



Concept note for the LGBTQIA+ Refugees, Borders and Immigration Summit Copenhagen 2021, WorldPride and EuroGames

Date: 20th of August, 2021.

Time:

- Walk in between 8.30 - 9.00.
- Summit programme between 9.00 - 17.30
- Post summit mingle between 17.30 - 19.00

Physical location: Malmö Live, Dag Hammarskjölds torg 2, 211 18 Malmö.

Digital location: InvitePeople.

Format: Hybrid event: Physical and Digital participation.

Co-hosts:

- Alice Bah Kuhnke: Swedish member of the European Parliament.
- Ulrika Westerlund: The Swedish LGBTQIA+ policy expert & project Leader at the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society and Swedish LGBTQIA+ policy expert

Opening Keynote Speaker:

- Filippo Grandi, UNHCR High Commissioner

Closing Keynote speakers:

- Melanie Nathan, Executive Director of the African Human Rights Coalition
- Dennis Castillo, Founder and executive director of the LGBTIQ+ Institute on Migration and Refugee for Central America, IRCA CASABIERTA (Instituto Sobre Migración y Refugio LGBTIQ para Centroamérica)

Background information on the summit:

The summit on Refugees, Borders and Immigration will take place in Malmö, Sweden and, as part of the Human Rights Forum of Copenhagen 2021, WorldPride and EuroGames. The event will have an international focus and target transnational situations. The aim of the summit is to generate conversation around the often sidelined topic of LGBTQIA+ refugees and forcibly displaced people. It includes high-level speakers with a strong focus on community involvement, discussion and storytelling. It falls into the Human Rights Forum theme of Borders, decolonization and racism.

Objectives of the day:

1. To facilitate a space for in-depth experiential learning through storytelling about these often-sidelined topics.
2. Creating a deeper awareness amongst a larger public combined with calls to actions aimed at politicians and government officials regarding intersectional minorities.
3. Generating an opportunity for politicians and government officials to learn from people with lived experiences moving them to change policy.

The summit will be composed of three tracks for knowledge sharing:

TRACK 1

Facilitating a space for in-depth experiential learning through storytelling about the often sidelined topics of different pathways to safety for refugees. Aiming to deepen the knowledge on these often sidelined topics.

TRACK 2

Re-thinking the way we work. Creating a deeper awareness amongst professionals that in their line of work meet LGBTQIA+ refugees. Examples of best practice and mechanisms that work or need to be improved will be shared.

TRACK 3

Generating an opportunity for policy makers and other actors to learn from people with self-lived experiences and experts in this field. The aim is advocacy and deciding on actions with a goal of also influencing future changes in policy. It will be in the format of roundtable discussions with politicians, government officials, activists and people with self-lived experiences. Each track will simultaneously run three separate breakout sessions at different points throughout the day

Target audience:

We have a very varied target audience due to the 3 different knowledge tracks that run simultaneously throughout the day. Attendees for track 1 will include activists from around the world both physically and digitally, many of which will be sponsored by different partner organisations and/or organisations who work in this field as well as the Copenhagen 2021 sponsorship programme. These have varying levels of knowledge on this topic. For track 2 and 3 we have local, national and international politicians including state representatives and a head of state who will join us. There will also be participation from international actors of organisations in this field and many experts and professionals who specialise in different areas of this field are also confirmed. We are also thrilled to be inviting state representatives to the important discussions in track 3.

Overview of the day:

The Refugees, Borders and Immigration Summit will hold discussions surrounding the intersectional need and vulnerabilities of SOGIESC forcibly displaced people and refugees. After our co-hosts and the Mayor of Malmö have welcomed us to the summit, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, will provide us with an opening keynote speech providing the global context to the topic and introducing the results of the UNHCR-UN Independent Expert on SOGI Global Roundtable "Protection, Assistance and Solutions for LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement". After this, a panel discussion will be held *'Examining the intersecting issues affecting LGBTQIA+ refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers'*. A series of breakout sessions will follow, focusing on the topics of *'Different pathways to safety'*, *'The acute needs upon arrival at the destination country'* and *'The improvement of asylum procedures, conditions, and the security along the way to integration'*. These breakout sessions will be arranged in different formats, such as roundtable discussions (track 3), 'TED talks' (track 1) and 'crash courses' (track 2). Artistic performances will add a different dimension to the days learning as we observe a short film screening and speech by Arnout van Krimpen from the Amsterdam Rainbow Dress Foundation, a musical performance linked to the topic of *'Pathways to safety'* and a phone conversation between Edwin Sikot, a resettled gay priest in Sweden and his husband, who has not been able to join him. All speakers attending our event physically, will also have the

opportunity to enjoy a lunch menu created in cooperation with Ibra Idrees - a former refugee from the LGBTIQ+ community who is now running a green small business in Malmö called 'Hummusson'.

