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# ORGANISING ON THE MARGINS AND BEYOND

Strategies for sustaining trans refugees intersectional movement building and rights advocacy.



# Organising on the margins and beyond

Strategies for sustaining trans refugees intersectional movement building and rights advocacy

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**TGEU** — Trans Europe and Central Asia is a trans-led nonprofit for the rights and wellbeing of trans people in Europe and Central Asia. TGEU represents over 250 member organisations across 50 countries.

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The present document was produced with the greatest care, but does not claim to be complete. We welcome your feedback, comments, questions or suggestions for improvement which you can email to [miles@tgeu.org](mailto:miles@tgeu.org) or [tgeu-trn@tgeu.org](mailto:tgeu-trn@tgeu.org)



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*TGEU (Trans Europe and Central Asia) is  
a trans-led NGO working for the rights and  
wellbeing of trans people since 2005.  
TGEU is an umbrella organisation that represents  
over 200 member organisations in more than  
50 countries in Europe and Central Asia.*

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on trans rights and wellbeing follow us:*



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Egor Burtsev, TraM Baltic  
Oluchukwu Akusinawa, Queer Base  
Louve Zimmermann, Acceptess-T  
Purity Tumukwasibwe, Queerstion Media  
Samira Alila-Hakim, Trans United Europe***

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We are grateful for the feedback provided by TGEU colleagues on earlier drafts of this document.

*Disclaimer: In some instances where only trans is used, please note it also inclusively refers to trans, gender-diverse and non-binary people.*

# Section 1. Introduction

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## Why this resource

This current guide emerges following the publication of *Welcome to Stay*, a pamphlet co-created by TGEU, refugees and allies in 2015 to sensitise and equip local LGBTQ and humanitarian organisations with tools and resources to support many refugees who were arriving in Europe at the time. This document mapped simple but meaningful practices for extending support to refugees and also provided practical and relational ideas on creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for the refugees.

A decade later, these lessons remain relevant, though the landscape has shifted in many dynamic ways . On one side, the legal landscape is increasingly becoming hostile, and on the other and from a movement-building perspective, trans refugees' resistance and community mobilising have strengthened.

Therefore, this publication not only seeks to highlight the gravity of these challenges but, most importantly, to amplify front and centre the agency of refugees who are building communities and collectively organising allies in their host countries and beyond borders.

As part of our ongoing commitment to demarginalising under-represented communities, TGEU has, for the past five years, resourced and supported trans refugee led organising . This work has been done through the Trans Refugee Network (TRN), formed at the height of COVID in late 2020, the network is a proactive response to address the elevated isolation and vulnerabilities that trans refugees experience. The TRN's main aim is to coordinate and galvanise support for trans refugee community engagement and to enhance the collective solidarity for LGBTQ refugee rights advocacy in the region. Over the years, the TRN has become a growing community of practice for over 15 organisations led by or supporting LGBTQ refugees in Europe.

As such, this resource is a labour of shared love and collective wisdom from trans refugee activists and their supportive allies on the ground. It aims to offer strategies, tools, and insights to other trans refugees and partner organisations.

Most importantly, it sets out to equip those who want to step up and support, but may be unsure where or how to start, while also inspiring ways to collaborate with refugees at the centre. It is not a prescriptive manual, but a living document and an open invitation to reflect on these richly diverse insights, build on and put them into practice.

## Why this matters

It is evidently clear that the road ahead is far from smooth. In the face of rising anti-trans and anti-refugee sentiments, and within a hostile EU migration legislative framework, the lived realities for many LGBTI refugees remain concerning.

Trans and gender-diverse people seeking asylum, experience high levels of violence, trauma, and neglect. This can happen before, during, and even after their journey. Some flee their countries because of criminalisation, persecution by state actors, violence and ostracisation by families. When they arrive in Europe, they hope to find safety, dignity, and the freedom to live as themselves. Unfortunately, many trans and gender-diverse asylum seekers still face suspicion, discrimination, and policies that do not recognise the reality of their lives. Instead of protection, they often face more barriers, including unsafe living conditions, lack of access to relevant healthcare, and systems that do not respect their gender identities.

The European Union (EU) has promised to protect the basic rights of everyone within its borders, including non-citizens. These rights include the right to dignity, the right to asylum, and the right to be free from discrimination. However, in practice, these promises are not always respected. For example, the recent changes to EU asylum laws, known as the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) reform, create an even more hostile situation for asylum seekers. These policies call for faster asylum procedures at borders, more surveillance, and stricter rules for obtaining protection. For trans and gender-diverse people, this often means less time to explain their story, fewer chances to appeal a decision, and a higher risk of being held in unsafe conditions.

While trans refugees are asserting their agency, reclaiming space, and speaking out against these injustices, they cannot do it alone. If there is one thing we have learned, visibility alone is not enough, and working in silos weakens social justice movements. The work of resisting oppression demands that we organise collectively and sustainably, creating and sharing resources, tools, and radical care across communities and borders.

What we can do now and must do well is to be intentional about building collective power to confront all forms of oppression and to nurture diverse communities centering the experiences of the further marginalised. As the philosophy of Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us,

**"All life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."**

For those ready to resist and who dare to reimagine what radical solidarity and inclusive movements centering those most impacted could look like, these are exciting times.



# Section 2. Understanding asylum and refugee status for trans people

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## The difference between asylum seekers and refugees

An asylum seeker is a person who has applied for asylum in a country and is waiting for the decision. A refugee is a person who has already been given refugee status. This means that they do not have to live in uncertainty anymore: they can stay in the country and have roughly the same rights as citizens.

A trans person is entitled to refugee status if they were or would be persecuted in their home country because of their gender identity or gender expression and either cannot or are too scared to ask for protection from the authorities there. Persecution can consist of imprisonment, physical or sexual violence, or torture at the hands of police, family, or strangers. Asylum seekers may also obtain refugee status if they have suffered serious discrimination over an extended period of time. Some trans people need asylum because they were vocal activists in their home country, which led to persecution.

## What rights do trans asylum seekers and refugees have in Europe?

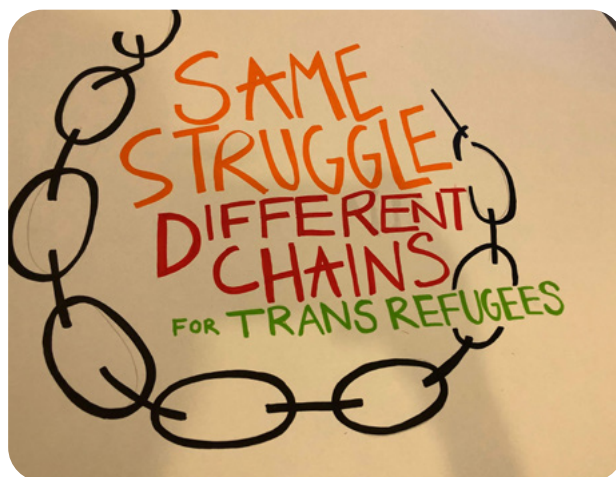
The UNHCR, the UN body that focuses on asylum, has guidelines on how countries should welcome LGBTI asylum seekers and make decisions about their cases. The Council of Europe has also made many recommendations to European countries, for instance, that they should protect LGBTI asylum seekers from physical, sexual, or verbal abuse. You can always mention these guidelines, recommendations, and rights in your advocacy work. You can find them at [tgeu.org/asylum](https://tgeu.org/asylum).

