



Forcibly Displaced  
People Network

2025

# Queer Displacements Conference

*FOCUS ON THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONS*

## Program overview

3-5 September 2025 | Victoria University City Tower  
Naarm (Melbourne) Australia

# Pre-conference | 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people only



12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Arrival and Lunch

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Room 15, L10

LGBTIQ+ Forcibly Displaced Communities Forum

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Coffee Break

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Workshop One (Room 15, L10)

**Raising Our Voices: A workshop on self-advocacy for people with LGBTIQ+ and refugee experiences**

**Hanna Qereqeretabua, Bijan Kardouni, Epipola and Parissa Bozorg** | STARTTS NSW, Walk on Walk Strong | Australia

Workshop Two (Room 11, L6)

**Strengthening Social Capacity: Building healthy relationships and conflict management skills for LGBTIQ+ refugees**

**Dr Li-Min Lee** | Australia

# Day 1 | 4 SEPTEMBER 2025



8:00 – 9:00 AM Registration Opens

9:00 – 10:45 AM Morning Plenaries | Welcome to 2025 Queer Displacements Conference

Main Conference  
Room | L25

**First Nations, Climate and Migration Justice** **Maryanne Rimbao** | Humanity and Nature Indigenous Women's Association PNG, **Matcha Phornin** | Sangsan Anakot Yawachon Development Project Thailand, **Ben Tyler** | Kakadu Kitchen Australia

**Leveraging Community-led Initiatives to Drive Outcomes for LGBTIQ+ Clients through the SETS Program** **Francis Jimoh** | STARTTS NSW Australia

10:45 – 11:15 AM Coffee Break

11:15 AM – 1:00 PM

**LGBTIQ+ Refugees and People Seeking Asylum in the SETS Program** **Leticia** | Many Coloured Sky, Australia

L25

**The Hidden Rainbow: LGBTQIA+ Refugee's Survival in Malaysia** **Hasan Al-Akraa, Lovishniakri Sekaran** | Refugee Emergency Fund, Malaysia

**Queer language justice: embracing solidarities between community members, language practitioners and service providers** **Mikhael Touma, Frankie Hanman Siegersma, Blossom Ah Ket and Paige Matthews** | Language Justice Network, Australia

1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 PM Parallel Sessions

**Gender-based Violence, Persecution and Conversion Practices (L25)**

- » Redefining conversion practices as gender-based violence **Dr Tina Dixon** | FDPN, Australia
- » "There's no saving here": resisting LGBTQIA+ conversion practices at the intersection of migration, culture and religion **Percy Gurtler** | ARCSHS, La Trobe University, Australia

**Refugee Status Determination and Policy Frameworks (L24)**

- » Shirking responsibility: Australia's offshore processing regime **Michaela Rhode** | Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, Australia
- » Ministerial intervention under s48b: examining the process through an LGBTIQ+ lens **Iona Moller** | Refugee Legal, Australia

**Mental Health and Trauma Recovery (Room 15, L10)**

- » Exploring the experiences of queer international students accessing mental health support in Victoria **Xin Hu** | Australia
- » Co-designing mental health resources for LGBTIQ+ displaced people and migrants: promoting wellbeing and help-seeking **Dr Li-Min Lee** | Australia

## Day 1 | Continued

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The queer migrant project: domestic and family violence, intersectionality, and the LGBTQ+ migrant community in QLD Dilsah de Rham, Saina Avesta and Mark Kleine   LGBTI Legal Service, Australia</li> <li>» Perseverance: identifying and responding to family violence in the context of queer displacement Jesse Brown   Thorne Harbour Health, Australia</li> <li>» Gender persecution in Tasmania: experiences of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people Taya Ketelaar-Jones   University of Tasmania, Australia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Representing SOGIESC clients with the Department &amp; Tribunal: what we've learned, seen, and what we're advocating for Katie Wrigley and Gretel Emerson   Refugee Advice and Casework Service, Australia</li> <li>» The legal and social landscape surrounding queer asylum in Japan A/Prof Haruko Kudo   Kobe University, Japan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Heartspace: co-designing a model of mental health and wellbeing for LGBTIQ+ refugees and people seeking asylum Grace Dee Macauley   Many Coloured Sky, Australia</li> <li>» Who gets to be well? The mental health implications of necropolitics Alex Duarte and Kelli Charles   Australia</li> <li>» Resilience in movement: supporting the mental health and wellbeing of displaced LGBTIQ+ people Néstor Iván Elvir Hernández   Asociación Honduras Diversa, Honduras/Spain</li> </ul>
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Coffee Break		
4:00 – 5:45 PM	Afternoon Plenaries		
L25	Attacking LGBTQIA+ rights in the name of 'defending women': Confronting the contradictions of 'anti-gender' movements in pursuit of gender justice Dr. Lata Narayanaswamy   University of Leeds, UK		
	Queer liberation as a global fight for safety, dignity, and self-determination Melak Khaleel, Anastasia Le		
	The role of philanthropy in enhancing refugee-led advocacy and solutions for forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people Dr Ruth McNair AM   Pride Foundation Australia		
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Welcome Reception		
L24			

