forced displacement, that includes LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people and collects data collection in safe(r) settings.

Access to Rehabilitation from Torture:

- Humanitarian protection staff, including GBV and health specialists, asylum lawyers and resettlement focal points, should undertake continuous professional education on needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced people who are torture survivors. Training should include: Appropriate interviewing techniques with LGBTIQ+ displaced people and orientation how memory recall works for torture survivors. Legal and medico-health professionals should enhance their knowledge on SOGIESC language and terminology.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion:

- Ensure that humanitarian and development civil society organizations that are promoting livelihoods and economic inclusion hold the capacity to attend LGBTIQ+ refugees in a safe, neutral, and inclusive spaces.

Solutions in Countries of Arrival:

- Work with UNHCR and asylum States to develop and promote settlement criteria, policies and programs that recognize the distinct and amplified challenges LGBTIQ+ refugees face.
- LGBTIQ+ refugees should be placed in communities with active LGBTIQ+ communities and responsive services, as opposed to more isolated and sometimes more conservative communities where they may face stigma, discrimination and possibly, rejection.
- Access to gender affirming care, HIV care and LGBTIQ+ refugee responsive mental health care should be factors considered in placement and settlement.
- The duration and scope of settlement supports should be adequate to cover the additional complexity. This may not only require exceptional case management and support, but also additional financial support as needs are addressed and integration matures.
- Community sponsorship is seen as one way to address isolation and foster good social networks for arriving LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Staff: Human Resources Management

Recruit dedicated staff to lead policy and programmatic interventions on LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced populations, such as in the areas of health and GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response.

Where possible, recruit LGBTIQ+ staff to strengthen trust with LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons served by civil society organizations.

Ensure there is greater accountability in relation to personnel who display homophobia, biphobia, transphobia or intersexphobia, either towards coworkers or the individuals the organization assists.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATES

States are encouraged to invest in developing policies and programmes that take into full account the intersectional dimensions of LGBTIQ+ persons in forced displacement and statelessness:

Building the Evidence Base through Ethical Data Collection, Management and Reporting:

Invest in consultative research to identify best practices and to develop guidelines for ethical, confidential disaggregated data collection, management and reporting on LGBTIQ+ persons in need of protection. Adapt or develop tools available to frontline staff, to ensure they are fit for purpose for working with LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Develop and fund language-appropriate training for government employees and contractors who are responsible for collecting data on and with LGBTIQ+ displaced people on matters including key issues for LGBTIQ+ people, safe and effective use of tools and respectful engagement with LGBTIQ+ people including best practices on use of diverse SOGIESC terminology.

Support LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations to participate in the humanitarian system and learn from them about risks for LGBTIQ+ persons and strategies for creating safe and dignified contexts for sharing stories. Encourage partnerships with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations that deepen staff situational awareness and confidence.

Access to Asylum and Refugee Status Determination:

In partnership with UNHCR and regional authorities, review and innovate region-specific methods to expedite pathways for LGBTIQ+ displaced people in hostile host situations, noting that LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people often experience compounded hostility in places of protection, due to criminalization of consensual same-sex relations and social stigma in asylum countries.

In partnership with UNHCR and regional authorities, render border and accelerated asylum procedures more appropriate, by avoiding excessively long asylum procedures (instead ensuring timely main interviews and first decisions on asylum claims), without detriment to the quality of the decisions.

Assess credibility on the basis of an individual, balanced, intersectional and holistic evaluation of all the evidence submitted by the claimant (including their testimony and other corroborative evidence) and other available evidence (such as Country of Origin Information), placing due value on the claimant's self-identification, without expectations of 'emotional journeys' or reliance on culturally unsound and inappropriate stereotypes, and respecting the principle of the benefit of the doubt.

Make more effective use of Country of Origin Information by improving its quality, adopting a culturally sensitive approach, relying on local LGBTIQ+ groups' expertise, data collection and research, and paying due attention to the need to exempt SOGIESC claims from the scope of 'safe country' assessments.

Increase the integrity and quality of decision-making to eliminate the culture of disbelief and avoid inappropriate lines of questioning and use of stereotypical assumptions in interviewing techniques and credibility assessment (for instance, the expectation of universally common experiences and characteristics among all LGBTIQ+ people such as negative feelings about oneself), as well as avoiding the reductive or exclusive use of guidelines/models or approaches that excessively rely on a culturally insensitive interpretation of LGBTIQ+ identities.