Asylum seekers and refugees might face different realities, but on paper, they have the same rights in every member state. For instance, asylum seekers have the right to go to school if they are under 18 or have a place to live. Refugees have the right to, among many other things, a residence permit.



# Section 3. The situation of trans asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented people in Europe

Trans asylum seekers, refugees, and undocumented people in Europe face compounding risks of racialised and gendered violence. Discrimination is rising, and deadly attacks are increasingly targeting those already navigating displacement. The data puts their realities into stark perspective: the TGEU trans murders monitoring 2023 reported that nearly half (45%) of trans people murdered in Europe, whose migration background is known, were migrants or refugees.<sup>1</sup> Below we highlight some of these specific experiences.



The lived realities of diverse trans refugees in Europe.

## Traumatising path to settlement

Many trans refugees flee their home countries because of persecution, war, or life-threatening danger linked to their gender identity or expression. The journey to Europe is often perilous, with risks including unsafe transport, exposure to violence, and lack of basic necessities. Upon arrival, systemic and social barriers such as discrimination, police harassment, and bureaucratic delays create immediate challenges to safety, legal recognition, and access to services.

## Intersectional discrimination and societal violence

Trans refugees face overlapping oppressions due to their gender identity, migration status, and race in the case of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities. Growing anti-gender and anti-migrant movements increase exposure to verbal, physical, and sexual violence in public spaces.

The TGEU Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM, 2023) revealed that 80% of trans individuals affected by racism were victims of reported murders, a 15% increase from the previous year. Furthermore, the FRA 2022 survey, *Being Black in the EU—Experiences of People of African Descent (POAD)*, found that 45% of people of African descent in the EU experienced racial discrimination, up from 39% in 2016.<sup>2</sup> These statistics paint the stark picture of the intersecting oppressions experienced by trans refugees.

<sup>1</sup> Trans Europe and Central Asia (TGEU), *Trans Murder Monitoring Global Update (2023)*

<sup>2</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), *Being Black in the EU – Experiences of People of African Descent (2023)*

**"Intersectional discrimination in public spaces, shelters, and workplaces often forces people into unsafe situations, including survival sex work or exploitative labor, due to the lack of protection, rights, and safe housing. Many BIPOC trans refugees and undocumented people face severe poverty, unstable or no housing, unemployment, and exclusion from social welfare systems. Fear of being outed and lack of safe spaces lead to isolation, while homelessness and unsafe housing environments increase the risk of violence and exploitation... Without tackling systemic racism, transphobia, and restrictive healthcare barriers, this community will remain one of the most marginalised and endangered in Europe."**

**Samira Alila-Hakim, Trans United Europe, Netherlands.**

**"Another major challenge in France for trans refugees is access to justice and support for victims of transphobic violence and crimes, particularly in the context of sex work. Such support is virtually non-existent outside of community organisations today."**

**Louve Zimmermann, Acceptess-T, France.**

**"Whereas our LGBTQ peers face discrimination on the basis of being queer or LGBT, we face discrimination because we are black, queer, and then also refugees. This is a burden we bear in society and the challenge we have to navigate as activists even within some queer spaces."**

**Oluchukwu Akusinawa, Queer Base, Austria.**

## **Unemployment and lack of stable income**

Owing to experiences of multiple and interlocking oppressions such as racism, transphobia, and xenophobia, trans refugees and asylum seekers face significant barriers to securing employment or accessing social welfare benefits. Poverty, precarious work, and unsafe housing reinforce vulnerability, while lack of safe spaces limits community connection.

**"...legislation puts people at risk by indirectly criminalising sex work, making it increasingly difficult to obtain refugee or asylum seeker status, and heightening the threat of deportation (or Obligation de Quitter le Territoire Français, or the Obligation to Leave French Territory - (OQTF)."** Louve.

## **Language barriers**

Being in a new country often requires learning a foreign language, which can be a barrier to education, accessing services, and participating fully in the host country's economic and community life. Yet for many trans people, accessing safer refuge and LGBTQ-sensitised schools is a challenge.

**"Many members of our communities struggle to settle in host countries because of systemic and intersecting barriers, including the challenge of learning a new language and difficulties accessing employment."**

**Purity Tumukwasibwe, Queerstion Media, Sweden.**

**"Our focus is on Russian-speaking migrants, and this is where the problem lies. Not all of us speak English fluently, unlike many other migrants,"**

**Egor Burtsev, Trans Migrants in Baltic States, -TraM Baltic**

## **Housing insecurity**

Secure housing and official registration are foundational to survival and integration. Registration is required to access healthcare, legal protections, and social benefits. While asylum seekers are often housed in migration centres, in some instances there is a lack of sensitisation for reception centre staff and little regard for trans people's needs, as they are often placed in accommodation based on their gender assigned at birth. For those with refugee status, they face discrimination from landlords, opaque bureaucracies, and institutional racism. Lack of stable housing and registration reinforces vulnerability, limits social participation, and can force people into unsafe living arrangements.

**"Poverty and homelessness are major challenges for trans and gender-diverse refugees, since the majority of us lack the financial means or reliable income to be able to afford rent." Purity Tumukwasibwe, Queerstion Media**

## **Lack of access to trans-specific healthcare**

Accessing trans-specific healthcare is critical for trans people. Yet for asylum seekers, structural barriers persist as most states do not offer trans-specific healthcare provisions or legal gender recognition for those still in the asylum system. For those with refugee status, barriers include long waiting times for trans-specific healthcare, closed clinic registration lists, and insufficient culturally competent providers, which exacerbate health risks, particularly for undocumented people.

**"Many resort to unregulated hormone use or unsafe procedures, which increases vulnerability to physical and mental health complications. Integrated sexual health services are also largely inaccessible, even though trans refugees face elevated risks of HIV/STIs."**

**Louve Zimmermann, Acceptess-T**

**"Migrants in Barcelona face more difficulties to register in the city hall system. Without city registration there is no access to public health or hormone treatment. We become invisible to the system and vulnerable."**

**Chebi Bouroncle, ACATHI**

**"Long waiting times for gender-affirming care in the Netherlands, closed clinic registration lists, and absence of culturally competent providers particularly harm refugees and undocumented people."**

**Samira Alila-Hakim, Trans United Europe**

**"We face major difficulties with medical commissions and obtaining transgender status or hormone therapy. HIV-service organizations in the Baltics are completely uninterested in communication and simply do not respond to our messages."**

**Egor Burtsev, TraM Baltic**

## **Asylum claims rejection and being undocumented**

Those whose asylum claims are rejected or who have irregular migration status live in perpetual limbo, without knowing what the future holds. They cannot safely return to the countries from which they fled persecution, nor can they fully stay and work in their host country, which treats them as irregular and undocumented. Undocumented trans people live in fear and anxiety, and often without access to housing, healthcare, or employment. This situation increases vulnerability and heightens the risk of abuse and exploitation.

**"When I was in the asylum process and my case was denied the first time, it made me very sad. No one runs away from a place where they are safe and free. I had fled my country where I was not wanted and in danger, and here in Austria I was not trusted and was being rejected. This gave me mental stress and made me question my existence."**

**Oluchukwu Akusinawa, Queer Base Austria**

## **The heightened insecurities and vulnerability of trans asylum seekers and undocumented**

All of the aforementioned factors leave trans asylum seekers and undocumented people highly vulnerable to attacks, trafficking, health problems, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation.