Broader context to the summit Copenhagen 2021:

The summit is part of Copenhagen 2021, the most significant LGBTQIA+ event in 2021 which encompasses WorldPride and EuroGames and includes inter alia, an eclectic arts and culture program and a historic LGBTQIA+ human rights forum. It will bring thousands of LGBTQIA+ people to Copenhagen and Malmö for the most important LGBTQIA+ event ever held in Scandinavia. Across both cities the Arts & Culture program will include more than 100 events and four spaces curated by our own team. Additionally, around six thousand athletes will join us to participate in the biggest EuroGames ever, with tournaments taking place in 22 different sports. Tournaments are open to spectators, and visitors can also take part in the 'Sports to the People' program of 'drop-in' sports including Drag Olympics, roller-skating, bicycle workshops and rainbow family sports.

The Sports Leader Conference will empower LGBTQIA+ sports groups to foster more inclusivity, and the Sports Village at Islands Brygge is an open space for people to meet, engage in street sports, celebrate achievements and watch on big screens.

Copenhagen 2021, Human Rights Forum:

The Copenhagen 2021 Human Rights Forum is a core part of Copenhagen 2021. An international LGBTQIA+ experience consisting of multiple high-level events and a broader program open to the public. It is the biggest ever LGBTQIA+ human rights forum. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium Petra de Sutter, Iceland's President Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson and EU Commissioner Helena Dalli are among more than 60 speakers confirmed for the six-day Human Rights Forum taking place next month as part of Copenhagen 2021 WorldPride and EuroGames.

The Forum comprises six events focused on different aspects of LGBTQIA+ equality and human rights worldwide. An opening event at the UN City in Copenhagen is followed by a three-day Human Rights Conference, the Summit on Refugees, Borders and Immigration, and a meeting of parliamentarians from around the world at the Danish parliament. A public human rights event - the 1:1 Democracy Festival - takes place over six days.

Organised around ten thematic topics, the Forum aims to set the agenda for advocacy for global LGBTQIA+ equality over the next decade. Organisers believe the event could be the biggest LGBTQIA+ human rights forum ever held.

More than a thousand participants will join the various events, which are being organised in accordance with government regulations. And because travel restrictions prevent many people travelling to Denmark and Sweden, many events are being live-streamed to a global audience who can interact and participate in sessions.

UNHCR-UN Independent Expert on SOGI Global Roundtable "Protection, Assistance and Solutions for LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement"

In June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Mandate of the UN 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+) Persons in Forced Displacement. There were thematic working tables convened on a number of different core areas of consideration in this field such as on drivers of Forced Displacement, leveraging Human Rights mechanisms with regards to inter alia, Legal Gender Recognition and also on the topic of strengthening organizational capacity and accountability and many more.

The summit follows on from these discussions with the resulting recommendations tied in both theoretically and practically throughout the day's agenda. As mentioned, our opening keynote speaker, Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will introduce the resulting recommendations and we then aim to build on these in discussions throughout the day-long event, as we have many speakers and attendees that were present at different points throughout these discussions in June. Our closing keynote speakers were invited based on inspiration from the recommendation *"Treat the smaller organizations who are working with LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless individuals as the leaders and the knowledge base on the topic (...)".* The thinking here is to highlight these organisations and rely on their professional and personal knowledge of the field, when deciding which aspects of the day should be highlighted. Importantly, where to place emphasis when providing the closing motivation for what to take forwards from the summit and in terms of next steps, based on the day.

Our speaker biographies:

Melanie Nathan, Executive Director of the African Human Rights Coalition
Pronouns: She/Her

Melanie, a South African born lawyer, is an award-winning global equality and human rights advocate, speaking and writing on issues impacting LGBTQI communities around the world, with a focus on the Africa and the U.S.A. She is the executive director of African Human Rights Coalition which provides humanitarian and advocacy services to LGBTQI+ internally and externally displaced and stateless individuals, refugees and asylum seekers. She also appears as a country conditions expert witness for asylum seekers from Africa in the U.S. and global Immigration Courts. Melanie is a former Marin County Human Rights Commissioner and has served on several boards including as an elected Vice President to the San Francisco Pride Board. Melanie publishes a popular political and advocacy blog, O-blog-Dee-O-blog-Da, winning the 2019 NLGJA JOURNALISM AWARD for "Excellence in Blogging." Among her numerous honors she has been Grand Marshal of Cape Town Pride 2011, Community Grand Marshal for San Francisco Pride 2014, and the 2016 Marin County Human Rights Commission's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for outstanding effort and advocacy in the furtherance of human rights. Melanie is also featured in the award-winning documentary UNSETTLED. www.oblogdee.blog/about and www.AfricanHRC.org

Name: Dennis Castillo, The Founder and executive director of the LGBTQIA+ Institute on Migration and Refuge for Central America (IRCA CASABIERTA)
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Dennis Castillo is a Honduran national currently a refugee in Costa Rica. He is a defender of the human rights of LGBTQIA+ people and a graduate in social and political sciences, namely psychology.

He is the founder and executive director of the LGBTQIA+ Institute on Migration and Refuge for Central America (IRCA CASABIERTA), a non-profit organization based in Costa Rica, which engages in political advocacy, research, training and comprehensive psychosocial assistance, aimed at improving the quality of life and development opportunities in LGBTQIA+ populations, specifically those which are in forced displacement and seeking refuge within Central America (www.ircacasabeirta.org).

