

LGBTQI migrants living in Canada

FACT SHEET



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LGBTQI people living in Canada

The majority of the Canadian literature about LGBTQI migrants included in this scoping review, especially those published from 2007 to 2010, were focused on LGBTQI refugees and how the refugee claimant process assess SOGIE-based (sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression) claims. 34 out of 56 publications were focused on LGBTQI refugees. Most of these studies included a mix of cis men and women and an analysis of sexual orientation, with a smaller amount including trans people and an analysis of gender identity and expression. Most of these studies were completed either in Vancouver, the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) or a combination of Toronto and Montreal.

- **2011 onwards:** There was a shift in scholarship, focusing more on the social, political and economic dimensions of the refugee process. There was a wider variety of disciplines producing knowledge about LGBTQI refugees and a shift in focus from refugee to precarious status and/or newcomer / immigrant categories and focus on multiple community belonging (i.e. migrant, LGBTQI, etc.) and structural barriers (i.e. employment, housing, education, health / social services, political life, etc.).
- **Trans migrants:** There is a small number of publications focus on trans migrants, those who engage in sex work face particular forms of structural violence from police and immigration authorities. Quebec is only province where trans migrants are unable change their gender marker and legal name.
- **Precarious status:** Living with either temporary or undocumented status often results in increased stress and are based on laws and policies that restrict ability to have political voice, access essential services and maintain employment. Policies related to obtaining a temporary visa (student, visitor, temporary worker) applications do not take into consideration the kinds of homophobic and/or transphobic violence (or other kinds of violence) that LGBTQI people living in the Global South encounter and often serve to block LGBTQI people from entry into Canada.

Policy Implications

There are gaps in the distribution of public funding and resources across geographic regions in Canada and inconsistencies between Canadian and provincial policies and practices. There should be more public funding to increase programs, services and training as well as closer collaboration between national and provincial policy-makers to address inconsistent and inequitable policies.

Key Publications

- Aylward, E. & Arps, F.S.E. (2016) Advancing dignity: Assessing Canada's global action on human rights for LGBTI people. Report. Dignity Initiative.
- Bhanji, N. (2012). Trans/criptions: Homing desires, (trans)sexual citizenship and racialized bodies. In T.T. Cotton (Ed.). *Transgender migrations: The bodies, borders, and politics of transition.* (pp. 157 – 175). New York: Routledge.
- Jordan, S. R. (2009). Un/Convention(al) Refugees: Contextualizing the Accounts of Refugees Facing Homophobic or Transphobic Persecution. *Refugee*, 26(2), 165 -182.
- Laviolette, N. (2014). Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and The Refugee Determination Process in Canada. *Journal of Research in Gender Studies*, 4(2), 68-123.
- Lee, E. O and S. Brotman (2011). Identity, Refugeehood and Belonging: Experiences of Sexual Minority Refugees in Canada. *Canadian Review of Sociology*, 48 (3), 241-274.