

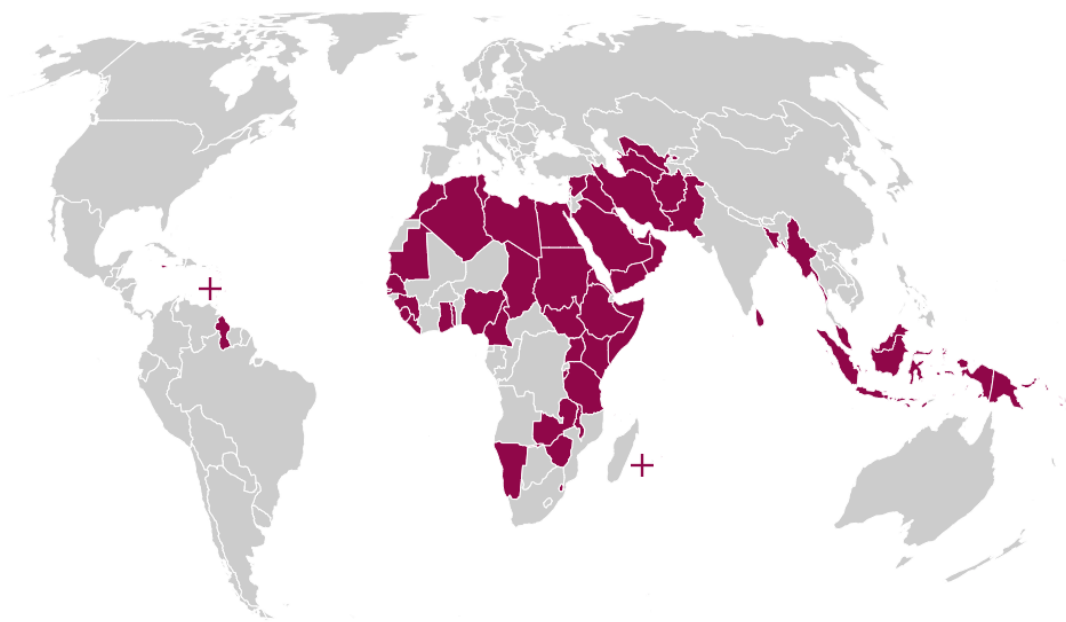


# Micro Rainbow

Supporting LGBTQI asylum  
seekers and refugees

Community of Practice- 8 September 2021

# LGBTQI people fleeing persecution



- **71** jurisdictions **criminalise same-sex sexual activity**
- **11** have the **death penalty**. At least 6 of these implement it: Iran, Northern Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen
- **15** **criminalise** the gender identity and/or expression of **transgender people**

# About Micro Rainbow



Micro Rainbow is the leading organisation in the UK promoting safety and integration of LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees holistically.

Our approach has three main pillars:

Safe housing

Social inclusion

Moving on

# Safe Housing



- LGBTQI asylum seekers can face discrimination, **abuse and violence** in supported accommodation
- Many LGBTQI asylum seekers become or stay **homeless** for fear of abuse
- Micro Rainbow provides **20,000 bed nights a year**
- **Transgender refugees** are at particular risk of homelessness

*Become an ally today! [www.microrainbow.org/become-an-ally/](http://www.microrainbow.org/become-an-ally/)*

# Social Inclusion



LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees can often feel excluded from places where others might traditionally receive support, such as:

- Family members
- Co-nationals
- Religious spaces

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# Economic Inclusion and Moving On



Newly granted refugees face numerous obstacles when trying to build a new life:

- 28 days to move on, to find housing, receive benefit and/or find employment
- Often refugees have been out of work for a while or have never worked in the UK
- Low confidence, self-esteem and poor mental health

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# No Recourse to Public Funds Housing



- LGBTQI migrants with NRPF find it incredibly difficult to access housing support and other third sector support
- LGBTQI migrants can experience **homelessness or exploitation** because of being labelled NRPF
- Micro Rainbow has **1 NRPF safe house in Leeds**

# Immigration Advice



- Immigration advice for LGBTQI migrants experiencing homelessness in London
- Providing legal assessments and legal referrals
- Supporting people to find safe housing and social and healthcare support



# Case study



Mona, is a lesbian woman who was refused asylum and consequently has NRPF. Mona was living with her partner but her partner was hospitalised, and Mona began to experience threats, harassment and homophobia from her partner's family and was forced to leave the house out of fear.

Micro Rainbow met Mona during this time and partnered with Southall Black Sisters to secure safe emergency accommodation for her to avoid her living in an unsafe situation or becoming street homeless. As she has NRPF, Mona did not have any housing options through the Home Office nor local council.

Micro Rainbow also referred Mona to a partner law firm for legal advice and she has begun building her fresh claim with the help of a legal aid solicitor. Mona has also received support from Galop and attends Micro Rainbow's social inclusion programme.

Micro Rainbow and Southall Black Sister's fund was limited and Mona is now staying with a hosting organisation whilst receiving support from other organisations. Due to the fact Mona still has NRPF, she is still in a precarious living situation until she submits her fresh claim.

# Contact us



- Referrals
  - Housing- [housing@microrainbow.org](mailto:housing@microrainbow.org)
  - Social inclusion- [social@microrainbow.org](mailto:social@microrainbow.org)
  - Moving on- [movingon@microrainbow.org](mailto:movingon@microrainbow.org)
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