

The United Nations has identified LGBTI people as a group specifically affected by the war in Ukraine

[Blog](#), [Safety](#), [Asylum](#), [Ukraine](#)

Working alongside ILGA-Europe, the UN has published [recommendations](#) For humanitarian actors working with LGBTI people affected by the war in Ukraine.

In all wars, LGBTI people have the same basic needs as everyone else, however, because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and/or sex characteristics, they are at higher risk of exclusion and violence.

As ILGA-Europe's Executive Director Evelyne Paradis explained in our previous [blog](#): "Humanitarian crises affect everybody, however, some communities sometimes need a targeted response because of pre-existing vulnerabilities. These particular vulnerabilities make people feel unsafe when dealing with humanitarian organisations providing safe shelter, basic necessities food and medical aid. Not knowing if they will be treated without discrimination, simply welcomed and be taken care of, is a barrier for people in accessing humanitarian support."

This is why ILGA-Europe have worked together with the UN, via its Protection Cluster Ukraine, on a [list of recommendations](#) for humanitarian actors and service providers working with people affected by the war in Ukraine, so they can better understand and address the risks faced by LGBTI people staying or fleeing the country.



Here are the core recommendations:

Ensure inclusive programming, advocacy and responses

- **Collect data that is disaggregated** by sex, gender, age and disability as well as data relating to specific protection needs, risks and barriers LGBTI people face.
- **Map presence and reach out to LGBTI organisations** to learn about their work.
- **Establish specific LGBTI reception measures**, such as gender-neutral options on registration forms or special hours and days for LGBTI people to register.
- **Encourage the active participation of LGBTI individuals** in programmes and activities.
- **Link specialised LGBTI centres** and shelters to the humanitarian aid system.
- **Include staff** from different genders and backgrounds
- **Address barriers for LGBTI people** to access social services and programmes
- **Include funding opportunities for LGBTI-led organisation** in your resource mobilization actions.
- **Raise awareness** of the situation of LGBTI people affected by the war
- **Advocate for non-discriminatory provision of services** to LGBTI people by humanitarian actors, civil society organisations, governments and others.

Create safe spaces

- **Ensure that staff** working in Ukraine are sensitive to the concerns and needs of LGBTI people.
- **Respect individual** preferences and privacy.
- **Communicate** through your staff members that your organisation is a safe space

- **Seek out and create safe**, confidential and effective referral systems and partnerships.
- **Advocate for inclusive treatment** by medical and healthcare professionals
- **Facilitate links** between LGBTI people in Ukraine and the wider LGBTI community
- **Allow trans, intersex and non-binary** people to choose the housing option, scattered-site housing or communal, they believe is safest for them.

Ensure accountability to the affected population

- **Consult with LGBTI people** on how they want to participate
- Ensure that **LGBTI individuals are well informed** about their rights
- Ensure that there is **two-way communication with LGBTI people** via their preferred channels.
- **Provide a space** where LGBTI people can meet safely
- Engage LGBTI people in **gender-based violence prevention and response**.