



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Peter Williams | 2023 | London, United Kingdom

01 | OVERVIEW



Gayther is an online service home to one of the world's largest collections of current and relevant LGBTQIA+ information. To help and support refugees and migrants worldwide, Gayther has developed a range of guides, tools and services. For those fleeing persecution or hardship obtaining consistent and relevant information can be challenging; determining where to go can be

the first obstacle, as the list of determined safe countries is not universal, can be subject to change and will be different for each country due to the relationship and position between individual states and governments. Refugees fleeing war or persecution and migrants escaping poverty and a lack of opportunities often travel thousands of miles to possible safe countries in the hope that they can start a new life for both themselves and their families.

The protected grounds for asylum, created and developed since the Geneva Convention for refugees in 1951, typically provide the framework and criteria for countries that signed up to the convention or later protocol to assess those individuals claiming asylum. For LGBTQIA+ refugees, there are no specific protected grounds. Instead, community members are required to claim under the membership of a social group, which is both broad and open to interpretation by each country. Community members fleeing for their lives, escaping persecution or certain death, will be limited to the safe countries available to them and will be unsure of the assessment approach given that there is no universal definition, criteria or standard.

Gayther expanded its range of data to offer interactive guides and detailed content for both refugees and migrants, as well as information specific to the LGBTQIA+ community. During a crisis, it is vital to access the correct information and the refugees and migrant guides have been designed to help. The classification and universal safe country list use a range of published indices, including the Gayther Equality Index and any known and current conflicts and dangerous situations worldwide, to develop a potential list of safe countries based on the typical criteria many governments use. The assessment also considers a country's laws and the protection it offers community members to create a safe country list specific to the LGBTQIA+ community.

All 233 country guides contain detailed information, including five potential safe countries by distance from their current location, links to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) assistance service and all other essential information for those seeking asylum. The comprehensive guides also include relevant LGBTQIA+ information, from straightforward community classifications based on a scale to those countries with a history of accepting applications based on a person's sexuality or gender identity.

The Refugee Communication Tool, or RCT, is an online interactive communication service where refugees, migrants and those providing help and assistance can communicate in over 100 languages. Using English and any of the languages associated with the available list of countries, individuals can share essential information using terms and classifications relating to support and those commonly used to outline any problems or obstacles a refugee or migrant might have or will likely face. Gayther Care contains a range of guides explaining often complex subjects relating to Refugees and Migrants and the process of claiming asylum. For individuals with immediate needs and those seeking advice, Gayther's Migrant directory showcases all organisations by country and region that offer products and solutions tailored towards refugees and migrants. The Support and NPOs directory contains categories associated with charities and support groups which provide advice and support services to those seeking refuge.

"Today, it is common for governments and the media to highlight the problems associated with the large number of refugees and migrants worldwide. A situation that many countries are

sympathetic towards; however, at the same time, introduce processes or policies to defer people from entering the country and seeking asylum," says Peter Williams, founder of Gayther.

"Many often overlook the human aspect. People who seek refuge, whether refugees or migrants are doing so for no fault of their own, whether fleeing conflict or due to the lack of resources or opportunities. Most people who leave their country due to extreme circumstances do not do so willingly. Instead, it is often out of necessity and in the hope for a better future for themselves and their families."

02 | TAGS

refugees, migrants, refuge, asylum, communication, tools, fleeing war, persecution, poverty, seeking opportunities

03 | KEY FACTS

- The refugees and migrant country guides provide detailed information for 233 countries worldwide
- In 2023, it is estimated that there are 135 or 58% of countries would likely be classified as Green or Safe, 84 or 36% would be classified as Amber and 14 or 6% as Red
- In 2023, it is estimated that of countries around the world concerning LGBTQIA+ safe countries, 94 countries or 40% would be classified as Green or Safe, with 31 with a history of accepting community members. 94 (40%) are classified as Amber, and 92 are unlikely to accept the community. 10 or 4% classified as Black where they issue a death sentence as a maximum penalty
- According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, at the end of 2022, there are 108.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Using the Gayther population estimates, that would mean there could be as many as 2.9 million that would likely identify as LGBTQIA+
- The UNHCR refugee 2022 statistics indicate that over half of the refugees come from just three countries (Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan), and 38% are hosted within five countries (Turkiye, Iran, Colombia, Germany and Pakistan)