SPECIAL REPORT

RAINBOW RAILROAD

Trans Expansive Persecution and Protection Gaps in Displacement Contexts

A CONDITIONS REVIEW WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE EXPERIENCES OF TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE PERSONS



Table of Contents

3 Executive Summary

4 Glossary

8 Section 1: Understanding the Population

11 Section 2: Drivers of Displacement

13 Section 3: In Transit and the Immigration System

15 Section 4: Post-Resettlement Support

16 Recommendations

Executive Summary

Rainbow Railroad is an internationally recognized human rights organization that creates pathways to safety for at-risk LGBTQI+ people and strengthens policies and systems that support their protection and integration. Headquartered in Toronto and New York, Rainbow Railroad is one of the few organizations that work as direct service providers, advocates, thought leaders, and movement strategists to address global LGBTQI+ forced displacement. Since its founding in 2006, the organization has received over 85,000 requests for help from individuals facing persecution due to their diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC). In collaboration with a global network of grassroots organizations and human rights defenders in crisis-affected contexts, Rainbow Railroad has supported more than 65,000 LGBTQI+ individuals, including facilitating international relocation for more than 2,500 people since its inception.

This special report analyzes Rainbow Railroad's intake data and submissions from trans expansive individuals navigating forced displacement. Trans expansive identity shapes access to safety, dignity, and equal treatment. The data make clear that gender identity and expression are primary factors in influencing who can move, remain safely housed, access healthcare, and seek protection without heightened risk of exposure or retaliation.

The main themes that emerge are as follows:

- **Persecution continues to escalate.** Rainbow Railroad received requests for help from more than 35,000 trans expansive people between 2015 and 2026, with an 86% increase in 2025, as governments around the world continue to criminalize and persecute trans identity and gender expression. No global dataset counts people displaced by SOGIESC-based persecution, so too often, their protection needs to go unmeasured.
- **Persecution is persistent and multi-faceted.** States criminalize trans identity outright or prosecute it under indecency, morality, vagrancy, and sex-work laws, while police, family members, community groups, and armed entities inflict violence. This violence exists amidst broader exclusion from employment, education, healthcare, and housing, which pushes some people toward precarious survival strategies and further exposure.
- **Legal and documentation barriers are central to risk.** Identity documents that do not match a person's name and gender, compounded by non-conformity to heteronormative expressions of gender, lead to visa denials, detention, and abuse at borders and in travel. Denial of legal recognition follows trans expansive individuals into host countries and exposes them to renewed violence, exclusion, and statelessness.
- **Harm is perpetuated by immigration and humanitarian systems.** Trans expansive people deal with renewed harm when navigating immigration systems where officials often lack a full or accurate understanding of trans expansive identities, and are forced to navigate processes that don't account for their experiences. Reception centers, refugee camps, and detention centers often house people by legal identification, further subjecting trans expansive people to continued abuse.
- **Barriers persist after resettlement.** Even away from immediate danger, trans expansive people meet obstacles to housing, employment, legal aid, healthcare, and essential services, compounded by providers who lack cultural competence, language barriers, and distrust of institutions rooted in past persecution. Racialized trans expansive people, and particularly trans women of color, face racism within mainstream LGBTQI+ communities that limits their access to community support networks.

Across the data, access to protection is a practical problem of navigation as well as eligibility. Individuals request help with understanding asylum and humanitarian pathways, gathering documentation, and accessing legal assistance, support services, and essential care. When the systems meant to protect people fail to meet that range of need, trans expansive people face prolonged insecurity, separation from support networks, and continued exposure to discrimination and violence.[1]

Glossary

AGENDER A term describing people who do not identify with any gender. This term may also encompass people who experience a lack of gender and people whose gender is neutral. Agender people have a range of sexual orientations, gender expressions and sex characteristics.

ALIAGENDER A non-binary gender identity that doesn't fit into existing gender schemas or constructs. Persons are not a mixture of male and female, nor an absence of gender, but instead identify with a strong, specific gender identity that is not man or woman.

ASEXUAL Often called "ace", asexual refers to a complete or partial lack of sexual attraction or lack of interest in sexual activity with others. Asexuality exists on a spectrum, and asexual people may experience no, little or conditional sexual attraction.

ASYLUM SEEKER An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.

BISEXUAL A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one gender, though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree. Sometimes used interchangeably with pansexual.

CISGENDER A person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

CITIZEN A citizen is a person who, by place of birth, nationality of one or both parents, or naturalization is granted full rights and responsibilities as a member of a State.

GAY A person who is emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to members of the same gender. People of all genders may use this term to describe themselves.