Dennis is part of the Corresponsales Claves team for Latin America and the Caribbean with the mission of disseminating information and raising awareness on issues related to health and development. This grassroots initiative works to initiate a process that promotes empowerment and mobilization of Civil Society and communities affected by HIV, AIDS and Tuberculosis (<https://corresponsalesclave.org/author/dennis-castillo/>). His story has been

published by different international institutions such as Alturi, (https://alturi.org/feature_items/dennis-castillo-costa-rica/), the International Organization for Migration, IOM (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHWR8aXX3is>) and the UNHCR https://www.nacion.com/gnfactory/LNC/GNF/2016/11/04/0014/Acnur-Refugees_19_1595630435.html Dennis was recently chosen to receive the Richard C. Holbrooke award by Refugees International in 2021.

Name: Andrea M. Ayala, Lawyer, Co-founder of GIRWL & Board Member of the European and Central Asian Lesbian Community (EL*C)
Pronouns: She/They

*Andrea M. Ayala is a Lesbian-Non Binary, Salvadoran Human Rights Defender since 2009. She is a lawyer with a specialization in Human Rights litigation in the Universal and Inter-American System of Human Rights from the American University, Washington College of Law. She fled from El Salvador in 2019 and currently lives as a Refugee in Europe and have started to advocate and organize for lesbian, bisexual, queer and non-binary refugee population as one of the GIRWL co-founders and as Board Member of the European and Central Asian Lesbian Community (EL*C). She has worked in multilateral spaces since 2014 addressing different issues related to LGBTIQ populations globally. She specializes in advocacy and lobbying in spaces such as the United Nations and the regional Human Rights systems. She develops different voluntary roles as such, is board member from the European and Central Asia Lesbian Community (EL*C), Board Member of the LGBTIQ Monitoring Group about nondiscrimination in Football for FARE Network in London, International Advocacy Strategist for public policies and strategic litigations for LEDESER, A.C. in Mexico City among other spaces. She has a Higher Diploma in Sexual Diversity awarded by CLACSO Latin America and the Argentinean LGBT Federation. Currently, she has started to advocate and organize for lesbian, bisexual, queer and non-binary refugee population and is voluntarily organizing the Round Table Consultation on LGBTIQ with UNHCR as part of the Advisory Group.*

Name: Suma Abdulsamie, Consultant for trans refugees program- Emantes, Athens
Pronouns: She / Her / Hers

Suma Abdulsamie is an Egyptian trans refugee and trans activist who is currently living in Berlin. She was the PR Manager & executive secretary for a dental company between 2004 - 2010. Suma led the tea & talk group in Istanbul for LGBTIQ+ refugees in 2016 and is a Co-founder for welcome LGBTIQ+ refugees, Athens. She is the founder of trans newcomers Stockholm and a coordinator for RFSL Stockholm newcomers for LGBTIQ+ refugees. Board member at RFSL Stockholm. Between 2018-2021 Suma was a guest lecturer at DIS study abroad in Scandinavia - Stockholm, lecturing about trans refugees challenges. A board member of Trans Fest Stockholm, 2019 and Co-founder of TGEU Trans Refugee Network, 2020.

Name: Justin Hilton, Founder & Boards Co-President of Safe Place International Safe Place International Founder
Pronouns: He / Him

Justin Hilton has worked for over 3 decades in the human potential space starting with street youth and heroin addicts in the mid eighties and progressing to work around the world with marginalized groups. Most recently Justin has been working with LGBTIQ and other doubly marginalized refugees through the over 30 shelters Safe Place supports, the organizations virtual educational platform called The Dream Academy and the Community and food distribution centers located in Athens Greece. SPI has also conducted 2 separate studies of LGBTIQ refugees' experiences as they enter Europe and has recently formed a team focused

on EU Advocacy.

Name: Eirene Chen, Independent Specialist, SOGIESC Forced Displacement
Pronouns: She/her

Eirene Chen, former SOGIESC/LGBTI consultant on global SOGIESC protection issues at UNHCR's Division of International Protection, is an international humanitarian and development specialist with over 20 years of experience supporting forcibly displaced people in a range of emergency and non-emergency contexts worldwide. She has worked with United Nations entities, governments and civil society organizations on refugee protection, social integration, governance and civil society development initiatives in both fragile and stable states throughout North America, Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific. An alumna of the London School of Economics and Political Science and the Oxford University Refugee Studies Center's Summer School in International Forced Migration, Eirene is the daughter of refugees.

Name: Steve Roth, Executive Director ORAM – Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration
Pronouns: He/him

Steve Roth is Executive Director of ORAM, a pioneering organization working for the protection of exceptionally vulnerable LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers. A globally oriented strategic thinker and connector, he leads the organization's strategic development in conjunction with its board of directors; directs its programmatic work, development, and communications; and oversees operations and partner relations.