Train government asylum caseworkers and adjudicators on trauma-informed SOGIESC matters: Ensure all decision-makers undertake good quality and accessible training on intercultural awareness, general SOGIESC matters and SOGIESC asylum claims, reflecting appropriate and culturally sensitive terminology and understanding of the diverse, subjective, intersectional and complex nature of the experiences of SOGIESC claimants, heavily relying on the real-life experiences of SOGIESC refugees and their support groups, and allowing for some decision-makers to become specialized on SOGIESC matters.

Engage interpreters who are unquestionably neutral and have received SOGIESC-specific training; avoid harm and re-traumatization by authorities (for example through intrusive questioning or repeated interviews); Increase and improve the training and quality control of interpreters, including on ethics and confidentiality, and making available more translated versions of resources on SOGIESC terminology, to ensure linguistic, cultural and interpersonal competencies, with an emphasis on SOGIESC knowledge and sensitivity.

Reception Conditions and Safe Accommodation:

All refugee service providers should be trained on SOGIESC topics, and on topics specific to LGBTIQ+ refugee protection. Training target audiences include, inter alia, frontline practitioners in the legal, social welfare, medical, mental health, housing and other agencies. The training should focus on specific needs, situations and vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.

All public agencies and contractors providing direct services to refugees, including face-to-face and virtual support, should establish safe spaces (non-discrimination zones) for LGBTIQ+ refugees in their offices and online. This may include buddy systems, contact people, and hosting events that bringing LGBTIQ+ refugees together for peer support. Safe spaces can be physical (such as housing) or virtual (digital community groups).

Where possible, require administrators of collective shelters to establish and regularly implement LGBTIQ+ Safe Space protocols, protected areas and refugee- targeted orientation information, referral contact points and information on their rights and complaints mechanisms, to be made available in all State-run reception centers that accommodate LGBTIQ+ displaced people, whether within the general refugee/asylum seeker population, or in targeted facilities.

Require mandatory and continuous professional orientation and training on trauma-informed SOGIESC topics for all relevant personnel at host Government and partner agencies, including security contractors, civil society partners and administrators of collective shelters.

Access to Safe Inclusion in Health Services:

Provide authoritative guidance on how to respectfully and effectively work with LGBTIQ+ displaced people in health settings. Develop and maintain ethical, confidential registration and data systems for LGBTIQ+ displaced people and adhere to international protocols for patient confidentiality.

Train health care providers and early childhood care practitioners on trauma-informed SOGIESC-specific foundational understanding, values clarification, specific needs of LGBTIQ+ displaced people, and referral pathways. Build capacity to work with LGBTIQ+ displaced populations, including in the teaching curricula of medical and nursing schools, as well as among State public health personnel.

Recruit dedicated staff to lead policy and programmatic health interventions on LGBTIQ+ displaced populations.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion:

Ensure that LGBTIQ+ refugees can legally access dignified work opportunities as befits their skills and capacities, and where they would be protected and enjoy safe work environments, free of any phobia that may impugn their integrity, dignity and safety.

States should regulate and support market actors' efforts to create and enable environments that promote more diverse and friendly working opportunities for the LGBTIQ+ displaced population, in order to fully maximize the engagement of LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern to UNHCR as economic contributors to host communities.

Support resource mobilization for livelihoods programming that will allow social and economic inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ refugees and host communities. Allow LGBTIQ+ organizations access to this funding, as they know the particular challenges and needs that the community has in terms of integration. Moreover, it is important that INGOs and other organizations find ways to exchange knowledge with local LGBTIQ+ organizations, so that best

practices in the field of livelihoods and economic inclusion can be tailored to the reality and contexts of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Solutions – Third Country Resettlement, Complementary Pathways for Admission to Third Countries, Humanitarian Visas, and Integration:

In consultation with UNHCR and CSOs, conduct appropriate respectful collection of data, exercising extreme care for the safety of LGBTIQ+ individuals and security of their personal information, disaggregating data, and engaging in careful stewardship, including anonymization and access controls.

In partnership with UNHCR, engage CSOs with LGBTIQ+ refugee experience to develop and share tools and communications that facilitate access for LGBTIQ+ persons to necessary resources and information. These tools and communications can be formalized and incorporated into State, international community and civil society structures.

Consider establishing a *Humanitarian Visa Pathway* for LGBTIQ+ persons with acute protection risks in crisis situations (such as for trans and gender non-conforming individuals), whereby vetted civil society organizations can refer LGBTIQ+ displaced persons in origin or asylum countries to a community sponsorship program that provides appropriate settlement supports and a guaranteed pathway to permanent status.