Glossary

GENDER IDENTITY	A person's internal, deeply felt sense of being female or male, both, or something other than female and male, such as third gender or non-binary.
GENDER NON-CONFORMING	A person who does not conform to stereotypical appearances, behaviors or traits associated with sex assigned at birth.
GENDERFLUID	A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender or has a fluid or unfixed gender identity.
HETEROSEXUAL	Also "Straight." A person whose romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction is to people of a different gender.
INTERGENDER	A nonbinary gender identity that describes the experience of having a gender that falls somewhere in between woman and man or is a mix of both man and woman.
INTERSEX	An umbrella term that refers to a range of variations in chromosomes, gonads, and/or genitals that vary from what is considered typical for female or male bodies.
LESBIAN	Women and non-binary people who are emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to other women and non-binary people.
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Plus
NO LEGAL STATUS	Someone without any legal immigration status (either temporary or permanent) in their country of residence. This is sometimes also referred to as an undocumented migrant or a person without status.
NON-BINARY	An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do. Non-binary can also be used as an umbrella term encompassing identities such as agender, bigender, genderqueer or gender-fluid.

Glossary

PANSEXUAL	Describes someone who has the potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree. Sometimes used interchangeably with bisexual.
PERMANENT RESIDENT	A person who has been granted the right to reside permanently in a certain country, but is not a citizen. Permanent residents are often afforded basic rights similar to those of citizens, with some limitations and restrictions.
QUEER	A term people often used to express a spectrum of identities and orientations that are counter to the mainstream. Queer is often used as an umbrella term, including those who do not identify as exclusively straight and/or folks who have non-binary or gender-expansive identities.
SEX CHARACTERISTICS	Each person's physical features relating to sex, including chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, genitals and secondary physical features emerging from puberty.
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people. An individual's sexual orientation is independent of their gender identity.
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
STATELESS PERSON	A person is "stateless" if no State considers them a citizen. States have specific obligations towards their citizens and grant citizens significantly more rights than non-citizens. Since no State recognizes them, stateless persons are deprived of many basic rights and have no State to protect them.
TEMPORARY RESIDENT	A foreign national who is legally authorized to enter and live in a certain country for temporary purposes (work, studies, etc.).

Glossary

TRANSGENDER/ TRANS	The gender identity of people whose sex assigned at birth does not conform to their identified or lived gender. A transgender person usually adopts, or would prefer to adopt, a gender expression in consonance with their gender identity but may or may not desire to alter their physical characteristics to conform to their gender identity.
TRANSGENDER MAN	A man who was designated female at birth.
TRANSGENDER WOMAN	A woman who was designated male at birth.
TRANS EXPANSIVE	An umbrella term for people whose gender identity or expression differs from their sex assigned at birth or from social expectations, including gender-diverse people who may not identify as transgender. Thus, trans expansive includes transgender, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, agender, genderfluid, Two-Spirit people, and more.
REFUGEE	Refugees are persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection. Some refugees are registered by UNHCR under their mandate.

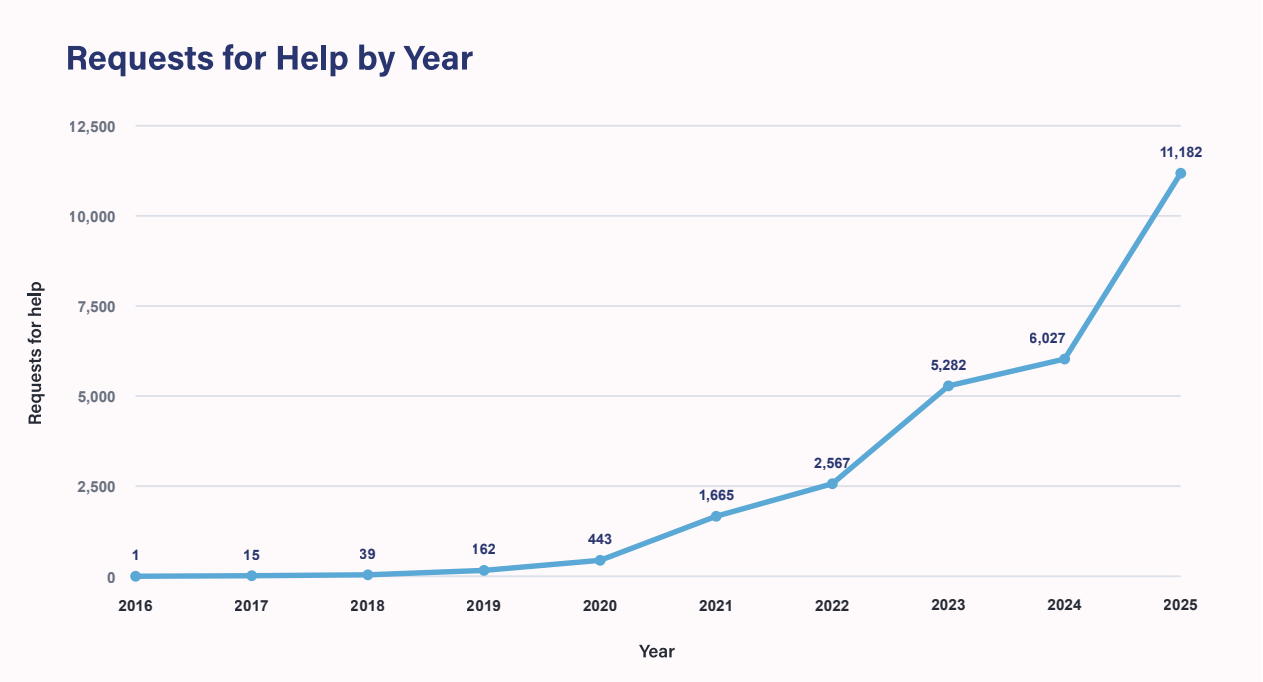
SECTION 1

Who is Requesting Help

An estimated 117.8 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, natural disasters, violence, and human rights violations, including nine million asylum seekers.[2] However, the number who are trans expansive is unknown. There is no comprehensive global data on the number of persons seeking relocation due to SOGIESC-based persecution.[3] This lack of disaggregated data has contributed to limited research on the experiences of trans expansive people who are forcibly displaced, particularly within protracted displacement settings, and persistent blind spots within humanitarian and refugee protection frameworks.[4]

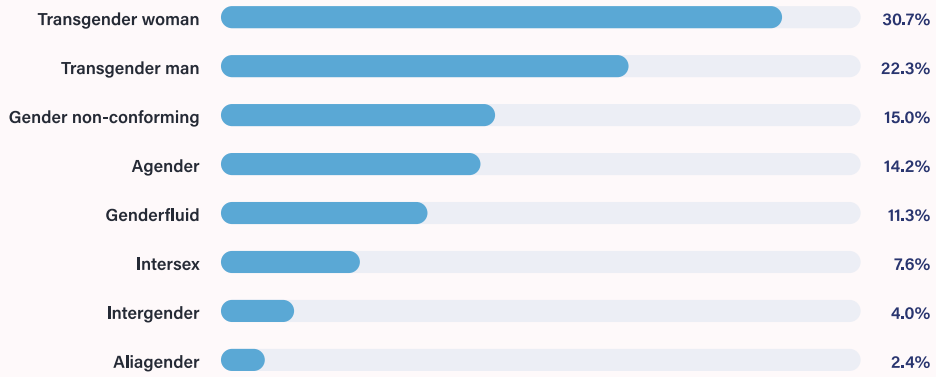
Rainbow Railroad's data and work provide some of the most comprehensive information on the experiences of trans expansive people facing forced displacement globally. Every year Rainbow Railroad receives tens of thousands of requests for help from around the world. Individuals in situations of forced displacement, or otherwise experiencing persecution because of their SOGIESC identity, will find the organization and reach out for help. Our automated system asks people a series of questions about what they are facing, where they are located, what kinds of travel documents they have, and what support they need. Depending on a number of factors, we offer various kinds of support to people who reach out to us, from something as simple as offering them information and referring them to local organizations, all the way to emergency travel support or resettlement through the Government-Assisted Refugees pathway we have developed with the Canadian Government.

In 2025 alone, Rainbow Railroad received over 20,000 requests for help from LGBTQI+ individuals across diverse contexts, one every 26 minutes, from over 170 countries.[5] Between 2015 and 2026, more than 35,000 requests came from trans expansive people, 42.3% of the total number of requests for help across all individuals. As of November 2026, more than 8,000 trans expansive individuals have requested help from Rainbow Railroad.



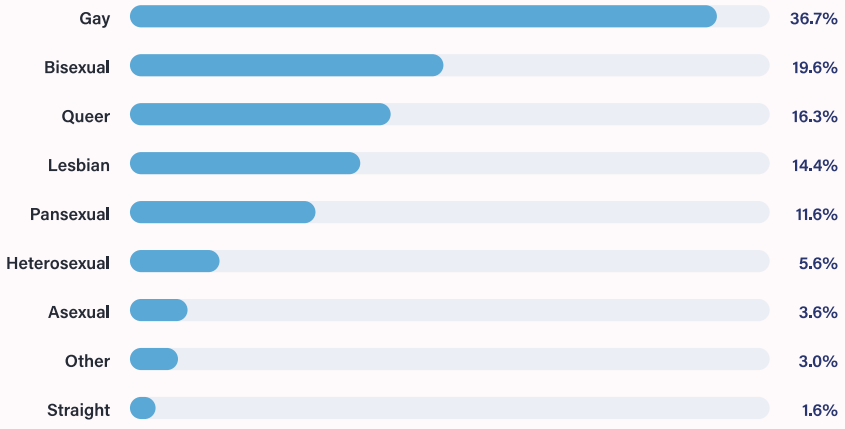
Rainbow Railroad's data provides clear evidence that trans expansive people experience a cascading series of crises shaped by intersecting vulnerabilities, which can include gender identity and expression, sex characteristics, HIV status, sexual orientation, race, migration status, and poverty induced by forced displacement. Among the trans expansive people requesting help, transgender women (30.7%) and transgender men (22.3%) were the largest groups requesting help. Looking at sexual orientation, the majority of trans expansive people identify as gay (36.7%), followed by bisexual (19.6%), queer (16.3%), and lesbian (14.4%).

Gender Identity



A few individuals selected more than one gender identity or expression, such as 'transgender man' and 'gender non-conforming'.

Sexual Orientation

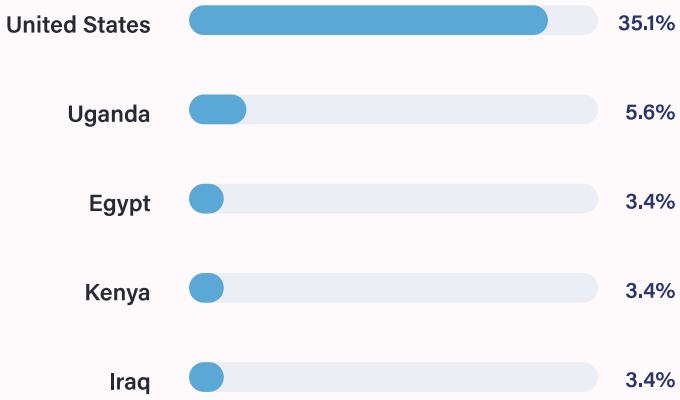


Some individuals selected more than one sexual orientation, such as 'queer' and 'gay'.

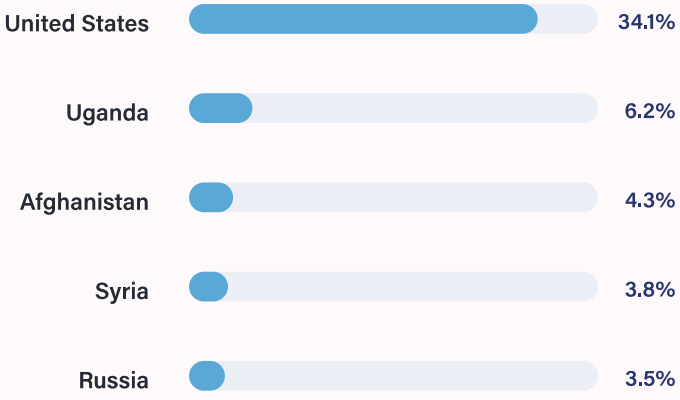
The vast majority, over 79%, of trans expansive people requesting assistance were between the ages of 18 and 35. Rainbow Railroad's data shows that many trans expansive people face exposure to violence and displacement during youth and early adulthood, often coinciding with increased visibility of their gender non-conformity. This exposure to violence is linked closely to economic precarity and the pressure to form a heteronormative family.

Trans expansive individuals are requesting help from all over the world. North America (37%) accounted for the largest region where they are requesting help from, followed by the Middle East and North Africa (24%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (19%).

Top 5 Countries of Request



Top 5 Nationalities



SECTION 2

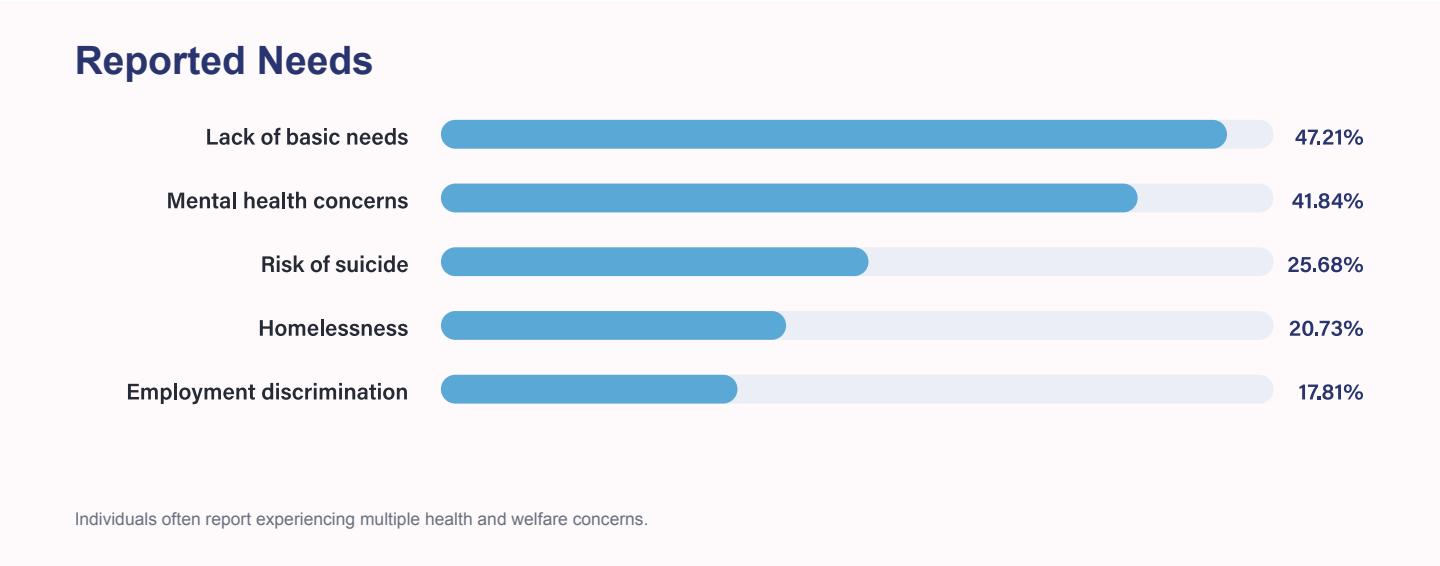
Drivers of Displacement

Trans expansive people face persistent and severe protection risks across forced displacement contexts; however, despite this, their protection needs are rarely identified or addressed. The drivers of forced displacement among trans expansive people are rooted in severe and multifaceted persecution. In numerous countries around the world, such as in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, laws explicitly criminalize transgender identity or gender expression. Many more countries disproportionately prosecute trans expansive people under public indecency, morality, vagrancy, or sex-work statutes.[6] This is the case in Syria. Other countries prohibit so-called "propaganda" in support of LGBTQI+ rights, or have erected barriers to freedom of association and assembly.[7]

34% of requests for help from trans expansive people came from United States citizens. The US, once a desirable destination for LGBTQI+ migrants, now tops the list of countries where citizens, and particularly trans expansive people, are asking for help. The US first appeared among the top 10 countries where LGBTQI+ individuals were requesting help in 2022, when anti-LGBTQI+ bills introduced across state legislatures started proliferating.[8] Since then, anti-trans backlash has expanded at the federal level through executive orders targeting trans expansive people's access to healthcare, legal recognition, and public life. While several states and cities offer protections for LGBTQI+ people, there are vast inequities in access to safety even within the United States. The rising level of fear and anxiety among trans expansive people in the United States, as demonstrated by our data, is a deeply troubling trend that calls for a humanitarian response from community members, allies, and policymakers.

In addition to legal hostility from states, these individuals encounter pervasive personal violence, including physical and sexual assault, threats, extortion, and murder, perpetrated by both state and non-state actors, including police, family members, community groups, and armed entities.[9] Transgender women, in particular, are subject to extreme violence, including transfemicide.[10] This violence almost always forms part of a broader pattern of discrimination in access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing, which exacerbates poverty and compels many individuals to adopt precarious survival strategies such as sex work. This, in turn, exposes them to further violence and exploitation.[11]

Across regions, trans expansive people reported gender-based violence. This violence spans family rejection, community exclusion, verbal and physical abuse, and includes threats framed as "corrective" violence, also known as "corrective rape". Among those who disclosed multiple forms of safety concerns, family-based rejection (55.6%) and community rejection (56.5%) were the most frequently reported, followed by physical violence (37.7%) and verbal threats (34.1%).[12] These harms were often compounded by severe health and welfare concerns, with 47.2% of trans expansive people who disclosed such concerns reporting lack of basic needs, and 41.8% disclosing mental health distress, including suicidal ideation.



Individuals often report experiencing multiple health and welfare concerns.

Isolated from family, community, and legal protection, trans expansive people navigating forced displacement face heightened vulnerability to intimate partner violence (IPV). Compounding this, poverty, homelessness, and discrimination can leave displaced trans expansive people structurally dependent on abusive relationships for survival.[13] In some cases, abusive partners may exploit gender dysphoria by withholding transition-related medical care or demanding their partner present as cisgender, and wield the threat of outing (disclosing a partner's trans identity to employers, community, or authorities) as a tool of control in unfamiliar, often hostile environments.[14]