**"TGEU's Trans Murder Monitoring report of 2024 indicates that the biggest percentage of trans murders are black trans persons with an immigration background, and so this is our community. The safety of our communities is never guaranteed with the huge rise of anti-refugee and anti-gender movements." Purity.**

**"We cannot return to our countries, which means we have no possibility at all to change our gender markers and names. Legalisation in our countries of origin (Belarus and Russia) is extremely difficult, sometimes even impossible, even after 10 years of residence, due to the political situation. For example, in Lithuania, citizens of our countries cannot obtain citizenship at all due to the president's veto. For cis people this may be bearable, but for trans people from Belarus and Russia, having another citizenship is absolutely critical in order to change legal gender markers. Because of this and our migrant status, we face barriers to employment." Egor.**

# Section 4. From margins to centre

Community, solidarity building and collective care are the cornerstones of collective organising. Trans refugees are proactively building communities and strengthening networks of care. Such self-led organising enables trans refugees to articulate their needs and claim their rights. Furthermore, collaborating with allies strengthens support systems that enhance visibility and impact. This section therefore provides a comprehensive guide for trans refugees, offering clear, actionable steps for collective organising, empowerment, and rights advocacy initiatives. Below we present case studies of five inspiring trans refugee-led organising initiatives, which are also part of the TGEU Trans Refugee Network. The resilience and commitment of these groups to serving their communities attests to their ability to transform challenges into collective action despite systemic barriers and marginalisation. In addition, this section provides some key strategies and suggestions for refugees community building and collective organising.

## Highlights of trans refugee self-organising

### ACATHI, Spain

Started over 20 years ago by a group of LGBT migrant folks, all cisgender gay men from Chile, Peru, and Argentina, who gathered during leisure activities to discuss the ups and downs of being a migrant in Spain. Formally presented in a national LGBT forum in 2002, establishing alliances with diverse strategic organisations.



ACATHI members attending a community meeting.

#### Key services and activities:

- LGBT specialised housing program.
- Work insertion program for trans people, building labour networks and community.
- Program providing support for trans people in prison facing hormone treatment issues and violence.

#### Impact in action:

- Providing employment opportunities to refugees and migrants.
- Housing programme prioritises the most marginalised LGBTQ refugees, offering secure shelter to trans women.

**"What I can say after analysing the difficult global situation is that when you have a supportive community and opportunities for empowerment and collective organising in the host country, there is still hope to build a different life from scratch." Chebi Bouroncle**

#### Contact:

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website: [acathi.org](http://acathi.org)

## Acceptess-T, France

Is a community health organisation led by and dedicated to trans people, based in Paris, France. Founded by three migrant trans women in 2010, primarily serving migrant trans women from Latin America, North Africa, and Eastern Europe, including sex workers.



Opening ceremony of the House of Irises. Credit Max Pelgrims

### Key services and activities:

- Global support addressing HIV/AIDS, access to health services, documents, emergency and medium-term housing.
- Legal protection against violence, financial security, professional training, and employment.
- Advocacy for public health recognition and access to gender recognition on legal documents.

### Impact in action:

- Opened four housing facilities in 2025: for young trans adults, aging and or isolated trans people, trans people in severe financial and or admin precariousness, and an emergency shelter.
- Total of 15 housing spots and nine hotel rooms for short-term shelter, impacting Parisian trans communities

**"Acceptess-T was created as a response to the daily discriminations, harassment and violences faced by our community globally and particularly inside the health and legal systems, but also to the invisibility of trans communities in public health policies, especially trans people practicing sex work or living with HIV." Louve Zimmermann.**

### Contact:

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website: [Acceptess-T](https://acceptess-t.com)



## Queerstion Media, Sweden

Established in 2017 for with and by Black and People of Colour trans and gender-diverse refugees. Queerstion media aims to strengthen the rights, visibility, and wellbeing of BPoC trans and gender diverse refugees and asylum seekers in Sweden.



A Queerstion Media member receiving a certificate after completing a leadership training for trans refugees in Stockholm

### Key services and activities:

- Knowledge creation and empowerment of BPoC refugees to curate and amplify their own narratives leveraging creative and alternative media.
- Co-creates braver spaces for engagement and collective care for refugees.
- Collective solidarity strengthening and advocacy for systemic change in migration, legal protection, and access to essentials (work, healthcare, housing).

### Impact in action:

- Conducted groundbreaking community participatory research documenting lived experiences of trans and gender-diverse refugees in Sweden, released in 2025 with actionable recommendations for stakeholders.

**"We believe that this comprehensive report and its findings will be a conversational starter to policy changes and restructuring our programs to meet the exact needs of our communities as well as to ignite an urgency among donors to fund our most underfunded community."**

**Purity Tumukwasibwe.**

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website: [www.queerstion.org](http://www.queerstion.org)



## Trans United Europe, Netherlands

A Netherlands-based grassroots organisation led by people with refugee or migrant backgrounds, supporting trans refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented people.

### Key services and activities:

- Community-led clinic providing trans-specific healthcare, psychosocial support, and safe spaces
- QueerWork project supporting employment and education for LGBTIQ+ status holders
- Advocacy amplifying voices of BIPOC trans people in social, political, and healthcare spaces

### Impact in action:

- Received the Roze Lieverdje award in 2022 for community-led gender-affirming care and advocacy
- QueerWork project: 65% of 50 participants supported into employment or education

**"This achievement demonstrates how our holistic approach addresses not only healthcare but also socio-economic inclusion, which is critical for the stability and empowerment of LGBTIQ+ status holders in the Netherlands." Samira.**

### Contact:

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website: [transunitedeurope.eu](https://transunitedeurope.eu)

To learn more about QueerWork, please visit [queerwork.eu](https://queerwork.eu)

## TraM Baltic, Baltic states

Formed by trans migrants in the Baltic States, fleeing political repression in Belarus and Russia and the invasion of Ukraine. Seeks to create supportive communities and access gender transition and medical care.

### Key services and activities:

- Provides community support and communication opportunities.
- Facilitate access to gender transition and medical care.

### Impact in action:

- Developed Medical Access Guides in Russian for each Baltic country.

**"These resources are highly valued not only within our own community, but also by other migrants and even the local transgender communities." Egor.**

### Contact:

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## **Further suggestions for community building**

These recommendations below highlight ways trans refugees can strengthen collective organising and solidarity, using their existing capacities and knowledge. They focus on refugee self-organising and collective mobilising with allies while respecting local context and lived experiences.

### **Establish peer support groups:**

Create safe spaces for sharing experiences, challenges, and successes and to promote wellbeing and collective care.

### **Host community workshops:**

Skill-building in advocacy, legal rights, navigating the asylum process and being undocumented.

### **Create resource-sharing platforms:**

Share legal assistance, housing options, and mental health services.

### **Facilitate dialogue circles:**

Regular meetings with community members and allies to identify challenges and goals.

### **Engage with allies:**

Build relationships with supportive organisations and individuals to strengthen social capital and networks of care for trans refugees

### **Develop advocacy campaigns:**

Collaboratively address community-specific issues via campaigns, events, or social media outreach.