In Countries of Arrival (third country resettlement):

- Develop and promote settlement and integration criteria, policies and programs that recognize the distinct and amplified challenges LGBTIQ+ refugees face.
- Resettle LGBTIQ+ refugees in communities with active LGBTIQ+ communities and responsive services, as opposed to more isolated and sometimes more conservative communities where they may face stigma, discrimination and possibly, rejection.
- Consider access to trauma-informed gender affirming care, HIV care and LGBTIQ+ refugee responsive mental health care in placement and settlement.
- Ensure the adequacy of the duration and scope of settlement supports to cover the additional complexity. This may not only require exceptional case management and support, but also additional financial support as needs are addressed and integration matures.
- Community sponsorship is seen as one way to address isolation and foster effective social networks for arriving LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Linking LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Protection with Protection of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons:

States are encouraged to work with UNHCR and the Mandate of the UN IE SOGI to:

- Formally decriminalize consensual same sex relations and expressions of diverse SOGIESC.
- Formally de-pathologize diverse gender identities, expressions and sex characteristics.
- Formally institute and enforce legal protections against discrimination based on diverse SOGIESC.
- Recognize the right to legal gender recognition via self-determination for all refugees, asylum seekers and other forcibly displaced and stateless people on their territory.
- Acknowledge the existence of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ torture survivors and their needs for rehabilitation, asylum and redress. This includes establishing multifunctional, integrated rehabilitation centers and programmes, with trained staff who are capable of working effectively with trauma-affected LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers and other forcibly displaced people.
- Foreground the situations of forcibly displaced and stateless LGBTIQ+ individuals more centrally in multilateral and bilateral efforts to uphold the rights of all LGBTIQ+ people, including through State-sponsored funding initiatives for LGBTIQ+ human rights organizations that work with LGBTIQ+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless people.

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

ANNEX I: FULL PROGRAMME FOR 2021 UNHCR-UN IE SOGI GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE ON PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT

07-29 June 2021 All times in Central European Summer Time				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
07 June 14:00 – 17:00 Opening Plenary	08 June 14:00 – 17:00 Drivers of Forced Displacement	09 June 14:00 – 17:00 Reception Conditions and Outreach to LGBTIQ+ Displaced People	10 June 14:00 – 17:00 Building the Evidence Base: Ethical Data Collection, Management and Reporting	11 June NO EVENTS
14 June 14:00 – 17:00 Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms: Legal Gender Recognition, Alternatives to Detention, and Protection from Refoulement	15 June 09:00 – 12:00 Safe Shelter and Accommodation 14:00 – 17:00 Refugee Status Determination and Building Asylum Capacity	16 June 14:00 – 17:00 Digitalised Protection Spaces: Challenges and Opportunities	17 June 14:00 – 17:00 Solutions: Third-Country Resettlement, Complementary Pathways for Admission to Third Countries, and Integration	18 June NO EVENTS
21 June 14:00 – 17:00 Pathways for Safe Inclusion in Health Services	22 June 14:00 – 17:00 Access to Torture Rehabilitation	23 June 14:00 – 17:00 Livelihoods and Sustainable Economic Inclusion	24 June 14:00 – 17:00 Gender-Based Violence: Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response	25 June NO EVENTS
28 June 14:00 – 17:00 Strengthening Organisational Capacity and Accountability	29 June 14:00 – 17:00 Closing Plenary			

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

OPENING PLENARY DISCUSSION

Monday, 07 June 2021 | 14:00 – 17:00 CEST

*Open to all registered participants

14:00 – 14:30	<p>Welcome from Moderator, Annika Sandlund (UNHCR, Head of Inter-agency Service, Partnerships and Coordination Section)</p> <p>Introduction of Roundtable Co-Convenors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gillian Triggs (UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection)• Victor Madrigal-Borloz (UN Independent Expert on Protection from Violence and Discrimination Based on SOGI)
14:30 – 15:05	<p>Introduction of LGBTIQ+ Leaders with Lived Experience of Forced Displacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrea Ayala (Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders, European and Central Asian Lesbian Community)• Suma Abdelsamie (Emantes International LGBTQIA+ Solidarity)• Nath Niyitegeka (Rainbow Heritage Initiative)• Eliana Rubashkyn (Rainbow Path New Zealand, Intersex Awareness New Zealand, ILGA World)• Ibrahim Mukiibi (African Human Rights Coalition)
15:05 – 15:20	<p>Introduction of Civil Society Leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mulami Marete (UHA-East Africa Sexual Health and Rights Initiative)• Rachel Levitan (HIAS)
BREAK (10 mins)	
15:40 – 16:30	<p>Each Refugee Speaker Presents 1 Question to Non-Refugee Panelists</p>
16:20 – 16:55	<p>Questions from Registered Participants</p>
16:55 – 17:00	<p>Closing Remarks from IE SOGI and UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection</p>

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

CLOSING PLENARY DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 29 June 2021 | 14:00 – 17:00 CEST

*Open to all registered participants

14:00 – 14:05	Introduction and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grainne O'Hara (UNHCR, Director, Division of International Protection)• Tina Dixon (Founding Co-Chair, Forcibly Displaced People Network)
14:05 – 15:00	Report-Back and Recommendations from Thematic Working Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drivers of Forced Displacement• Reception Conditions and Outreach to LGBTIQ+ Displaced People• Building the Evidence Base: Ethical Data Collection, Management and Reporting• Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms: Legal Gender Recognition, Alternatives to Detention, and Protection from Refoulement• Safe Shelter and Accommodation• Refugee Status Determination and Building Asylum Capacity
15:00 – 15:15	Questions to Thematic Working Table Managers
15:15 – 15:20	BREAK (5 mins)
15:20 – 16:20	Report-Back and Recommendations from Thematic Working Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digitalised Protection Spaces: Challenges and Opportunities• Gender-based Violence: Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response• Pathways for Safe Inclusion in Health Services• Access to Torture Rehabilitation• Livelihoods and Sustainable Economic Inclusion• Solutions: Third-Country Resettlement, Complementary Pathways for Admission to Third Countries, and Integration• Strengthening Organisational Capacity and Accountability
16:20 – 16:30	Questions to Thematic Working Table Managers
16:30 – 16:35	BREAK (5 mins)
	Reflections on Next Steps
16:35 – 16:40	Filippo Grandi (UNHCR High Commissioner – via video)
16:40 – 16:45	Tina Dixon (Founding Co-Chair, Forcibly Displaced People Network)
16:45 – 16:50	H.E. Ambassador Frederico Villegas (Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office at Geneva)
16:50 – 16:55	Victor Madrigal-Borloz (UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)
16:55 – 17:00	Gillian Triggs (UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection)

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS REPORT: FULL VERSION

THEMATIC WORKING TABLES

***Open only to participants registered for both plenaries and working tables
(State delegates exempt from participation)**

DATE	THEMATIC WORKING TABLE SUBJECT	Co-Manager	Co-Manager
08 June	Drivers of Forced Displacement	Rainbow Railroad Dr Kimahli Powell	ILGA World Dr Chamindra Weerawardana
09 June	Reception Conditions and Outreach to LGBTIQ+ Displaced People	African Human Rights Coalition Melanie Nathan	Asia-Pacific Transgender Network Joe Wong
10 June	Building the Evidence Base: Ethical Data Collection, Management and Reporting	UNHCR Sonya Donnelly	Edge Effect Emily Dwyer
14 June	Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms: Legal Gender Recognition, Alternatives to Detention, Protection from Refoulement	Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders Andrea Ayala	University of Witwatersrand African Centre for Migration and Society Dr B Camminga
15 June	Safe Shelter and Accommodation	ILGA Europe Katrin Hugendubel	Refugee Law Project Devota Nuwe
15 June	Refugee Status Determination and Building Asylum Capacity	UNHCR Katinka Ridderbos	University of Sussex (SOGICA Project) Professor Nuno Ferreira
16 June	Digitalised Protection Spaces: Challenges and Opportunities	Equal Asia Foundation Ryan Figueiredo	Caribe Afirmativo On behalf of the Regional LGBTI+ Human Mobility Network for the Americas Carolina Gomez
17 June	Solutions: Third-Country Resettlement, Complementary Pathways for Admission to Third Countries, and Integration	UNHCR Michelle Alfaro	Rainbow Coalition for Refugees Dr Sharalyn Jordan
21 June	Pathways for Safe Inclusion in Health Services, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Services	IRCA CASABIERTA Rosalía Carballo Chaves	Mawjoudin (We Exist) Syrine Boukadida
22 June	Access to Rehabilitation from Torture	MSK LGBT Group - Stimul Anton Ryzhov	RESTART Lebanon; Chair, UN Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture Suzanne Jabbour
23 June	Livelihoods and Sustainable Economic Inclusion	HIAS Galo Quizanga	HELEM Tarek Zeidan
24 June	Gender-Based Violence: Prevention, Risk Mitigation, Response	Women's Refugee Commission Dale Buscher	COMCAVIS Trans Bianka Rodriguez
28 June	Strengthening Organisational Capacity and Accountability	UNHCR Revani Pillay	IOM Jennifer Rumbach