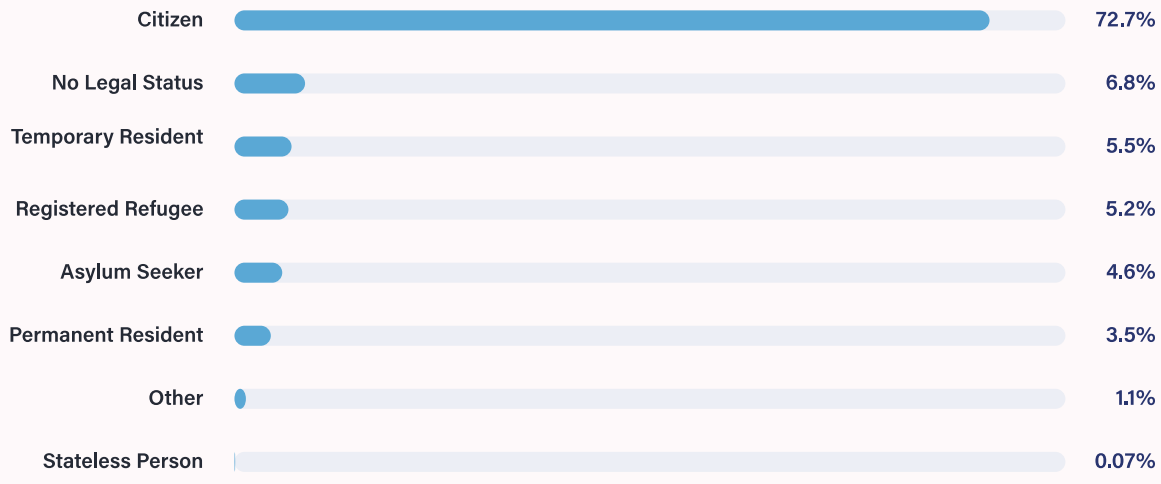
SECTION 3

Migration and the Immigration System

Even in attempting to leave situations of danger, trans expansive people face barriers. Data collected by Rainbow Railroad points to international relocation (76%) as the most frequently requested form of support, whereas 16.7% requested relocation within their country of request. Many trans expansive people are unable to turn to their families for assistance because of their identities, and barriers to employment in their home country make it harder to fund travel. Further, the vast majority of trans expansive people often do not have access to travel documents that accurately reflect their name and gender, leading to visa rejections, detention, and mistreatment at international borders. Rainbow Railroad data shows that airlines and airport authorities frequently become suspicious when individuals do not visually conform to heteronormative expectations, particularly trans expansive expressions of gender and sexuality, and can act as non-state barriers to travel.[15]

Our experience also shows that upon arrival in transit and host countries, asylum and immigration systems often perpetuate the marginalization experienced by trans expansive people. Rainbow Railroad's data indicates that only a small number (5.2%) of trans expansive people seeking help held recognized refugee status — a sign of how inaccessible formal status remains for trans expansive people.

Status in Country of Request



Humanitarian protection systems continue to face challenges in ensuring that frontline personnel receive adequate SOGIESC-specific training. Gaps in such training may hinder the extent to which trans expansive people are treated with sensitivity and respect throughout registration and interview processes. Additionally, resettlement processes can be challenging to navigate, with limited transparency surrounding decision-making. These challenges, alongside broader resource constraints, may contribute to perceptions of inequity in the support available to forcibly displaced trans expansive individuals.[17]

At Rainbow Railroad, we have consistently seen individuals over the years encounter a dilemma when applying for asylum based on SOGIESC: they are expected by asylum authorities to disclose their queerness, yet are not provided with safe environments in which to do so. This is compounded by the systemic denial of gender recognition, which, rather than resolving that harm, the very institutions charged with protecting displaced people replicate and reinforce — exposing trans expansive people to renewed violence, exclusion, and statelessness.[18]

Having escaped a situation of persecution does not mean that a person is free from harm. The asylum process often spans months or even years, resulting in prolonged uncertainty, significant psychological distress, and precarious legal status. The interviews themselves are frequently intrusive, demanding intimate details and compelling a "forced coming out" in a high-stakes environment, which can be re-traumatizing.[19] Additionally, inadequately trained or biased interpreters can significantly distort testimony, obstructing applicants' ability to accurately articulate their experiences. Interpreters may be deficient in specific terminology related to SOGIESC, or may possess cultural biases that render them unsafe for handling sensitive disclosures.[20]

Only 37 countries grant asylum to individuals based on SOGIESC-based discrimination. Although gender identity is recognized in some jurisdictions as valid grounds for asylum under the "membership in a particular social group" (PSG) category, its application remains inconsistent across legal systems. Many jurisdictions lack explicit recognition of "gender expression" and "sex characteristics," resulting in insufficient protection for certain trans expansive individuals. Additionally, pre-transition trans expansive people often face heightened scrutiny within the asylum process due to the heteronormativity bias held by asylum authorities, who frequently lack a comprehensive understanding of the diversity of queer identities and expressions.[21]

Accommodation centers for refugees and asylum seekers often present unsafe environments for trans expansive claimants. In many displacement contexts, accommodations are divided according to legal identification. Transgender women are routinely placed in male-only detention centers and shelters, and transgender men are often housed in women's facilities or in solitary confinement. This systemic lack of inclusive accommodations exposes displaced trans expansive individuals to heightened risks of violence and abuse.[22] Due to the prevalence of transphobia exhibited by other residents, individuals are often forced to conceal their identities, which can lead to isolation and re-traumatization. Trans expansive individuals in detention encounter distinct challenges, including difficulties in obtaining gender-affirming healthcare, susceptibility to sexual abuse perpetrated not only by fellow residents but also by staff members, and an increased risk of physical and verbal abuse from other residents due to their visible queer expressions.[23]