### **Participate in larger movements:**

Connect with and engage in intersecting and broader social justice movements to build collective solidarity and visibility.

### **Promote Intersectional movement building:**

Recognise and embrace diverse lived identities and realities within your community and amplify their visibility and rights.

### **Document and share experiences:**

Encourage sharing of lived and learnt expertise and journeys in order to raise awareness, connect and inspire others.

# Section 5. Becoming allies to trans refugees

Building on the trans refugee-led organising initiatives outlined in Section 3, allies play a crucial role in supporting and amplifying these efforts. Responsible allyship involves not only listening to the intersecting struggles and experiences of LGBTQ refugees but also actively engaging in efforts that amplify their rights and wellbeing and promote their organising. In this section, we outline essential principles useful to guide your engagements, whether you are supporting individuals or communities. First, we start with the overall principles, which are then further amplified in detail in the section on solidarity building.

## **Key principles of responsible allyship**

### **Intentionality about intersectionality**

Acknowledge the intersecting identities of refugees, such as race, class, sexuality, and disability. Understand that trans refugees may face compounded discrimination based on these identities. Develop tailored support that considers these complexities and challenges, ensuring that all individuals receive equitable access to resources.

### **Listen and learn**

Engage with trans and gender diverse refugees to understand their experiences and needs. Create spaces for them to share their stories and provide feedback on support services. Educate yourself and your organisation about their specific lived experiences.

### **Co-create braver/safer spaces**

Create welcoming and inclusive environments for trans refugees, free from discrimination and harassment. Implement training for staff and volunteers to sensitise them to the specific needs of trans individuals. Ensure that facilities are safe and accessible, including gender-neutral bathrooms and private spaces for consultations.

### **Uphold dignity and autonomy**

Respect the identities, pronouns, and lived realities of individuals. Ensure that services are tailored to meet their needs without imposing your views or assumptions. Empower refugees by facilitating opportunities for leadership and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

### **Collaborate with trans-led organisations**

Create partnerships with trans refugee-led organisations to ensure that your efforts align with their priorities and strategies. Co-create programmes and resources that reflect their insights and expertise. Share resources, funding, and networks with trans-led organisations to amplify their capacity and impact.

### **Offer holistic support services**

Recognise the diverse needs of trans refugees and offer a range of services, including legal assistance, mental health support, housing, and healthcare. Establish connections with local service providers who are experienced in working with trans individuals to enhance the support network.

## Advocate for refugee inclusive policies

Use your platform to advocate for policies that protect and promote the rights of trans and gender diverse refugees. This includes lobbying for inclusive asylum processes and anti-discrimination laws. Work towards creating an intersectional approach in your advocacy that considers refugees' various identities and experiences.



TRN members taking part in discussions during the annual planning session in Malta. Photo credit: Miles Tanhira

## Solidarity in action: working with and supporting trans refugees

The following good practices are drawn from the experiences of TGEU TRN groups actively working with and alongside trans refugees in their countries. Over the past years, these ten organisations have dedicated themselves to working with and supporting LGBTI refugees. Below we highlight some good practices shared by these organisations. These strategies prioritise visibility, collective care, and the responsible use of tools and resources, while always centering safety, consent, and the agency of the communities they serve. The insights shared here are intended as a practical guide for others seeking to learn from and build upon these collaborative approaches developed on the ground.

### *Ylberofilia, Albania*

Provides a checkpoint for information and support for LGBTQ+ refugees and anyone in need of safety and belonging.

#### **Support offered:**

- Legal and administrative guidance, emotional care, community support
- Social and cultural gatherings, food, clothing, showers, and hygiene support

#### **Word of wisdom:**

**"One major lesson we've learned is that refugees don't come as tourists, they arrive after surviving hardship and trauma... This hard truth has shaped our mission to ensure basic human rights are met: food, showers, clothing, and emotional guidance."** Luana

#### **Contacts:**

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website: [ylberofilia.org](http://ylberofilia.org)

## Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO, Armenia

Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO works for trans and LGBQ refugee communities by centering their lived experiences and actively involving them in our programming. They support displaced individuals from Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Nagorno-Karabakh who face persecution due to war, political repression, and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

### Support offered:

- Free legal aid, psychological counselling, health support (including referrals for hormone therapy and STI/HIV testing), and access to a safe community space.
- Empowerment trainings, leadership seminars, cultural awareness campaigns, and refugee-led advocacy initiatives.

### ALLYSHIP SPOTLIGHT: *Pride month roundtable and community awards ceremony*

In June 2025, Right Side NGO held a *Pride Month roundtable* dubbed *Celebrating Pride Month Together*. This event was attended by over 50 participants, including LGBTIQ+ individuals, allies, and civil society partners. This event featured a panel of LGBTIQ+ migrants sharing experiences of repression, displacement, and integration challenges. Furthermore, they also hosted a community-led awards ceremony recognising key leaders, which also included refugee activists.

### Word of wisdom:

**"Sustainable impact comes when refugee voices are centered, trust is built, and public visibility is matched with private support. LGBTQ+ refugee communities deserve not just protection, but celebration, investment, and power." Lilit.**

### Contacts:

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Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter [@rightsidengo](https://www.instagram.com/rightsidengo)

## Federation Prisme, Belgium

Coordinates with its member organisations and partners, such as the Rainbow Refugee Committee, to enhance efforts to provide practical assistance and policy advocacy support to LGBTQ refugees in Belgium. Federation Prisme recently issued *a report* presenting an overview of the current situation of the reception of LGBTQ refugees in Belgium, with a number of recommendations. This report is in French and was prepared by consulting with a number of organisations working with and including some that are led by refugees.

### Services offered:

- Practical and social support: Social and psychological support, socialisation activities, and guidance for preparing administrative interviews, working with individuals rather than groups.
- Legal and administrative support: Assistance with documentation, defending asylum cases, and navigating access to refugee services and rights.

### Word of wisdom:

**"There is an immense need, especially considering the evolution of European and national politics regarding immigration. The access conditions are becoming more and more difficult. Be aware of legislative changes and how they will affect LGBTQ refugees. Since the task is huge, it's crucial to join forces and create networks of collaborating associations."**

**Federation Prisme.**

**Contacts:**

Since Prisme does not offer firstline services/support, you can take a look at their AIR tool/site [Arc-en-Ciel International Rainbow](#) (AIR) tool/site available in French and English.

### **Loisto Settlementti - SOPU unit , Finland**

SOPU, is a unit within Loisto Settlementti which works to prevent honour-related violence and supports LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers in Finland. They centre refugee voices, creating safe, culturally grounded spaces for participation and leadership. Their work combines direct support, community events, and research collaborations to amplify refugee perspectives.

**Support offered:**

- One-on-one support, peer and group activities, and safe community events for LGBTQ+ refugees.
- Research collaborations and advocacy to highlight refugee experiences in settlement services and public policy.

**Allyship spotlight:**

Since 2017, SOPU has supported the Queer Ramadan Iftar, an initiative that emerged when trans and non-binary refugees expressed that Ramadan was a time of isolation and loneliness. Many felt punished by the loss of family or community and had no safe place to celebrate. The Queer Iftar was created as a collective response to this need, offering a space where LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers could observe Ramadan together without fear.