Prior to that, Roth served as Senior Director of Global Initiatives at Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, where he led the organization's efforts to advance LGBTIQ workplace inclusion globally. He managed industry-leading programs in education, training and capacity-building; launched a successful Global Fellowship program; and produced major global workplace inclusion events in India, Brazil, China and Eastern Europe. Previously, he served as founding Executive Director of Alturi, a non-profit whose mission is to educate and engage Americans on global LGBTIQ issues. In 2008, he founded OutThink Partners, a boutique communications, marketing and advocacy organization specializing in the LGBTIQ market. A leader in corporate communications and marketing, Steve has also served as Director of Guest Experience at Atlantis Events, the world's largest gay travel company, and International Media Relations Manager at United Airlines.

Name: Miles, Rutendo Tanhira, Community building officer at TGEU
Pronouns: He/his

Miles is the Community Building Officer at TGEU. He is also the founder of Queerstion Media a documentation and storytelling platform curating narratives of most marginalised trans refugee's asylum seekers in Sweden and TBPoC in Southern Africa and in the diaspora. As a journalist, human rights and peace activist, Miles has a passion for amplifying the voices of trans asylum seekers and refugees in Europe and intersectional perspectives through activism and journalism, where he has more than 15 years of experience. Miles has worked previously for RFSL as coordinator for a Global LGBT Leadership training programme Rainbow Leaders and worked as Editor for Soginews, a global LGBT news site. In 2018 he was nominated as one of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) 2018 Global innovators. He was also a runner up winner of the European Parliament Intergroup on LGBT rights Go visible Award in 2012. Miles' migration activism works include a CoE submission (2018) report: Same struggles different chains: A documentation of the lived realities of trans

refugees and asylum seekers in Sweden. He also directed the film: In(visible) narrative of LGBTQ asylum seekers and refugees in Sweden (2014). Miles has also co-authored in From Wrongs to Gay Rights: Cruelty and change for LGBT & contributed in Trans Bodies, Trans Selves.

Name: Dr. S. Chelvan, Barrister, Head of Immigration and Public Law, 33 Bedford Row Chambers, London.

Pronouns: He/Him

Chelvan holds an LLM from Harvard Law School and was awarded a PhD in (Refugee) Law from King's College London, in June 2019. He tweets from @S_Chelvan Chelvan's approach to his practice successfully employs a symbiotic approach to strategic litigation, academic research and policy development. Chelvan has provided training to Judges, lawyers, NGOs, activists and those seeking-asylum. His public speaking has earned him an international reputation as a charismatic and engaging speaker. He litigates from First- instance Tribunals to the Supreme Court, and the European Court of Human Rights (two currently outstanding applications communicated to the UK). Awards include Legal Aid Barrister of the Year (2014), and Attitude Magazine Pride Award (2018). He is short-listed for the 'Outstanding Contribution to LGBT Life Award' for the British LGBTAwards (ceremony 27 August 2021). He is ranked as a Leading Junior at the London Bar in Immigration in both Chambers Bar UK (since 2006), and Legal 500 (since 2007, Tier-1 since 2017). He identifies as an #ActivistLawyer.

Name: Danilo Manzano, Director of the Diverse Dialogue Organization

Pronouns: He/Him

I started my studies in public relations (UTE), diploma in marketing 2.0 (USFQ) and I am a mediator in conflict resolution (Chamber of Commerce of Quito). In 2017, I was the Vice President of the Neighborhood Assembly "La Mariscal" and in 2018 the Coordinator of the LGBTI political participation project "Por Una Democracia Diversa" with funding from the Embassy of Canada in Ecuador and implemented by Fundación Esquel, as well as a Speaker on LGBTI issues in Latin America at the WUF9 HABITAT III World Meeting in the city of Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia. I am Director of the Diverse Dialogue Organization, which works in the promotion, guarantee and defense of Human Rights, with emphasis on LGBTI people, gender and democracy. Since the creation of the protection program "MI CASA FUERA DE CASA" we have supported more than 3,600 LGBTIQ + refugees and migrants from Venezuela and Ecuador. I am a Producer of "Dialogando Ando", YouTube and Facebook alternative communication platform that promotes youth leaders in Latin America and social issues. International lecturer on police participation from diversity. Speaker of the international platform for TEDx talks . Worldwide representative of LGBTIQ + people for the General Assembly of Allies of HABITAT III United Nations.

Name: Devon Mathews, Director of Programs at Rainbow Railroad

Pronouns: She/Her

Devon is the Director of Programs at Rainbow Railroad. Since 2018, Devon has led a dedicated team to serve thousands of displaced LGBTQI+ persons at risk while continuously expanding programming in more than 30 countries around the world. Before joining Rainbow Railroad, Devon was the Manager of Fellowship Programs at Engineers without Borders Canada, where her work involved the strategic oversight and execution of four programs based in sub-Saharan Africa. Devon brings with her years of experience in facilitation, activism, coaching, immigrant services, participatory research, and non-profit fundraising. Devon holds numerous professional certifications in project management, social systems leadership, and professional coaching — she also holds a BA (honors) from Dalhousie University, specializing in International Development. Devon can be found writing, reading,

organizing, and consulting in Toronto and abroad when not at Rainbow Railroad.