## Day 2 | 5 SEPTEMBER 2025



9:00 – 10:45 AM	Morning Plenaries		
Main Conference Room   L25	<b>Strength in Sisterhood: Focus on the Leadership of Trans Displaced Women</b> Aisya Zaharin, Amao Leota Lu, facilitated by Sasja Sjödek   Trans Sisters United, Australia		
	<b>Intersectional Invisibility: Experiences of Queer Migrants in Türkiye</b> Ali Aliyev   Positive Solidarity and Sabancı University, Türkiye		
	<b>The Role of Organisations in Secondary Trauma and Burnout Experience among LGBTI+ Mental Health Workers Supporting Forcibly Displaced LGBTI+ Clients</b> Dr Farnaz Shahimi   Foundation House & MCRI, Australia		
10:45 – 11:15 AM	Coffee Break		
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM	Workshops		
	Workshop One (L25)	Workshop Two (L24)	Workshop Three (Room 15, L10)
	<b>From Tools to Allies: Redefining Collaboration with Language Practitioners for Inclusive Service Delivery</b> Mikhael Touma, Blossom Ah Ket and Paige Matthews   Language Justice Network, Australia	<b>Crafting narratives of resilience: exploring the Passport of Life with LGBTIQ+ people with refugee experiences</b> Alireza, Victoria, Amy Luschwitz and Heathergrace Jones   STARTTS NSW, Australia	<b>Celebrate with Manaya Pride: a taste of community based-mental health support for collective connections and care</b> Manisha Abraham, Lauren Breen and Anirudh Chilukuri   The Iceberg Foundation, Australia
12:45 – 1:45 PM	Lunch		
1:45 – 3:00 PM	Parallel Sessions		
	Grassroots and Community Work (L25)	Legal, Digital, and Structural Barriers (L24)	Intersectionality in Displacement (Room 15, L10)
	» Eliminating community shame: co-Designed work-integrated learning for queer Anatolian displaced individuals Cansu COL   Anatolian Queers Collective, Australia	» Changing name and gender on identity documents for displaced and migrant trans and gender diverse community Niamh Joyce   Inner City Legal Centre, Australia	» Christianity and community among LGBTIQ+ African heritage refugees and asylum seekers in Greater Western Sydney Dr Kathleen Openshaw   Western Sydney University, Australia

## Day 2 | Continued

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Forgotten queer asylum seekers from Central Asia and the Middle East in Türkiye with anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws: lessons for RSD and third country processing <a href="#">Saina Avesta</a>   <a href="#">Third Queer Culture, Australia</a></li> <li>» Redefining support services for forcibly displaced LGBTQIA+ communities: insights from the Zyara Social Support Program <a href="#">Mikhael Touma</a>   <a href="#">Queer Arabs Australia, Australia</a></li> <li>» Navigating Settlement: addressing the needs of Chinese queer diasporic communities in Australia using a community-centred approach <a href="#">Shutong (Ash) Chen</a>   <a href="#">Australia</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Perception and understanding of privacy among queer people in Nepal: How do they see and express themselves in digital spaces? <a href="#">Shubha Kayastha</a>   <a href="#">Australia</a></li> <li>» Surveilling transfemininity: the disciplinary politics of 'ladyboys' in neoliberal Thailand <a href="#">Dr Jean Linis-Dinco</a>   <a href="#">Australia</a></li> <li>» The Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act: The law as prevention education <a href="#">Kenton Penley Miller</a>   <a href="#">Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, Australia</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Are we well? Supporting Indigenous/Pasifika LGBTQIA+ displaced peoples in Australia and Aotearoa <a href="#">Prof Corrinne Sullivan</a>   <a href="#">Western Sydney University, Australia</a></li> <li>» Recognition and community-led protection for refugees with diverse SOGIE in Southeast Asia <a href="#">Tamara Megaw</a>   <a href="#">University of Sydney, Australia</a></li> <li>» Rohingya Hijra Refugees: An ethno-religious category in the making in the context of forced displacement <a href="#">Kazi Ashraf Uddin</a>   <a href="#">UNSW Sydney, Australia</a></li> </ul>
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Coffee Break		
3:30 – 5:30 PM	Afternoon Plenaries		
Main Conference Room   L25	The LGBTQIA+ Politics of Borders, Detention and Deportation <a href="#">A/Prof Debanuj DasGupta</a>   <a href="#">University of California, Santa Barbara US</a>		
	Launch of the Roadmap for Action: Achieving asylum and migration justice for LGBTQIA+ forcibly displaced people <a href="#">Dr Renee Dixon</a>   <a href="#">FDPN</a> , <a href="#">Maria Dimopoulos AM</a>   <a href="#">Settlement Council of Australia</a> , <a href="#">Dr Ruth McNair AM</a>   <a href="#">Pride Foundation Australia</a> , and <a href="#">Jasmina Bajraktarevic-Hayward</a>   <a href="#">STARTTS NSW, Australia</a>		
	Closing Plenary   Where to next? Dr. Michael Failla and Joe Rodriguez in conversation with Dr Renee Dixon		