



Asylum & Legal Protection Under a Fascist Trump Administration

1. HOW TO REQUEST ASYLUM FOR LGBTQIA+ STATUS

WHAT TO SAY TO ICE WHEN REQUESTING ASYLUM

- If stopped by ICE or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), clearly state:
 - “I am afraid to return to my country because I am LGBTQ+ and I fear persecution. I am requesting asylum in the United States.”
- **DO NOT** answer questions about your home country until you declare your asylum request.
- **DO NOT** sign any documents without consulting a lawyer.
- If pressured, repeat: “I will not sign anything until I speak with a lawyer.”

* DO NOT LIE ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY OR CASE!

- If you do not feel safe disclosing your LGBTQ+ status, say:
 - “I have a deeply personal reason for seeking asylum and need to speak with an immigration officer or lawyer.”



2. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS WHEN SEEKING ASYLUM



UNDER U.S. LAW, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Request asylum at any U.S. border or after being detained.
- Remain in the U.S. while your asylum case is processed.
- Have an interpreter present if you do not speak English.
- Have an attorney assist you (though the government does not provide one for free).

* WHAT ICE CANNOT LEGALLY DO!

- Force you to return to your home country without due process.
- Deny your request without a fair hearing.
- Punish you for seeking asylum.



3. IF ICE DETAINS YOU

STEP 1: REQUEST RELEASE ON PAROLE OR BOND

- Ask: “Can I be released on parole while my asylum case is pending?”
- If denied, ask: “Can I have a bond hearing?”
 - (This allows you to argue for your release before an immigration judge.)



STEP 2: DEMAND PROTECTION FROM ABUSE IN DETENTION

- LGBTQ+ asylum seekers are at higher risk of abuse in ICE detention.
 - Request to be placed in protective custody due to LGBTQ+ status.
 - If mistreated, say: “I am LGBTQ+ and do not feel safe in this facility. I request a transfer or release.”
 - If facing threats or violence, document everything and inform your lawyer immediately.

4. PREPARING FOR YOUR ASYLUM INTERVIEW



📄 WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO PROVE

- That you fear returning to your home country due to your LGBTQ+ status.
- Any past persecution or discrimination you have faced.
- Future risks if you are deported.
- Evidence: social media threats, news reports, medical records, or letters from LGBTQ+ organizations.

💡 TIP: IF YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE DISCUSSING YOUR LGBTQ+ IDENTITY OPENLY, SAY:

- “I have experienced harm that is very difficult to talk about. I would feel more comfortable discussing this with a lawyer or mental health professional.”



5. EMERGENCY LEGAL HELP FOR LGBTQ+ ASYLUM SEEKERS

FREE LEGAL AID & RESOURCES

IMMIGRATION EQUALITY (LGBTQ+ ASYLUM LEGAL HELP)

www.immigrationequality.org
(212) 714-2904

FLORENCE IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS PROJECT (ARIZONA)

www.firrp.org
(520) 868-0191

TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER – BLACK LGBTQIA+ MIGRANT PROJECT

www.transgenderlawcenter.org
(510) 587-9696

RAICES (TEXAS & ARIZONA LEGAL AID FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS)

www.raicestexas.org
(800) 409-2893

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD (PHOENIX CHAPTER – PRO BONO SUPPORT)

www.nlgarizona.org
(480) 405-6719

6. QUICK ACTION PLAN FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS



WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO DO

- Immediately say: “I am LGBTQ+ and I fear persecution in my home country. I am requesting asylum.”
- Do not sign anything without a lawyer.
- Request a credible fear interview with an asylum officer.
- If detained, demand parole or bond for release.
- Contact LGBTQ+ asylum legal groups ASAP.
- Gather evidence and prepare your testimony.

STAY STRONG & SEEK SUPPORT

LGBTQIA+ individuals fleeing persecution deserve protection. The asylum process is complex, but legal advocates and organizations are here to help.

You are not alone. Seek help, stay informed, and fight for your right to safety.