SOPU has consistently supported this initiative by securing venues, covering costs, and ensuring safety. Refugee participants continue to shape the programme, bringing their traditions and experiences to the centre. Over time, the Queer Iftar has grown into a community tradition of care, resilience, and belonging. Its impact is both personal, providing affirmation during a vulnerable time and structural, as it demonstrates the importance of refugee-led, culturally grounded spaces.

**Word of wisdom:**

**"Create safe, culturally relevant spaces and let refugees shape what happens there. Listen before acting, and invest in long-term partnerships rather than short-term projects." Hassen Hnini.**

**Contacts:**

email: [loisto@loistosetlementti.fi](mailto:loisto@loistosetlementti.fi)  
website: [loistosetlementti.fi](http://loistosetlementti.fi)

### **Emantes, Greece**

Support with inclusive services to LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, with a focus on TGNC rights, intersectional inequalities, and advocacy through community-led initiatives. Works with local and international networks to deliver support and amplify refugee voices.

**Support offered:**

- Provides basic needs support, including food, hygiene products, and access to a free market model.
- Offers legal, psychosocial, and community-building services, plus paid leadership pathways for TGNC refugees.





Emantes members during a community gathering

**Word of wisdom:**

**"Actively collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from grassroots groups to policymakers. Strong alliances amplify impact, extend reach, and help address intersectional needs through complementary expertise and resources."** Eleni and Sophia

**Contacts:**

email: [info.emantes@gmail.com](mailto:info.emantes@gmail.com)

Instagram: [@emantes\\_lgbtqia\\_solidarity](https://www.instagram.com/emantes_lgbtqia_solidarity)

## Trans Inter Queer (TrIQ), Germany

Provides support and psycho-social counselling to trans, inter, and non-binary refugees, embedding lived experience in programme delivery. The organisation offers empowerment events and group networking to strengthen confidence and community. TrIQ is a team of counsellors with lived experiences in trans, intersex and non-binary topics.

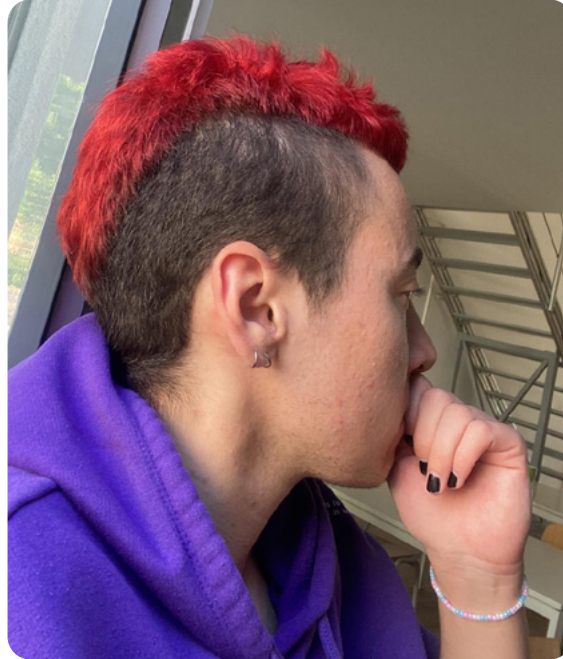
**Support offered:**

- Support and counselling around gender identity, sexual orientation, variations in sex characteristics, discrimination, self-determined medical interventions, and legal gender recognition. Counselling is free of cost, confidential and anonymous if you wish, and the outcome is open-ended.
- Organises group meetings for exchange, networking, and empowerment events.

**Word of wisdom:**

**"One of the greatest challenges LGBTQIA+ refugees face upon arrival is the ability to express themselves clearly and access services. This can be addressed by creating a pool of volunteer and professional interpreters to provide timely language support and ensure that services are accessible to refugees regardless of their linguistic background."** Evi Gümüşsoy.





A member of TrIQ captured in a moment of reflection.

**Contacts:**

email: [refugees@transinterqueer.org](mailto:refugees@transinterqueer.org)

website: [www.transinterqueer.org](http://www.transinterqueer.org)

Instagram [@triq\\_tin\\_refugees](https://www.instagram.com/triq_tin_refugees)

### *Organisation for Refugees, Asylum and Migration (ORAM), Germany*

ORAM protects and empowers LGBTIQ asylum seekers and refugees globally, supporting them along displacement routes and in transit countries. Their work spans three programmatic areas: Protection (basic needs and emergency housing), Empowerment (self-reliance and dignity), and Sustaining the Sector (strengthening LGBTIQ inclusion in humanitarian responses). They collaborate with Berlin-based organisations and regional partners across Central and Eastern Europe to deliver holistic, trauma-informed services.

**Support offered:**

- Protection and economic empowerment: Collaborates with Berlin-based organisations to provide direct support, safe spaces, and resources for LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers.
- Advocacy and policy work: Partners with organisations across Central and Eastern Europe to deliver trainings, share expertise, and strengthen regional advocacy for LGBTIQ refugee rights.
- Sector strengthening and collaboration: Works in partnership across programmes to build organisational capacity, coordinate services, and ensure sustainable, impactful support for refugee communities.

**Allyship spotlight:**

ORAM collaborated with Equal PostOst (European Queer Alliance of PostOst Community) an organisation working to support LGBTIQ persons from PostOst countries and based in Berlin. The term PostOst here refers to people who come from the region referred to as 'post-Soviet countries'. Through this partnership they provide accommodation through the ORAM Airbnb programme. An example of the clients assisted are those relocating to Europe through humanitarian visas that they help organise. This emergency relocation is to assist those coming from countries like Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.

**Word of wisdom:**

**"Create inclusive digital or physical spaces where trauma informed assistance is offered. Concentrate on offering safe emergency housing as there is a big need for this. Train all staff on inclusive practices and cultural competences in case management support." Camille Ogoti.**

**Contacts:**

email: [help@oramrefugee.org](mailto:help@oramrefugee.org)

website: [www.oramrefugee.org/our-work](http://www.oramrefugee.org/our-work)

### **Trans Autonomija, Lithuania**

The organisation provides culturally and linguistically tailored support to trans migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, focusing on information access, referrals, and community engagement.

**Support offered:**

- Development of multilingual information packages covering healthcare, legal rights, and local LGBTQ+ support services; organising and referring to community events in Vilnius and Kaunas.
- Referrals to trans-friendly specialists, guidance on accessing trans-specific healthcare, and connections to material support including housing and legal aid.

**Word Of wisdom:**

**"Consult trans refugees directly and partner with migrant/refugee organisations allyship means knowing when to step back, listen, and refer someone to better-equipped groups while building your own capacity." Ajus Jurgaitis.**

**Contacts:**

email: [transautonomija@gmail.com](mailto:transautonomija@gmail.com)

website: [transautonomija.lt/en/](http://transautonomija.lt/en/)

### **Rainbow Migration, United Kingdom**

Provides legal, practical, and emotional support to LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum in the UK, embedding lived experience in all aspects of its work. Its Executive Director, a former refugee, co-produces a Refugee Advisory Panel that informs all programmes. They coordinate an email group of other organisations that provide support to LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum. Rainbow Migration has also collaborated in the setting up of the ILGA-Europe asylum email group.