Name: Mariano Ruiz, Project Coordinator at Fundación AMAL Argentina
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Mariano is Project Coordinator at Fundación AMAL Argentina, Board Member and Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, and consultant on project writing for AMMAR - Argentina's Sex Workers Union. He is also an external consultant for the World Bank on LGBTIQ issues. Former Communications Officer for the Latin American Network of Trans Persons (REDLACTRANS) and former Coordinator of the International Relations Team of the Argentine LGBT Federation (FALGBT). Mariano has extensive experience in managing and designing international cooperation projects and public policies that impact vulnerable populations especially focused on LGBTIQ+ people and LGBTIQ+ Asylum Seekers and Refugees. He has experience in designing and implementing programs to assist asylum seekers and refugees in their settlement process. In August 2018 he participated in the International Leadership Visitors Program on Human and Civil Rights for Marginalized Communities organized by the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. From September 2018 to July 2019 he was awarded the RSFL (The Swedish Federation for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights) Rainbow Advocacy Program scholarship. He has also been a fellow with the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum since 2015 having attended sessions in Salzburg (Austria), Chiang Rai (Thailand), Kathmandu (Nepal) from 2015 to 2019. In 2019 he was named one of the Human Rights Campaign Innovative Summit Fellows in Washington DC and participated as an envoy during the OutRight International Advocacy Week in New York City. Mariano is an alumni of the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) from Columbia University in the City of New York 2019 cohort.

Name: Tina Dixon, co-founder of the Forcibly Displaced People Network (FDPN),
co-convenor Queer Displacements: Sexuality, Migration and Exile conference.
Pronouns: She / Her

Tina has dedicated her career to working on the issues of gender and sexuality being driven by her lived experience of being a proud queer refugee woman as well as her academic and professional policy expertise in these areas. She is the co-founder of the Forcibly Displaced People Network (FDPN), the only registered LGBTIQ+ refugee-led organisation in Australia and a co-convenor Queer Displacements: Sexuality, Migration and Exile conference, the first Australian conference dedicated to LGBTIQ+ displacement.

Name: Vanilla Hussein, Executive Director of Refugee Trans Initiative (RTI)
Pronouns: She / Her

Vanilla is the Executive Director of Refugee Trans Initiative (RTI). RTI is a transgender led Organization in Kenya that aims at improving the needs and rights of transgender refugees through advocacy and shelter that houses transgender rights defenders at risks. The shelter acts as a home for transgender refugees who flee persecution and those who have been subjects to trans-phobic attacks within their community. Vanilla fled Uganda in 2015 and applied for asylum in Kenya.

Name: Ryan Joseph Figueiredo, Founder and Executive Director of Equal Asia Foundation
Pronouns: He/ Him / His

Ryan is the founder and Executive Director of Equal Asia Foundation – a regional LGBTIQ+

non-profit think-tank and innovations incubator with offices in Amsterdam and Bangkok. Equal AF's work is focused on future scoping and future-proofing around issues such as ageing, climate change, mental health, and financial citizenship for LGBTIQ+ communities in Asia. Ryan has worked in the non-profit and management consulting space for over 18 years and is a formerly displaced person. At Equal AF, Ryan leads regional and national multi-specialisation initiatives that address some of the deep-seated inequities in the LGBTIQ+ movement. In 2018, Ryan was selected as one of the Human Rights Campaigns Global Innovators. In 2019, Thomson Reuters Foundation named him a Global Changemaker for his work. In 2020, he was recognised as a Global Change accelerator by the Resource Alliance. Ryan sits on a number of International LGBTIQ+ advisory and mentorship groups. Ryan is a formerly displaced person and is now deputy chair of the women, gender and diversity working group of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network. He is an alumnus of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and has trained in clinical trials at the London School of Tropical Medicine, and in population ageing at the University of Oxford.

Name: Edward Alessi, Associate Professor and Chancellor's Scholar of LGBTQ Mental, Trauma, and Resilience
Pronouns: He /Him/His

Dr. Alessi's current projects examine how traumatic stress among LGBTQ+ immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers intersects with psychosocial and structural issues in the host country to impact health and mental health outcomes. Additionally, he is focused on developing community-based interventions to buffer the negative effects of integration-related stressors on LGBTQ+ migrants' health and mental health. He has led studies in the United States, Canada, the European Union, and is currently conducting research in South Africa.

Name: Aino Gröndahl, Lawyer, specialized in SOGIESC asylum law
I have specialized in SOGIESC asylum cases for 9 years, and work at RFSL with legal assistance to LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers and education. I recently published the most extensive legal research in Sweden so far on the topic. It studies over 2000 individual decisions and court rulings in SOGIESC asylum cases. One of the main conclusions was that the Swedish migration authorities apply stereotypes and other unlawful rejection motivations within the credibility assessments, to deny asylum in SOGIESC asylum cases.