SECTION 4

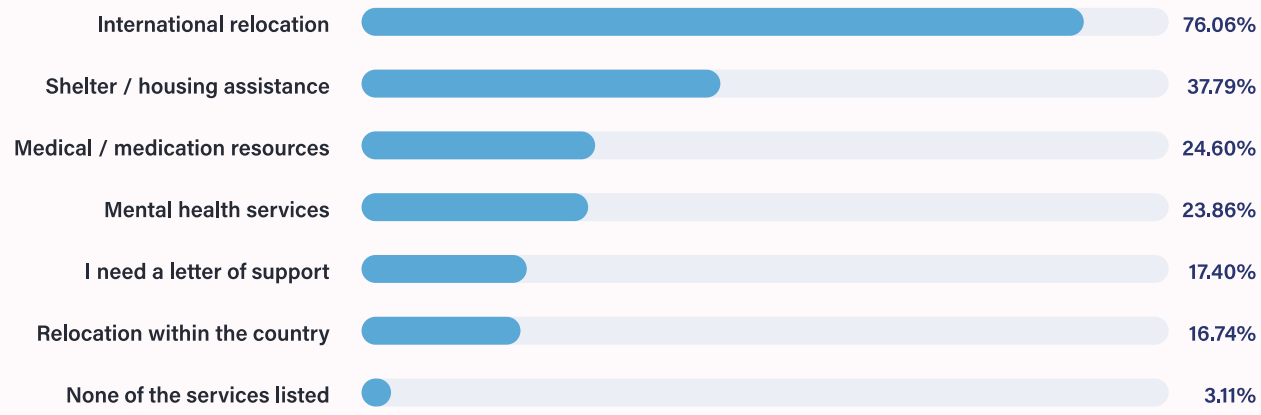
Post-Resettlement Support

Lastly, it is important to note that even when removed from immediate danger, trans expansive people experience systemic barriers in accessing housing, employment, legal aid, and essential services. These obstacles include a lack of culturally competent and adequately trained professionals, fear and distrust of formal institutions rooted in past persecution, and language barriers.[24] Access to physical and mental healthcare also remains severely constrained for trans expansive people, and a critical shortage of practitioners trained in SOGIESC issues and trauma-informed care exacerbates this situation. Consequently, many individuals experience discrimination, misgendering, and breaches of confidentiality from healthcare providers, which discourages them from seeking support for prevalent conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety.[25] These service gaps are particularly damaging in protracted displacement contexts, where trauma compounds over time.

Racialized trans expansive individuals also face multiple layers of discrimination when accessing housing, employment, and healthcare. They frequently encounter racism within mainstream LGBTQI+ communities, which obstructs their ability to establish robust support networks. Trans women of colour, in particular, endure the most extreme forms of violence and marginalization due to these intersecting prejudices. This marginalization can adversely impact their asylum processes, as asylum authorities often expect them to be active participants in local queer communities as proof of their genuine belonging to LGBTQI+ populations.[26]

The nature of assistance requested from Rainbow Railroad illustrates the severity of risk for trans expansive people navigating all stages of forced displacement. The majority of individuals request multiple forms of assistance from Rainbow Railroad, and requests include emergency shelter, health/medical care, mental health services, and letters of support. This data not only reflects the vulnerabilities impacting trans expansive people, but it also points to systemic failures in providing protection, safety, and dignity within existing humanitarian and refugee systems.

Program Services Requested



Individuals often request multiple forms of assistance from Rainbow Railroad.

Recommendations

Addressing violence and discrimination against trans expansive people requires dismantling laws and policies that target LGBTQI+ people and investing in gender-responsive, intersectional, and community-led protection frameworks that restore safety, dignity, and mobility for trans expansive people who have been affected by forced displacement. As such, we propose the following recommendations:

For National Governments:

- Create or expand dedicated gender-responsive resettlement pathways for trans expansive people, including those blocked by documentation and mobility restrictions, such as the Government of Canada's Government-Assisted Refugees (GAR) program.
- Guarantee identity-affirming access to documents, services, and facilities, including sustaining continuity of HIV treatment, gender-affirming care, and mental health support.
- Develop cultural competency training for adjudicators, interpreters, and practitioners on SOGIESC claims.
- Fund case management, legal navigation, and community support programs throughout refugee and asylum processes.

For International Organizations:

- Strengthen crisis response mechanisms by integrating LGBTQI+ protections into broader humanitarian frameworks, ensuring that trans expansive forcibly displaced people are not overlooked in emergency response planning.
- Issue identity and travel documents that match a person's self-identified name and gender.
- Develop targeted protection pathways for trans expansive internally displaced persons, recognizing that many remain at extreme risk within their countries of origin and require urgent solutions.
- Collect disaggregated data on trans expansive refugees and asylum seekers, and ensure adequate training for the collection and use of sensitive information.

For Human Rights and Community Organizations:

- Ensure meaningful participation of trans expansive people with lived experiences of forced displacement in the design, implementation, and evaluation of domestic and cross-border policies affecting trans expansive forcibly displaced people, prioritizing intersectional and community-led approaches.
- Provide short-term, safe housing that accounts for trans expansive safety in transit countries, countries of first asylum, and countries of resettlement.
- Facilitate connections to accessible, gender-informed healthcare services, including mental health support and gender-affirming care, while addressing barriers related to cost, documentation, language, and legal status.
- Facilitate community support networks that foster peer connection, mutual aid, and belonging while reducing isolation for trans expansive people navigating forced displacement.

For Donors:

- Increase flexible funding for trans-led civil society organizations and regional networks to strengthen humanitarian and refugee protection systems for forcibly displaced trans expansive people.
- Invest in multilateral coordination, including Rainbow Railroad's Queer Forced Displacement Network (QFDN), to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and policy development across international actors.
- Provide direct, sustained funding for frontline service delivery and individual economic stabilization, including emergency assistance, case management, shelter, legal support, psychosocial care, and flexible cash assistance to help forcibly displaced trans and gender-expansive people meet basic needs.

Notes

[1] Rainbow Railroad's data is a valuable snapshot into the global crisis trans expansive people are experiencing. Rainbow Railroad's data reflects people who reached out to Rainbow Railroad and completed the request for help form. It does not measure all displaced trans expansive people, and it likely under-represents people without internet access or in detention. It may also miss people who must conceal their identity to flee or seek safety, since reaching out can expose them. Trans expansive people are subject to intersectional vulnerabilities that make it harder for them to reach out, harder for them to flee, and harder for them to find protection.

[2] UNHCR : Figures at a glance 2026.

[3] Center for Global Development: Three things to know about LGBTQ+ Refugees this World refugee day 2024.

[4] Sandra Smiley, Out of sight, out of mind? Transgender people in humanitarian emergencies

[5] Rainbow Railroad: Understanding the state of Global LGBTQI+ Persecution 2025 Annual Report.

[6] Myles Williamson, A Global Analysis of Transgender Rights: Introducing the Trans Rights Indicator Project.

[7] Outright International: The Global State of LGBTIQ Organizing: The Right to Register and the Freedom to Operate, 2023.

[8] American Civil Liberties Union: Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in U.S. State Legislatures in 2026.

[9] Human Dignity Trust: Injustice Exposed, The Criminalisation of Transgender People and its Impacts.

[10] Human Rights Watch: "Every Day I Live in Fear" Violence and Discrimination Against LGBT People in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and Obstacles to Asylum in the United States.

[11] Ailsa Winton, Queer mobilities and the work of messy survival.

[12] Individuals often report experiencing multiple safety concerns.

[13] Ester Mingot, The Role of Migration Policies and Minority Stressors on Intimate Partner Violence Amongst LGBTIQ+ Displaced Persons in Mexico.

[14] Fitzgerald et al. A scoping review of policing and coercive control in LGBTQ+ intimate relationships.

[15] A. Espinosa, K. Hampton, N. Nathwani, et al. Extra-judicial border enforcement against LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers.

[16] Ailsa Winton, Queer Mobilities and the Work of Messy Survival.

[17] Kate Pinock, UNHCR and LGBTI Refugees in Kenya: The Limits of "Protection".

[18] B Camminga, Withholding the letter: Transgender asylum seekers, legal gender recognition, and the UNHCR mandate.

[19] Nick J. Mulé, Mental health issues and needs of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, refugee claimants and refugees in Toronto, Canada.

[20] Emrah Yildiz, Migrant Sexualities, Queer Travelers: Iranian Bears and the Asylum of Translation in Turkey.

[21] Alexandra Novitskaya, Sexual Citizens in Exile: State-Sponsored Homophobia and Post-Soviet LGBTQI+ Migration.

[22] Human Rights Watch: "Every Day I Live in Fear" Violence and Discrimination Against LGBT People in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and Obstacles to Asylum in the United States.

Notes

[23] Vogler and Rosales, Classification and Coercion: The Gendered Punishment of Transgender Women in Immigration Detention.

[23] David Murray, Liberation Nation? Queer Refugees, Homonationalism and the Canadian Necropolitical State.

[24] Langroudi and Skinta, Working with gender and sexual minorities in the context of Islamic culture.

[25] Caitlin Barotz, "All Lesbian go to Pride": Barriers and Biases in Seeking Asylum as a Queer Person Fleeing Persecution.