



Micro Rainbow

# Supporting LGBTQI people Claiming Asylum in the UK

06 March, 2024

# About Micro Rainbow



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

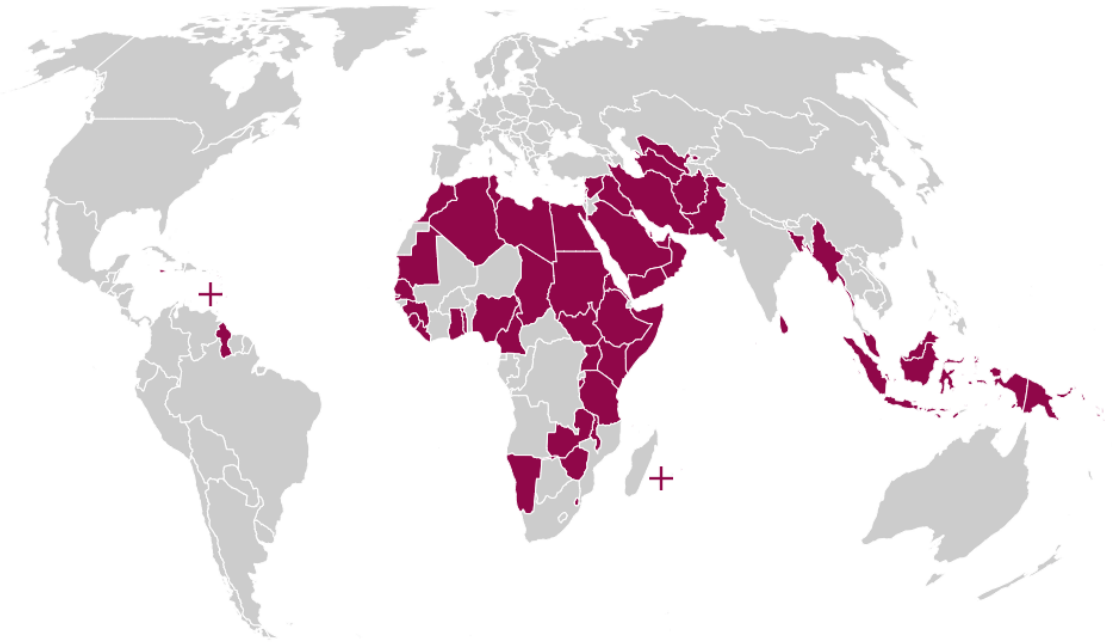
Our approach has three main pillars:

Safe housing

Social inclusion

Moving on

# LGBTQI people fleeing persecution



- **67** 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

# LGBTQI people fleeing persecution



**2.2 billion** people live in countries where being gay is a crime of which **210 million** could be LGBTQI

Up to **2,000** LGBTQI people claim asylum in the UK every year.



# What issues do LGBTQI+ people face in their home countries?



# Some Examples



## Experience and fear of:

- Imprisonment
- Name-calling
- Beating
- Harassment
- Community mobbing
- Lashes
- Torture by family members, community
- Honour killing
- Death penalty
- Persecution from religious authorities
- Torture by authorities
- Rape
- Death threats
- Humiliation
- Forced marriage
- No police protection / Police abuse
- Self harm



# Arriving in the UK



When LGBTQI+ people come to the UK to seek safety they are still not safe. They face:

- Homelessness
- Violence
- Socio-economic exclusion
- A lengthy asylum process
- Difficulties in accessing experienced legal support



# Why are LGBTQI migrants homeless?



- Lack of social safety net from their ethnic communities due to their LGBTQI+ status for fear of honor killing and/or potential persecution if their asylum claim is rejected
- Escaping traffickers, domestic violence/forced marriages
- Lack of expert legal representation





# Why are LGBTQI+ migrants homeless?



- Violence in NASS accommodation
- Often LGBTQI+ migrants have to hide their sexuality if they are given shelter by family members or co-nationals/violence abuse if discovered
- If their hosts find out about their LGBTQI+ status they can be rejected/evicted/disowned.



# Micro Rainbow's solution



**October 2017**

The first safe  
house opens in  
London

# Safe Housing



**February 2024:**

30,000 bed-nights  
a year across  
London, the West  
Midland and the  
North



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



# Safe Housing: a Channel 5 documentary





# Social Inclusion



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

# Economic Inclusion and Moving On



We open doors to newly granted refugees by:

- Offering one-to-one support to secure Universal Credit
- Creating a personalised 6-month move on plan
- Employability workshops with corporations

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

# LGBTQI Afghans programme



## Helpline for LGBTQI people from Afghanistan

Micro Rainbow is the specialist organisation in the UK that supports Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) Refugees to integrate into British society. If you are LGBTQI and from Afghanistan, we can offer you employability support, social inclusion activities and much more.

You can find more information about our services at [microrainbow.org](https://microrainbow.org).  
You can also contact our phoneline on **0800 358 5852 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 2-5pm.**



# LGBTQI Ukrainian programme



## Connecting UK sponsors with LGBTQI Ukrainian Nationals

Micro Rainbow can help connect UK sponsors with LGBTQI Ukrainian Nationals. After arrival in the UK, Micro Rainbow can provide LGBTQI+ Ukrainians with employability support and social inclusion activities.



**Peer support group for LGBTQI Ukrainians**



Are you an LGBTQI Ukrainian who:

- Is still in Ukraine and is thinking of coming to the UK?
- Has left Ukraine, reached another country and is thinking of coming to the UK?
- Has arrived in the UK and wants to connect or support others?

Then this online peer support group might be for you!

Please email [info@microrainbow.org](mailto:info@microrainbow.org) if you would like to join.

NB: this group is for LGBTQI Ukrainian nationals only.



# Stay connected!



- Website: [www.microrainbow.org](http://www.microrainbow.org)
- Instagram: [@MicroRainbow](https://www.instagram.com/MicroRainbow)
- Twitter: [@MicroRainbow](https://twitter.com/MicroRainbow)
- FaceBook: [MicroRainbowInternational](https://www.facebook.com/MicroRainbowInternational)
- LinkedIn: [@MicroRainbow](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MicroRainbow)

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