



## Call for Papers

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Credibility in SOGIESC asylum cases

Amsterdam, Pakhuis de Zwijger, and online  
20 September 2024

According to the Summary Conclusions of UNHCR's 2021 Global Roundtable on LGBTQI+ Asylum Seekers there is a need to urgently revise the UNHCR 2012 Guidelines No. 9. However, to date the Guidelines remain unchanged. Credibility assessment of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers is still often based on stereotypical assumptions and expectations of universal characteristics or life experiences among all LGBTQI+ asylum seekers, such as 'emotional journeys', shame, and other negative feelings about themselves.

This conference is organized by the Striking Sirens Coalition, a group of practitioners and academics in the field of SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics) asylum in Europe, from Greece (Sophia Zisakou), the Netherlands (Sabine Jansen), Norway (Andrea Vige Grønningsæter), Sweden (Aino Gröndahl) and the United Kingdom (Claire Fletcher).

The purpose of the conference is to find solutions to the issues which are commonly experienced within the credibility assessment of SOGIESC asylum claims and to renew momentum to update UNHCR 2012 Guidelines No. 9. This conference will bring together practitioners, activists, LGBTQI+ people who have sought asylum, policy makers, academics, and NGOs.

We are seeking papers and workshops that avoid models and favor credibility assessment that is grounded in LGBTQI+ refugees' real-life experiences.

We invite proposals for papers and workshops on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Solutions to improve the credibility assessment of SOGIESC asylum claims without defaulting to models or stereotypes.
- The impact of current credibility assessments on LGBTQI+ people who have sought asylum.

Please send your proposal of max. 250 words for a paper or workshop to [strikingisirens@coc.nl](mailto:strikingisirens@coc.nl) before **10 May 2024**.

Include the title of your paper or workshop, and a short biography of 100 words, and indicate whether you would like to present your session in-person or online.

There is a small amount of funding for travel bursaries and accommodation costs, please indicate if you need financial assistance.

If your abstract is accepted, the deadline for the final paper is **25 August 2024**.

Afterwards we hope to issue a publication based on the contributions to the conference, which will be another step in solving the problems around credibility assessment in LGBTQI+ asylum cases and in improving UNHCR's Guidelines No. 9.