Nobody should be forced to flee their home for being who they are.

The number of LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum-seekers has risen in the recent decades with most qualifying for international protection as *members of a particular social group* under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

LGBTIQ+ refugees have often fled as they faced risks and persecution in their home countries. However, for many of them, the risks don't stop here but continue along their journey to safety.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated many of the risks, social inequalities and discrimination, facing displaced LGBTIQ+ people. This includes discrimination in the job market and difficulties in accessing healthcare services – or even police protection.

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After being forced to flee

After having arrived in another country, LGBTIQ+ people often continue to face risks such as sexual abuse, violence and stigma.

Out of fear, many hide their sexual orientation or gender identities, which makes it challenging for organizations such as UNHCR to identify them, assist them in seeking asylum, or ensure that they receive health care and other essential services.

UNHCR works to keep LGBTIQ+ refugees safe through inclusive programming, working with external partners to provide support, providing safe spaces, and identifying solutions.

Did you know...

...that in 70+ countries it is illegal to engage in same-sex relationships?

...that in at least 6 countries — including Yemen, Somalia, Mauritania, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan — same-sex relationships are punishable by death.

...that the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people hard by intensifying the daily experience of inequality and discrimination?

... that resettlement in third countries is often the safest option for forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people, but in 2020 less than 0.5% of the world's refugees were resettled in safe, third countries.

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