**Support offered:**

- Mutual referral pathways for services with other organisations working with LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum such as African Rainbow Family, Micro Rainbow and Rainbow Home.
- Legal advice and guidance on asylum applications, plus practical and emotional support including access to housing, healthcare, and other services.
- Support groups for men, women, and trans people, and wellbeing activities.



Rainbow migration team and members taking part in a solidarity march.

#### Allyship spotlight:

Rainbow Migration works collaboratively with diverse partners to advance LGBTQI+ refugee rights. Their policy aim for the UK government is to revoke current 'safe state' designations, which are frequently unsafe for LGBTQI+ people.

#### Some of their notable actions include:

- Collaborating with the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA) to publish a briefing on unsafe designations, influencing MPs and Peers to challenge these in Parliament.
- Publishing a joint report with Asylas highlighting disparities between the government's position on Georgia and its own Country Policy Information Note (CPIN) on Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE), prompting the Home Office to update its CPIN.
- Coordinating a joint sector-wide statement after the UK Supreme Court ruling and Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) interim guidance, urging the government to uphold trans rights and protections.

#### Word of wisdom:

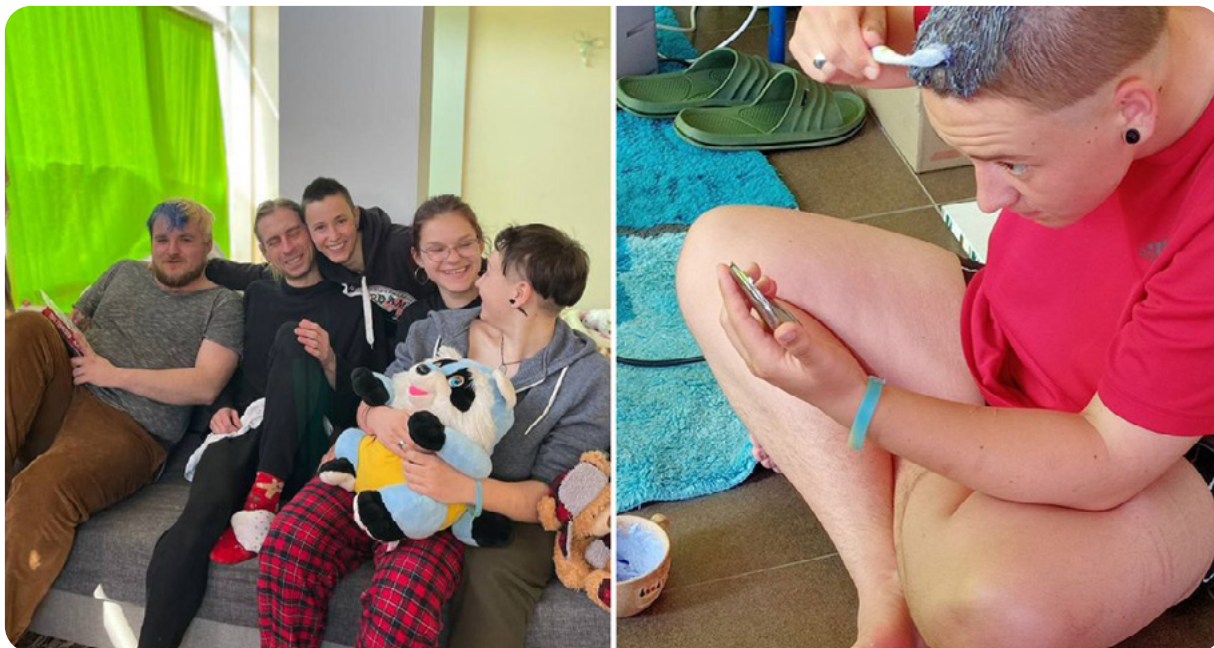
**"Incorporate refugees lived expertise and leadership from the start. Build broad coalitions by identifying overlapping priorities, and collaborate with similar initiatives to share resources, coordinate support, and avoid duplication."** Lauren

#### Contacts:

email: [hello@rainbowmigration.org.uk](mailto:hello@rainbowmigration.org.uk)  
website: [www.rainbowmigration.org.uk](http://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk)

## Insight NGO, Ukraine

Supports shelters in Chernivtsi and Lviv for LGBTIQ people affected by the Russian invasion, with a focus on trans people who are internally displaced. They provide safe accommodation, psychosocial support, and facilitate access to legal, medical, and gender-affirming services. Their approach integrates individualised care with broader advocacy for rights and inclusion.



Residents at INSIGHT's shelter. Photo by Olena Hryhoryak

### Support offered:

- Free accommodation, hygiene, food, medications, and essential personal items for trans internally displaced people.
- Referrals to legal, medical, and psychological services; support with HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) access and documentation processes.

### Word Of wisdom:

**"Establish safe, non-judgemental spaces where trans people can be themselves is essential. Support must combine immediate care with advocacy to ensure their rights and dignity are upheld." Inna Iryskina**

### Contact:

email: [hello@insight-ukraine.org](mailto:hello@insight-ukraine.org)  
website: [www.insight-ukraine.org](http://www.insight-ukraine.org)

## TraM Baltic: Trans Migrants in the Baltic States, Baltic region

Provides community-led support to Russian-speaking trans refugees and migrants, focusing on medical access, social support, and empowerment in ways that are culturally and linguistically relevant.

**Services offered:** refer to page 16.

### Contacts:

email: [trambaltic@gmail.com](mailto:trambaltic@gmail.com)



## TGEU Trans Refugee Network (TRN), Europe

Formed in 2020, TRN is a TGEU coordinated network of trans refugee-led organisations and activists working across Europe. The network now has over 15 members. Its main activities include holding three virtual meetings each year in collaboration with allies and partners, as well as hosting an annual retreat for trans refugees.



TGEU staff and TRN members attending the annual planning retreat in Malta. Photo credit: Miles Tanhira

### Support offered:

- Capacity building: TRN strengthens organisational capacity, offering training, consultations, and support to smaller grassroots groups and activists working with trans refugees.
- Policy and advocacy support: TRN coordinates strategic advocacy at national and EU levels, supporting consultations, policy work, and grant applications.
- Networking and learning platform: TRN creates spaces for grassroots trans refugee-led organisations to connect, exchange tools, and strengthen collective responses to discrimination, exclusion, and displacement.
- Evidence-based research: TRN generates research and insights to inform advocacy, programming, and policy, highlighting lived experiences of trans refugees in Europe.

### Allyship spotlight:

- In 2021, in addition to securing funding for the Trans Refugee Network's rights, empowerment, and advocacy activities, TGEU collaborated with TRN members Emantes, in consultation with the Transgender Support Association (GTSA), on a project supporting TGNC refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. With TGEU as fiscal host, the 18-month project ran smoothly, focusing on direct support and advocacy.
- To date, TRN has organised three annual retreats for trans refugees and allies to engage, strategise, and build community. A major highlight includes the Refugee Rights Advice and Empowerment Retreat in 2024, which engaged 12 trans-feminine refugees. During this meeting, TRN members provided support and contributed to the co-creation of the Trans Alliance Athens (TAA), the first collective for and by trans-feminine refugees of colour in Greece. The retreat enabled participants to strategise, share experiences, and strengthen community networks, while fostering leadership and collective empowerment. In addition, the network continues to support members through virtual meetings, a mailing list, and ongoing advocacy initiatives. Network members who are trans refugees also

participated in a Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) advocacy conference in the Belgian Parliament in 2024 to raise awareness of the situation of trans refugees and engage with Members of Parliament, Senators, and other civil society organisations.