ANNEX II: PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Academic Institutions

Columbia University - Mailman School of Public Health (New York, United States)
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland)
Institut français de relations internationales | French Institute of International Relations (Paris, France)
Kobe University (Japan)
London School of Economics and Political Science (London, United Kingdom)
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (London, United Kingdom)
University of Bergen (Bergen, Norway)
University of Bristol (Bristol, United Kingdom)
University of California at Berkeley – Human Rights Center (Berkeley, United States)
University of California at Los Angeles – The Williams Institute (Los Angeles, United States)
University of Duesto – Human Rights Institute (Bilbao, Spain)
University of Leeds (Leeds, United Kingdom)
University of Minnesota – International Human Rights Litigation and Advocacy Clinic (United States)
University of Oxford - Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford, United Kingdom)
Université Paris 8 (Paris, France)
University of Siena (Siena, Italy)
University of Sussex – SOGICA Project (Brighton, United Kingdom)
University of Witwatersrand - African Centre for Migration and Society (Johannesburg, South Africa)

Civil Society Organizations Led By Persons with Lived Experience of Displacement or Statelessness

America Diversa (United States)
Casa Ruby (El Salvador and United States)
Community Support Initiative for Refugees (Kenya)
Equal Asia Foundation
Forcibly Displaced People Network
Francophone LGBTIQ+ Refugee Group (Kenya)
Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders
Happy Family Community (Kenya, Uganda and diaspora)
House of Guramayle (Ethiopia and diaspora)
IRCA Casabierta - Instituto sobre migración y Refugio LGBTIQ para Centroamérica (Costa Rica)
Kifikif Iguales (Spain)
PASSOP (South Africa)
Peace Volcano (Kenya)
Refugee Coalition of East Africa
Queer Refugee Committee (Belgium)
Rainbow Heritage Initiative (Uganda)
Rainbow Path Aotearoa New Zealand
Rainbow Refugees Cologne Support Group e.V. (Germany)
Sangsan Anakot Yawachon Development Project (Thailand)
Skeiv Verden (Queer World) (Norway)
The Fruit Basket (South Africa)
Unity Rainbow for Refugees (Rwanda)
Venezuela Diversa AC (Venezuela)

Civil Society Organizations

ACATHI (Spain)
Accem (Spain)
Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement (Democratic Republic of Congo)
African Human Rights Coalition
African Trans Network

Alight – Program in Nakivale, Uganda
 All Survivor's Project
 Amnesty International
 ARDHIS - Association pour la reconnaissance des droits des personnes homosexuelles et trans à l'immigration et au séjour (France)
 ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
 Asia Pacific Transgender Network
 Asociación Lambda (Guatemala)
 Asociación Prosa (Peru)
 Associação ILGA Portugal
 Association Il Grande Colibri (Italy)
 BRAC
 CARE USA
 Caribe Afirmativo (Colombia)
 Center for American Progress (United States)
 Comisión Española de Ayuda Refugiado – Spanish Commission for Refugees (Spain)
 Center for Research and Social Development – IDEAS (Serbia)
 Centre Erik Holst (France)
 CESAL (Spain)
 COC Netherlands (Netherlands)
 Colectivo Unidad Color Rosa (Honduras)
 Colors Rainbow (Myanmar)
 Comcavis Trans (El Salvador)
 Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (Hungary)
 Council for Global Equality (United States)
 Crisis Response and Policy Centre (Serbia)
 Damj for Justice and Equality (Tunisia)
 De Novo Center for Justice and Healing (United States)
 Dialogo Diverso (Ecuador)
 East African Centre for Forced Migration and Displacement (Kenya)
 East African Trans Health and Advocacy Network
 EGIDES - Alliance internationale francophone pour l'égalité et les diversités (Canada)
 Emantes – International LGBTIQIA+ Solidarity (Greece)
 Emma L'Infos (Côte d'Ivoire, Pan-African)
 EuroCentral Asian Lesbian* Community
 FASIC - Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas (Chile)
 Fundación Amal Argentina
 Fundación Arcoíris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual (Mexico)
 GATE
 Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya
 Gender Dynamix (South Africa)
 HELEM (Lebanon)
 HIAS
 Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (Uganda)
 Human Rights First (United States)
 Human Rights Watch
 Hungarian Helsinki Committee
 ICAR Foundation (Romania)
 Interagency Standing Committee – GenCap Project
 ILGA Europe
 ILGA World
 Immigration Equality (United States)
 Institute Emma - Center for Victims of Violence (North Macedonia)
 InterAction
 International Commission of Jurists
 International Council of Voluntary Agencies
 International Peace Institute