Name: Annamari Vitikainen, Professor of Philosophy & Guest Researcher for Women's and Gender Research
Pronouns: She/her/they

I'm a Professor of Philosophy at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø & Guest Researcher at the Institute for Women's and Gender Research, University of Bergen, Norway with research interests in contemporary political philosophy, social and global justice, and sexuality and gender. In recent years, I have been especially interested in questions of migration, multiculturalism, and minority rights (incl. e.g. indigenous and LGBTQ+ rights), with a specific focus on issues relating to so-called 'minorities within minorities' (such as, e.g. LGBTQ+ refugees).

Name: Willson Tarusarira, Ph.D. Candidate in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Studies at Stellenbosch University
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Willson is a Zimbabwean Refugee who migrated to South Africa in 2009 due to the political situation in his country. He works for PASSOP as the Programmes Manager. Willson is a Ph.D. candidate in Health and Rehabilitation Science at Stellenbosch University (Center for Rehabilitation Studies). His thesis is on disability and migration. He writes on issues

affecting refugee mothers of children living with disabilities in South Africa. His work appears in: The Palgrave Handbook of Disability and Citizenship in the Global South and In Cape Time Newspaper.

Name: Taylor Hirschberg, Professor, researcher, journalist, and humanitarian
Pronouns: He/Him

Taylor Hirschberg is a man with many hats that include researcher at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, alumni at Medicines San Frontiers, and Humanitarian Journalist. Taylor has lived around the world with over 15 years of HIV field and vaccination campaign experience working chiefly with the LGBTQIA+. Currently he is working on opening up an academic research center that focuses on public health interventions that serve LGBTQIA+ displaced persons worldwide.

Instagram is tmhdog @tmhdog

Twitter is: @taylorhirschbe1

Website: www.taylorhirschberg.com

Name: Miriam Gleckman-Krut, Sociology PhD candidate at the University of Michigan
Pronouns: She/Her

Miriam Gleckman-Krut is a Sociology PhD candidate at the University of Michigan (USA). She writes about how, when, and why states or institutions erase evidence of sexual- and/or gender-based violence. She is also a board member at People Against Suffering, Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP). Her work appears in The Annual Review of Sociology and The New York Times.

Name: Patrick Dörr, Board member of the "Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany" (LSVD)
Pronouns: He/his

Patrick Dörr is the Board member of the "Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany" (LSVD), responsible for the topics of asylum and migration. He is the former project manager of the Germany-wide LSVD project "Queer Refugees Deutschland" and author of several articles on queer asylum and refugee accommodation in Germany.

Name: Moud Goba, National Manager for Micro Rainbow, Founding member & Chair of Board of Trustees of UK Black Pride
Pronouns: She/Her

Moud is a lesbian and a refugee in the UK. She is passionate about migration, refugees issues, integration and LGBTQI+ rights. In the past 17 years she has worked and volunteered for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) grassroots organisations in different capacities, from organising and supporting, to managing. Moud currently works as a National Manager for Micro Rainbow, one the leading organisations in the UK supporting LGBTQI migrants. She leads the organisation's safe housing work which provides direct housing support to homeless LGBTI asylum seekers. She oversees the social inclusion, employability and moving on support programs. Moud was one of the founding members of UK Black Pride and is the current Chair of their Board of Trustees. Ms Goba had previously been named as one of the top 100 most influential LGBTI people in the UK by The Independent and was the recipient of an Attitude Pride Award.

Name: Anbid Zaman, Member of the executive board of Aktionsbündnis gegen Homophobie e.V. & Cologne Pride - KLuST e.V.
Pronouns: All pronouns

Anbid is a 25-year-old activist who started their voluntary service in advocating for LGBTQIA+ human rights at 16 in Bangladesh working for Roopbaan, the first-ever LGBTIQ magazine in their country of origin. They've lived in Cologne since 2016 due to their personal security. Anbid is serving on the executive board of Aktionsbündnis gegen Homophobie e. V. since 2017 and at Cologne Pride - KLuST e.V. since 2020. They were a part of the advisory board to SOGICA European research project and worked as a research assistant in Germany. Anbid is an active member of the Global Queer Youth Network and Queer European Asylum Network. They are currently working at Rubicon e. V. as the state expert conceptualizing and providing qualification-trainings on LGBTIQ and migration in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. They are also serving their second mandate in representing LGBTQIA+ youth from the European and Central Asian Region to the ILGA World Youth Steering Committee. They are the President & Chair of the Board of Directors for The Global Center, an NGO that creates freedom through education for LGBTI+ youth globally and was recently awarded the prestigious Diana Award in 2021 for their extensive work in LGBTQIA+ rights globally for the past 10 years of their life.

Name: Kate Wickett, CEO Sydney WorldPride

"Kate studied law and began her career in various legal roles including a one year appointment as Associate to Supreme Court Justice Steven Bailey (NT), and legal positions at Maddocks, Buchanan Group, and Port of Melbourne Corp.

While completing a Master in Business Administration, Kate lectured at University of Melbourne and was a director of Midsumma Festival for just over three years. From there, her career pivoted into corporate leadership including as Partner for Aurecon (NSW and Victoria). She was appointed Project Director for the transformative NSW Government Future Transport project. Kate was then appointed Head of Change and Communications, Better Risk Outcomes Program with Commonwealth Bank.

