



**Baobab  
Women's  
Project**



## LGBT Asylum Claim

Women seeking asylum on LGBT grounds may qualify as a refugee because they have a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of sexual orientation.

'This will depend on whether you can show that the conditions in your country of origin are such that in law they amount to persecution of those who are open about their sexual orientation.' [UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group \(UKLGIG\)](#).

To show you will be persecuted, you must prove that you will or are likely to suffer serious harm because of your sexuality, and that the government or other parts of the population are not going to protect you.

As with any other asylum case, the process for proving your need for protection is the same, you will have an initial screening interview, substantive interview, the opportunity to get legal advice (from a legal aid solicitor, or private representative) to submit documentary evidence to prove your oral story. Asylum Aid describe this process clearly in '[the asylum process made simple](#)'. It can be easier to talk to someone about your rights, Rights of Women have a busy (keep trying to call) [immigration and asylum law helpline](#) open Monday 12-3 and Thursday 10-1, 020 7490 7689 for women with insecure immigration status. No Going Back had a specialist free legal advice project with experts in the area, on preparing an asylum claim No Going Back suggest:

'To win your asylum claim/appeal, you need to write out a full, detailed personal account of the homophobic persecution that you suffered, and/ or you know other LGBTs have suffered in your home country, and/or that you fear you will suffer if you return to your home country.

Be very detailed and specific, with dates, places, names and so on. Vague, general statements are deemed not credible. They will be rejected. You need supporting evidence. This can include written statements from friends, family and/or partners. These statements need to confirm how long the person has known you, in what capacity and confirm that they know you are LGBT. You also need love letters, postcards and romantic emails between you and a current or former partner(s) - and romantic photos of you with partner(s) in different locations; plus photos of you showing intimacy, romance and provide evidence that you are LGBT and have had same-sex relationships'

Other publications and links can be found at the UKLGIG webspace including [country or origin information](#) and guidelines on International Protection Claims related to sexual orientation. The [Peter Tatchell Foundation](#), give contact links and asylum advice for LGBT refugees.

Always communicate with your legal representative about how is best to move ahead and present your case. Their job is to put your needs for protection into a legal argument. If your rep isn't listening, or you don't understand them, then go to other advice agencies to help with communication.

In Birmingham, the LGBT centre maybe the best place to access and get support from, they have social support activities, as well as a joint drop in legal session with UKLGIG on the third Wednesday of the month 12-3pm. In Coventry and Warwickshire, there's Friend to contact and get support around LGBT issues.