- In addition, the network conducts three virtual meetings per year for members and strategic allies to deliberate on topical areas of interest, and runs a mailing list to keep members connected and informed on network activities and relevant updates.
- Trans refugees from TRN have taken up leadership roles, including positions on the TGEU Board, as well as other leading positions in the movement. Most have also been selected to participate in TGEU flagship programmes such as Transfeminine Leaders Academy and Fundraising Empowerment Programme.

#### Word of wisdom:

**"At a time when the criminalisation of solidarity for refugees is intensifying across Europe, it is important that we build intersectional and strategic alliances with other movements to exchange ideas and good practices. We also need data and research to centre the expertise and lived experiences of trans refugees. By connecting knowledge, resources, and action, we can collectively strengthen empowerment and rights advocacy for trans refugees in the region."<sup>3</sup> (TGEU -TRN, 2023)**

#### Contacts:

email: [tgeu-trn@tgeu.org](mailto:tgeu-trn@tgeu.org)

website: [tgeu.org/topics/asylum-lgbti/](https://tgeu.org/topics/asylum-lgbti/)

## **Recommended strategies for collective solidarity-building with trans refugees**

Building on the rich insights of refugee-led groups and allies, as well as guiding principles from the preceding section, the strategies offered here are not one-size-fits-all but provide a strong starting point. We encourage allies and partners to adapt these strategies through ongoing consultation with refugees in their context.

### **1. Cross-movement collaboration**

Building connections beyond trans and migrant spaces strengthens organising, increases visibility, and creates opportunities for joint action.

#### Key strategies:

- Joint initiatives: Collaborate on campaigns or projects that amplify trans refugee voices and mobilise community support across movements.
- Resource sharing: Develop and share toolkits, educational materials, and guides tailored to trans refugees. Share widely within networks to increase access and impact.

**"Hear us, create joint projects with us, invite us to meetings, and involve us in important processes in transgender activism."**

**Egor Burtsev, TraM Baltic.**

<sup>3</sup> *Trans Europe and Central Asia (TGEU), Trans Refugee Network Progress Report 2021 (2021)*

## 2. Centering lived experiences and intersectionality

Trans refugees experience compounded discrimination based on race, migration status, and gender identity. Effective support requires recognising these intersections and involving affected communities in decision-making.

### Key strategies:

- Listen actively to community members before taking action.
- Support organisations led by people with lived experience for culturally competent and empathetic assistance.
- Ensure programming addresses the specific needs of BIPOC, undocumented, and marginalised trans refugees.

**"For allies, first listen to different life experiences and participate in open activities with the migrant/refugee LGBT community. This helps move beyond siloed perspectives and respond effectively to structural challenges." Chebi Bouroncle, ACATHI.**

## 3. Inclusive and trust-based collaboration

Creating accessible, safe, and stigma-free spaces builds trust and strengthens community participation. Allies can play a supportive role without taking over leadership.

### Key strategies:

- Capacity strengthening: Support leadership development, training, and organisational growth within refugee-led groups.
- Shared opportunities: Include trans refugees in planning, decision-making, and access to resources.
- Evaluation and feedback: Regularly assess allyship efforts and adapt based on community input. Allies need to commit to continuous reflection and adjusting support or collaborative actions in consultation with the refugees.

**"Supporting community-led initiatives and ensuring that staff reflect the identities and backgrounds of the people served builds trust and reduces isolation."**  
**Oluchukwu Akusinawa, Queer Base .**

## 4. Cultivate wellbeing and care

Practising responsible allyship means actively prioritising wellbeing, safety, and collective care to mitigate trans refugees' exposure to social and structural risks.

### Key strategies:

- Co-create braver, nourishing spaces for collective rest, reflection and healing. For example organising activities that promote both individual wellbeing and collective care. Incorporating reflection loops to ensure allyship practices remain responsive and value-based.
- Embed wellbeing in budgets to support trans refugees safety and accessibility needs.
- Prioritise safety. Be mindful of meeting in locations where individuals may face high risks from both state and non-state actors.



## 5. Rights advocacy and empowerment

Community-led advocacy is essential to challenge exclusion and push for systemic change. Groups work to secure rights, demand recognition, and expose failures in asylum systems, reception conditions, and national policies.

### Key strategies:

- Policy and institutional influence: Include grassroots expertise in public health, social services, and policymaking.
- Robust advocacy: Move beyond medical transition to highlight human rights, living conditions, and social determinants of health.
- Advocating beyond immediate needs: Support both direct care and systemic change in healthcare, housing, employment, and social inclusion.

**"Intersectionality must be taken into account more effectively... A priority issue in this area is transfeminicide, which primarily affects trans sex workers and migrant women in Europe." Louve Zimmermann, Acceptess-T.**

## Advocacy priorities:

Allies can also support trans asylum seekers and refugees by engaging with governments and immigration authorities and advocating for better laws, policies, and services. Every country will have different needs and gaps to address. Support should be in consultation and partnership with trans asylum seekers and refugees, ensuring participation does not risk their safety or threaten their case. (TGEU, 2016)<sup>4</sup>

### TGEU suggested talking points:

- The Commission must introduce minimum standards for independent fundamental rights monitoring mechanisms in the implementation of the Screening Regulation. This includes ensuring access to legal assistance, information in a language people understand, and safe vulnerability screening that specifically addresses the needs of LGBTI persons including trans and gender-diverse applicants for international protection who face heightened risks in border zones and detention-like conditions. These safeguards are essential to uphold Article 3(5)<sup>5</sup> Treaty on European Union (TEU), which commits the Union to the protection of human rights in its external action; Article 2<sup>6</sup> TEU, which enshrines respect for human rights and non-discrimination as foundational EU values; and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Article 1 (Human Dignity), Article 4 (Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment), Article 19(2) (Non-refoulement), and Article 21 (Non-discrimination).<sup>7</sup>
- The Commission, with the support of the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA), should develop SOGIESC-inclusive vulnerability assessment tools as part of national screening procedures at external borders. These tools must ensure the early identification of LGBTI persons, including trans asylum seekers, who may be at risk of violence, ill-treatment, or exclusion from asylum procedures. This obligation falls under the Commission's competence to ensure the uniform application of CEAS as per Article 78(2)<sup>8</sup> Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and must comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights, especially Article 1 (Human Dignity), Article 18 (Right to asylum), Article 19(2) (Protection from removal, expulsion, or extradition to a serious risk of harm), and Article 21 (Non-discrimination)<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Trans Europe and Central Asia (TGEU), Welcome to Stay (2016)*

<sup>5</sup> *European Union, Treaty on European Union, Art. 3(5)*

<sup>6</sup> *European Union, Treaty on European Union, Art. 2*

<sup>7</sup> *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, art. 1, 4, 19(2), and 21*

<sup>8</sup> *Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, art. 78(2)*

<sup>9</sup> *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, arts. 1, 18, 19(2), and 21*

- The Commission should condition access to EU funding including the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund<sup>10</sup> (AMIF) and the Border Management and Visa Instrument<sup>11</sup> (BMVI) on Member States' compliance with fundamental rights obligations, including the protection of LGBTI persons in screening procedures. This can be operationalised by incorporating non-discrimination indicators, monitoring, and enforceable corrective measures in cases of systemic violations. This approach is grounded in the Commission's budgetary and supervisory competence under Article 317<sup>12</sup> TFEU (implementation of the Union budget) and aligns with Regulation (EU) 2021/1060<sup>13</sup> (Common Provisions Regulation), which enables the Commission to suspend or recover funds where breaches of fundamental rights occur. In addition, the Charter of Fundamental Rights applies fully to the use of EU funds, reinforcing the Commission's duty to act where violations are identified.
- Comprehensive monitoring of the implementation of the Asylum Procedure Regulation (APR). This includes tracking and reporting on the implementation of the right to an effective remedy, ensuring that trans applicants are informed, supported, and not deprived of fair appeal processes due to fast-tracked procedures; and introducing clear guidelines and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with Article 20 of the (APR), which mandates individualised assessments and procedural safeguards for applicants with special reception and procedural needs, as well as Article 21<sup>14</sup>, which outlines the procedures applicable to such applicants.

**"..Allies and partners should never forget that we count on them in our advocacy efforts for the respect of refugee rights."**

**Purity Tumukwasibwe, Queerstion Media.**

## **Sustaining and resourcing LGBTQ refugee organising**

Effective organising requires long-term, trust-based investment rather than short-term project-based models.

### **KEY STRATEGIES:**

- Long-term, trust-based funding: Provide unrestricted, multi-year support to ensure sustainability.
- Reducing barriers and empowering grassroots leadership: Simplify application processes, offer capacity-building support, and trust community leaders to allocate resources.
- Protecting rights and health: Prioritise intersectional resourcing that safeguards the rights and wellbeing of further marginalised refugees, particularly trans, undocumented, and asylum seekers.

<sup>10</sup> European Commission, *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021–2027)*, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

<sup>11</sup> European Commission, *Integrated Border Management Fund – Border Management and Visa Instrument (2021–27)*, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

<sup>12</sup> Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, art. 317

<sup>13</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Provisions Regulation

<sup>14</sup> European Union, "Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Common Procedure for International Protection in the Union and Repealing Directive 2013/32/EU." See Arts. 20 and 21

## TRANS REFUGEE ORGANISATIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO DONORS AND FUNDING PARTNERS:

"All too often, funds dedicated to supporting trans people are sought by organisations that are not directly involved: it is essential that these resources be allocated directly to community health and trans self-support organisations. The priority for funders today should be to finance the protection of the rights and health of trans and migrant people in a comprehensive and sustainable manner." **Louve, Acceptess-T.**

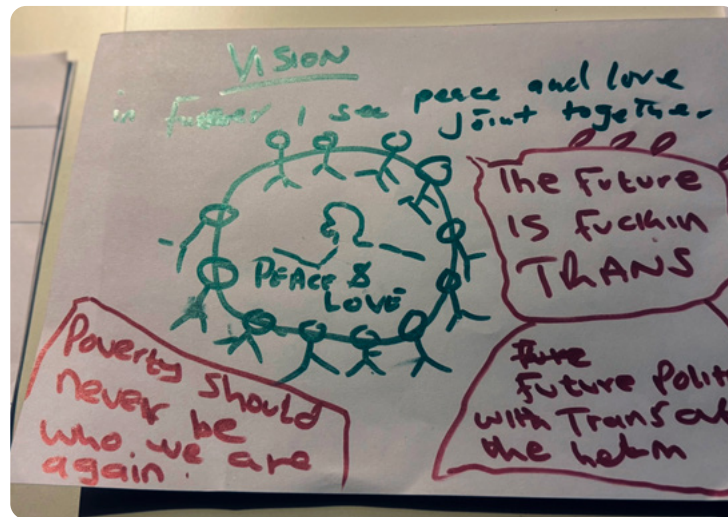
"Our message to donors and partners supporting refugees and migrants: Provide funding to grassroots groups with minimal reporting requirements. Finance salaries and meeting spaces. Cover costs of meetings and translators." **Egor, TraM Baltic.**

"Grassroots, community-led organisations must be trusted and resourced to lead, supported by long-term, flexible funding that removes barriers keeping our communities in survival mode." **Samira, Trans United Europe.**

# Section 6.

## Visions for our collective futures

This sub-section gathers visions shared by refugee-led groups about their individual and collective hopes, and what a world shaped by their leadership could look like. Rooted in courage and resilience, these imaginations envision collective liberation and reflect the leadership of trans refugees actively organising in Europe.



An image of a collective drawing made by Queerston Media members during a collective visioning exercise.

"Our hope is that this commitment will boost trans and migrant organising, and allow these organisations to become self-sufficient so they don't disappear. Within trans movements, we hope this situation will make it clear once and for all that exile and migration are top priorities for trans struggles, and should have been for a long time. "

**Louve.**

"We envision an empowered and connected intersectional trans refugee movement in Europe, with strong alliances and mutual aid. It is our hope that asylum systems respect gender identity, recognise gender-based persecution, and provide protections and pathways for migration that are safe, timely, humane, and responsive to the diverse needs of refugees. Above all, we want a Europe where trans refugees are welcomed, protected, and empowered to rebuild their lives with dignity, " **Purity.**

" It's our hope that we get to see trans people in authority roles and in every-day activities. That we get to live without fear!" **Chebi.**

"My vision is that a global conference for trans refugees and migrants will take place in Europe." **Egor.**

"I envision a future where we all embrace our shared humanity, recognise our interconnectedness, and understand that we owe each other love, freedom, and peace because no one is truly free until we are all liberated." **Oluchukwu.**

"I hope to see a future where trans refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented people with migrant backgrounds can thrive in safety, free from racism, transphobia, and systemic exclusions. Our vision is that Policies, services, and funding are shaped with the active participation of those most impacted ensuring solutions reflect lived realities." **Samira.**

# Section 7. Join the movement

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Change begins in the small connections and actions we dare to make. In these times of unprecedented challenges, we need solidarity to sustain collective resilience and keep the struggle alive. The most marginalised trans and LGBTI refugees need spaces and resources to connect, organise, and be held in community.

## Trans refugees

Are you an activist with refugee lived experience or organising with refugees? Whether you are looking for a community or just need to share or access information and additional resources, reach out to our team. Let's connect, collaborate and make impact together. We are here for you, email us: [tgeu-trn@tgeu.org](mailto:tgeu-trn@tgeu.org)

## Partners and allies

Our work of supporting the most marginalised in our communities depends on alliances and collective support. Connect with us and [donate to our work](#).

# Section 8. Useful resources for refugee rights organising

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Below is a list of resources we gathered from partners and network members, it is not exhaustive. We acknowledge that we are not aware of all existing documents that will be helpful for our communities. If you have additional links you wish to share, please get in touch with us and we will be happy to add these.

- *List of European organisations working with or supporting LGBTQ Asylum seekers*
- *Rainbow Welcome! - An interactive map of LGBTIQ+ shelters in Europe*
- *Safety seeking and support for lgtq refugees*
- *TGEU compilation- resources for collective resistance*
- *TGEU -TRN -list of trans refugee led and supportive organisations in Europe*
- *Ways to support LGBTQ refugees seeking asylum-Migration Rainbow*



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on trans rights and wellbeing follow us:*



**tgeu.org**