Kate was co-chair of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras board before stepping down to head up Sydney WorldPride. Her devotion to the LGBTIQ+ community is equaled only by the value she brings to it. Kate has been volunteering for LGBTIQ+ organisations for over 20 years. An outstanding leader, creative thinker, tireless worker, and compassionate human being".

*Name: Akram Kubanychbekov, Senior Advocacy Officer, ILGA-Europe
Pronouns: He/his*

Akram Kubanychbekov is a Senior Advocacy Officer at ILGA-Europe. Akram works on developing and implementing advocacy strategies and policy initiatives aimed at bringing legal, political and social change for LGBTI people across Europe and Central Asia, with a focus on asylum and migration, hate crime and speech, gender-based violence, domestic violence, Eastern Partnership countries, and Central Asia.

Akram holds a Master of Laws degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, UK. Prior to joining ILGA-Europe, Akram worked in the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Central Asia as a Rule of Law Consultant. Since 2008, Akram has been involved in LGBTI activism.

*Name: Frank Mugisha, Executive Director - SMUG (Sexual Minorities Uganda)
He/Him/His*

Frank Mugisha is a prominent advocate for the rights of LGBT persons, a respected champion of Human Rights, and an anti-violence advocate. He founded Icebreakers Uganda, an organization created as a support network for LGBTI Ugandans who are out, or in the process of coming out. He is also the Executive Director of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), the

largest and leading organization of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) movement Uganda. Mugisha's work has been recognized worldwide, including by former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and former United States Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, and was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Defenders Recognition in 2010, as well as the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, the Rafto Prize, and the Cinema for Peace Human Rights Award. In 2021, Frank Mugisha was listed among the most influential LGBTQ activists in Africa by Vogue magazine, He was also listed by Fortune Magazine among the 50 most influential leaders. In 2014 he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Frank Mugisha bravely continues to work for the security, equality and dignity of Uganda's LGBTI community, despite threats to his life. He has given motivational lectures and talks around the world and he has met and influenced world leaders, celebrities and influential persons to fight anti-gay legislations in his country.

Name: Lilith Raza, Project manager 'Queer Refugees Deutschland' Germany
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Lilith is a trans rights activist with migration background. She has been campaigning for the rights of queer refugees and asylum seekers in Germany since 2015. Since November 2017 she has been working for the federal LSVD e.V project "Queer Refugees Deutschland". The aim of the LSVD project "Queer Refugees Germany" is to network the existing structures throughout Germany as well as refugee LGBTI activists and to support them in their work. Lilith together with her colleague provides sensitization workshops to many institutions, refugee centers, federal agencies and other facilities in all 16 federal states of Germany. Other than that, she is executive board member of the "Queers Network NRW eV". She is also co-founder of the "Queer European Asylum Network", where she provides information about the queer refugees and their needs in Germany. She has a degree in environmental science with a focus on climate change and migration in the Kiribati Islands in South Pacific Ocean. She is a member of "Säkulare Flüchtlingshilfe e.V." as well as the advisory board member of "New Women Connectors" in the Netherlands.*

Name: Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
Pronouns: He/Him

In late 2017 the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Mr. Madrigal-Borloz as UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for a three-year period starting on 1 January 2018. Victor Madrigal-Borloz, a Costa Rican jurist, is a senior visiting researcher at the Harvard Law School's Human Rights Program. He will be in residence at Harvard Law School from July 2019 to December 2023. Until June 2019, he served as the Secretary-General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). A member of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture from 2013 to 2016, Mr Madrigal-Borloz was Rapporteur on Reprisals and oversaw a draft policy on the torture and ill-treatment of LGBTI persons. Prior to this he led technical work on numerous cases, reports and testimonies as Head of Litigation and Head of the Registry at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. He has also worked at the Danish Institute for Human Rights (Copenhagen, Denmark) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (San José, Costa Rica). Mr Madrigal-Borloz is a founding member of the Costa Rican Association of International Law (ACODI), a founding Board member of the International Justice Resource Centre (IJRC), and a founding Board member of Synergia-IDH.

Name: Wael Hussein Chamas, Services and protection manager at Helem
Pronouns: He/Him, They/Them.

Wael is a Lebanese agender queer activist and manager of the services and protection department at Helem, for the past five years Wael has been working closely with both the refugee and host LGBTQIA+ communities residing in Lebanon. He currently resides in Beirut with his fiancée and five cats that he considers his primary support system. And I am alright with recording.

Name: Flávia Piovesan, Inter-American Commissioner for Human Rights, Rapporteur for the Rights of People #LGBTI and for USA Bolivia Panama Jamaica
Pronouns: She/Her

Commissioner Flvia Piovesan was elected on June 21, 2017, by the General Assembly of the OAS, for a period of four years which began on January 1, 2018, and ends on December 31, 2021. She has been a professor of Constitutional Law and Human Rights at the Catholic University of São Paulo since 1991. She is also a PhD professor at the University of Buenos Aires, and a professor at the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the American University, in the United States. She conducted postdoctoral research in Harvard Law School, Oxford University and Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, where she studied the regional human right protection systems. She has been a professor of human rights in the post-graduate programs of the Catholic University of Paraná and the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville, Spain. Commissioner Piovesan worked as Special Secretary of Human Rights in Brazil and chaired the National Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labour. She is the author of numerous academic publications and has worked as a consultant for international organizations. She also has given hundreds of lectures and made presentations at universities in several countries. She is a citizen of Brazil.

