

S U M M A R Y

PoMOCna KAWA #52



SITUATION OF LGBTI+ REFUGEE PEOPLE

12 ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING: CONSILIUM Association, Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees CAK, Polish Migration Forum, Migration Consortium, Queer Without Borders, NGO Forum "Razem"

At the November PoMOCna Kawa we hosted the Migration Consortium again! Sarian Jarosz - research coordinator at the Consortium and founder of the Queer Without Borders group - told us about the situation of LGBTI+ refugees (with particular emphasis on those from Ukraine). The lecture concerned the legal and social consequences of the refugee experience as representatives of this minority. You can read the most important information below.

Sensitive groups

Sarian Jarosz began the lecture by citing the definition of a sensitive group - a social category within which individuals experience common difficulties, discrimination, or have specific needs that require special attention from society, institutions or the state. He stated that being a refugee is already an experience of belonging to this category, but there are additional characteristics that further complicate the status of a refugee. One of them is being LGBTI+. Our country ranks last in the ILGA-Europe ranking (LGBTI+ equality ranking), therefore LGBTI+ refugees in Poland are in a disadvantageous situation.

Applying for refugee status

According to the definition of a refugee found in the 1951 Geneva Convention, a person is a person who is outside his or her country of origin, nationality or permanent residence and has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group or political views and, because of this fear, cannot or does not want to benefit from protection your country of origin. The speaker emphasized that European countries recognize being an LGBTI+ person as a source of fear of persecution due to belonging to a specific social group, in the context of the situation-----

in Belarus (and, consequently, the possibility of applying for humanitarian visas for citizens of this country). Poland theoretically repeats this opinion, but in practice it issues very few such visas.

UNHCR guidelines

Sarian Jarosz recalled the UNHCR guidelines on granting refugee status on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The document aims to define procedures in this regard. The reason for its creation was the fact that in many parts of the world LGBTI+ people experience serious human rights violations and other forms of persecution due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It has been widely documented that LGBTI people are targets of murder, sexual and gender-based violence, physical attacks, torture, arbitrary detention, accusations of immoral or deviant behavior, sexual and gender-based violence, physical attacks, torture, arbitrary detention, accusations of immoral or deviant behavior, denial of the rights of assembly, expression and information, and discrimination in employment, health and education in all regions of the world. This has sparked discussion that people fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity may qualify as refugees under international agreements. You can read the entire document [here](#).

Obstacles to applying for international protection

During the meeting, the most common obstacles to applying for international protection were also mentioned:

- discomfort of coming out in front of state officials,
- proving an individual threat in the case of Chechnya and Kurdistan (their citizens are considered to be Russian citizens and the threat is assessed through this prism),
- ineffectiveness of the state apparatus in dealing with the risk of violence against LGBTI+ people,
- internalized shame,
- lack of staff training,
- criminalization of solidarity structures (people who could help with the application)

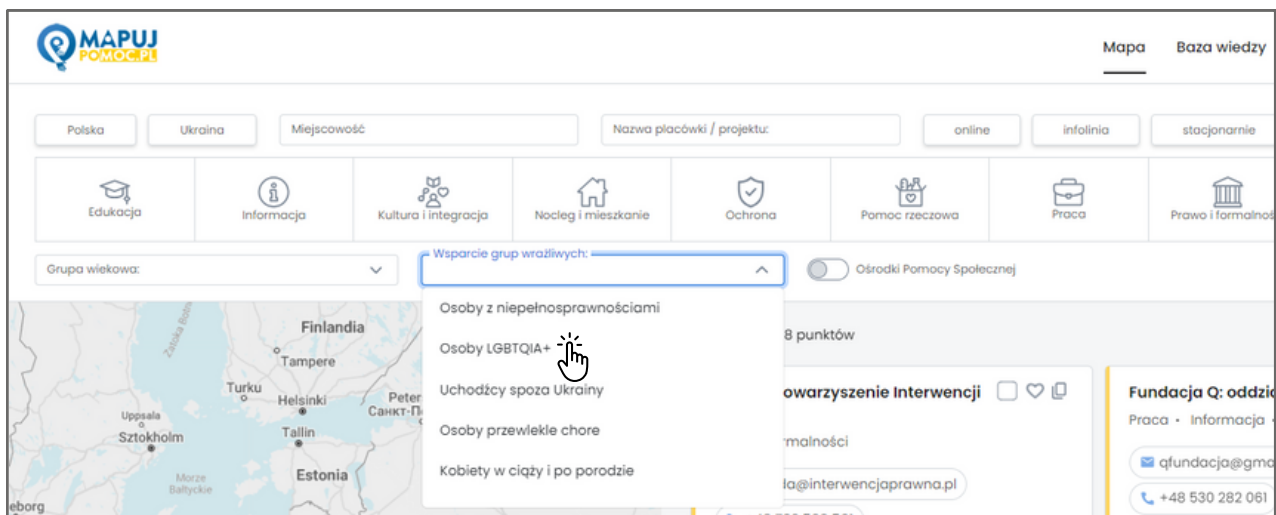
The situation of transgender and non-binary people

The ban on men aged 18-60 leaving Ukraine also affected transgender and non-binary people. Being in the process of social or legal transition, they may not----

have yet received documents confirming their "non-male" identity, which made it impossible to leave the country's borders under applicable law. Sarian Jarosz mentioned that it took a month to develop solutions in this matter. Hormone therapy remained another problem. In Poland and Ukraine, the medical infrastructure differs significantly, which is why transgender people encountered difficulties in obtaining the necessary medications (either due to reasons on the part of the doctor, but also the doses of hormones allowed to be prescribed differed)

Organizations that help the LGBTI+ community

In Mapuj Pomoc you can search for organizations that help the LGBTI+ refugee community. To do this, simply use the "Support for sensitive groups" filter and then select the second option from the list.



You can also find a ready list of organizations in our knowledge base:

- [article "Support for LGBTQIA+ people from Ukraine"](#)
- [article ""I am not ashamed of our love - to help rainbow refugees"](#)



If you need contact details for a specific organization, please write to us at: mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl.