Resettled LGBTIQ refugees in the Netherlands

RST-Fachtagung, 5 May 2021 Babiche Routledge, UNHCR the Netherlands



Integration of resettled LGBTIQ refugees

- Evidence-based report
- Assessed the integration of resettled LGBTIQ refugees
- Perspective of persons of concern
- 17 resettled refugees interviewed
- Identified challenges, obstacles and best practices



Main findings

- Pre-departure: information not accurate or realistic
- Reception: issues small municipalities and shared housing
- Dutch language: overcrowded classes and waiting lists
- Higher and vocational education: lack of information
- Interaction host community: isolation and loneliness, stigmatization, support Dutch Council for Refugees
- Financial situation: high travel costs



Recommendations

- Tailored pre-departure information
- Improved information sharing between stakeholders (special focus on specific needs)
- Proximity to larger cities preferred
- Interaction with host community (esp. Dutch LGBTIQ community) encouraged and facilitated
- Quality of Dutch language classes
- Provision of information



Recent developments

- Refugee-led Resettlement
 Advisory Committee
- Collaboration with LGBTIQ rights organisations (e.g. <u>COC</u>, <u>LGBT Asylum</u> <u>Support</u>)
- Pride Amsterdam (Canal Parade and <u>online stories</u>)