Name: Eliana Rubashkyn, Programme officer at ILGA World

Eliana was born in Bogotá, Colombia, and has developed studies in the fields of public health and health care administration at Taipei Medical University.

In the public health arena, Eliana has been an advocate for harm reduction, and drug policy reforms in the pacific, integrating the philosophy of harm reduction in the light of human rights and effective public health interventions - in particular with ethnic minorities, people living with HIV, populations at risk, LGBTIQ+ people, and persons living with mental health conditions.

From a stateless refugee background, Eliana was resettled in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2014, since then Eliana started their advocacy work as an intersex activist working alongside the Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand. In 2019 Eliana co-founded Rainbow Path, an organization providing peer support and advocacy to LGBTIQ+ refugees in Aotearoa New Zealand, and co-drafted the Canberra statement together with Forcibly Displaced People's Network of Australia on the access to safety and justice for LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers, refugees, and other forcibly displaced persons.

Eliana currently works as a program officer for ILGA, the largest LGBTIQ association in the world, where they support and develop advocacy campaigns at the UN seeking to advance the state of human rights of minorities nested within the LGBTIQ+ community.

Name: Edwin Simeon Sikot, Human Rights activist & priest of the Evangelical Lutheran church
Pronouns: He/His

Edwin Simeon Sikot is a native of the Luo community in Kenya, and graduated from Onjiko High School in Western Kenya. Then volunteer to join Rural health group because he wished to upgrade the life of the community. He joined St Paul Theological college for a Bachelor of

Arts degree in theology. Edwin is an ordained priest of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Kenya where he has worked as a priest in several Parishes namely, Musoma TZ, Kisii Kenya, and Maseno amongst others. He is a human right activists mainly to the unprivileged persons eg LGBTIQ+, Children and people with mental and physical disabilities.

Edwin is married to Nkuruziza Abubakar a Burundian born, who is still living in Burundi. He is a quota refugee in Sweden who lost everybody in his family because of his sexuality. Before reaching Sweden he went through torture, was jailed and humiliated just because of his sexual orientation. Edwin is a christian and his loving husband is a muslim.

Name: Haris Eloy, Project manager for Newcomers youth, Team leader at RFSL Ungdom
Pronouns: He-Him/They-Them

My own story starts with an escape. I don't "understand" the target group. I am the target group. I came to Sweden as an LGBTQ+ refugee and have experienced the asylum system from within. As an asylum seeker, as rejected, as a work visa applicant. As a migrant worker. I have those experiences within me, but I don't let them define who I am, which is crucial in my work. My passion is creativity, and my firm belief is that inclusion and a sense of belonging in society start with a possibility to tell your story and be heard, accepted, and inspire others. Inclusion is what we strive for, but it has to start with us listening to each other.

Kiki Te Adams, Performing artist, singer, poet and humanitarian
Pronouns: Ze/Hir

Name: Gio, Artist, libyan grassroots movement activist and human right defender.
Pronounce: He / Him

Gio is a libyan artist and grassroots movement activist with several years of experience who experienced persecution due to his activism and sexual orientation and was forcibly displaced to Tunisia. During his time as a refugee in Tunisia, he also experienced second state persecution as LGBTQ+ individual and was jailed before finally being resettled to Sweden under the UNHCR program.

Facilitators:

Name: Bella Stevens, Communications and Development Coordinator at ORAM

Bella Stevens is an anthropologist who is passionate about advocating for and amplifying the voices of displaced communities around the world. Bella has worked for ORAM for the last three years and holds an undergraduate in Cultural Anthropology from Manchester University and a Masters Degree in Cultural Anthropology from Leiden University, in the Netherlands. Her ethnographic research focused on how LGBTIQ Middle Eastern refugees negotiate the asylum procedure, assimilate to new cultural standards and rebuild their lives in Amsterdam.

Name: Karl Yves Vallin, Project Manager at RFSL Malmö and President of the Swedish Federation of LGBTQIA+ students
Pronouns: He/Him

Yves is an human right activist and researcher with the focus of LGBTQ+ individuals. He has conducted research with focus on immigrant entrepreneurship in Sweden and mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals. He holds MSc. in Psychology & MSc. in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Lund University, Sweden.

As an activist, he has been leading various international NGOs both in Asia and Europe. His recent roles include Country Manager of AIESEC in Thailand and Chairperson of P6. Currently he is working as Project Manager at RFSL Newcomers Malmö, an organization

providing legal and psychosocial support for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees in Southern Sweden. He is also taking a role as President of the Swedish Federation of LGBTQIA+ students (Sveriges Förenade HBTQIA+-studenter (SFQ)).