International Refugee Assistance Project (United States)
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Survivors
International Rescue Committee
Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand
Isange LGBTI+ Persons Coalition (Rwanda)
Jinsiangu (Kenya)
Kaleidoscope Trust | The Commonwealth Equality Network (United Kingdom)
KAOS GL (Turkey)
Kok.team (Kazakhstan)
La Casita HCC
Law Center of Advocates (Moldova)
LGBT+ Movimento (Brazil)
Living Water Community (Trinidad and Tobago)
LODOTI – Locale de Documentation Trans et Intersexe (France)
LSVD e.V. – Queer Refugees Deutschland (Germany)
Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement
Matimba (South Africa)
Mawjoudin (We Exist) (Tunisia)
MOSAIC MENA (Lebanon)
Moscow LGBT Group “Stimul” (Russian Federation)
Movimento Identità Trans (Italy)
National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (Kenya)
ORAM - Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration
Organization for Aid to Refugees (Czech Republic)
Organization Intersex International (OII) – Europe
Outright Action International
PIC (Slovenia)
Pink Armenia
Plan International – Asia Pacific Regional Hub
Presente (Peru)
Rainbow Alliance (Myanmar)
Rainbow Coalition for Refuge (Canada)
Rainbow Migration (United Kingdom)
Rainbow Railroad
Refugee Law Project (Uganda)
RefugePoint
Rescate International (Spain)
RESTART Center (Lebanon)
RFSL and RSFL Ungdom (Sweden)
SMUG - Sexual Minorities Uganda
Stonewall Trust (United Kingdom)
Suaka (Indonesia)
Survivors of Torture, International
Tent Partnership for Refugees
The Humsafar Trust (India)
Transgender Europe
Tunisian Council for Refugees
United Belize Advocacy Movement
United Caribbean Trans Network
Unión Afirmativa (Venezuela)
Upper Rift Minorities (Kenya)
Urgence Homophobie (France)
Women’s Initiatives Supporting Group (Republic of Georgia)
Women’s Refugee Commission

Independent

Hester K.V. Moore
Sangita Singh
Sophia Zisakou
Suma Abdelsamie
Wilbert ten Kate
Zhan Chiam

Philanthropic Organizations

Freedom House
Global Philanthropy Project
Humanity in Need – Rainbow Refugees
Open Society Foundations
Oxfam Great Britain
Rainbow Cookies
Rainbow Support Network
UHA1 – EASHRI (UHA1 East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative)
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Private Sector, including Social Impact Enterprises

Edge Effect
Helsinki Deaconess Foundation
Micro Rainbow CIC
Iloilo Pride (Philippines)
Malmö Pride (Sweden)
None on Record
Open for Business
Out Magazine

States

ARGENTINA

Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations Office at Geneva

AUSTRALIA

Department of Home Affairs
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

BRAZIL

National Committee for Refugees (CONARE)
Ministry of Justice
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office at Geneva

CANADA

Global Affairs Canada
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

COLOMBIA

Office of the President of the Republic of Colombia – Borders Management
Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

COSTA RICA

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office at Geneva

DENMARK

Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office at Geneva

ECUADOR

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Office of the Chancellor

GERMANY

German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

ICELAND

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ITALY

National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR)

MALTA

Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance, Human Rights Directorate
Ministry of Home Affairs, International Protection Agency

NETHERLANDS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SLOVENIA

Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants

SPAIN

General Directorate for Sexual Diversity and LGBTI Rights

SWEDEN

Ministry of Justice
Government of Sweden Migration Agency

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
Embassy of the United States of America in Jordan
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva

International, Regional Organizations, and UN Independent Experts

European Asylum and Support Office (EASO)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS – Secretariat (UNAIDS)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO)
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity