

# Supporting Refugee Community Organisations to Support LGBTI Refugees

"While every refugee's story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage: the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives." Antonio Guterres

As organisations fighting for refugees' equality we all have an obligation to ensure that refugees in all their diversity have equal access to services and support and their rights are protected. LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex) refugees are a particularly marginalised group of people who find it difficult to access mainstream services and refugee support groups.

**The Equality Act 2010** prohibits discrimination on the grounds of age; gender reassignment (**transgender, intersex**); disability; sexuality (**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual**); sex; race and ethnicity; religion and belief; pregnancy and maternity; marriage and civil partnership.

The **Supporting RCOs to Support LGBTI** project aims to work in partnership with refugee, migrant and BME organisations to support LGBTI refugees and comply with the Equality Act 2010. To further this aim the project will have a small number of very small **start-up awards for refugee groups** with innovative ideas on engaging their members on LGBTI refugee issues and / or providing support to LGBTI refugees.

## What can we do?

- Training on The Equality Act 2010 with a special focus on LGBTI equality;
- One to one support for RCO leaders to comply with LGBTI equality;
- Peer support for RCO leaders to engage their members;
- Support collaborative work between RCOs and LGBTI organisations;
- Award small amount of start-up money for innovative initiatives on support for LGBTI refugees;
- Share our experiences with other organisations who want to replicate the work of this project.

For information contact Poornima on 01895 441 530 or [poornima@reap.org.uk](mailto:poornima@reap.org.uk)

