A warm welcome and friendly moments open to LGBTI asylum seekers in Saintes, La Rochelle and Angoulême.

Assistance in writing the “life story”, an essential element of the asylum application. Doing so in an LGBTI association facilitates this process. We know which points are difficult to broach in the stories which touch intimate parts of our lives.

Support for learning French, with the possibility of additional courses in French with ADHEOS volunteers.

If necessary, support in administrative and judicial proceedings in connection with reception centers and the associations involved in this process.

The creation of a file on the situation of LGBTI people in the home country, which can be used at different stages of the asylum application.

USEFUL INFO: What rights are there for asylum seekers, refugees and illegal immigrants in France?

Social support, Aliens and French people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welfare Benefit</th>
<th>Universal Health Care Coverage</th>
<th>State medical aid</th>
<th>Housing scheme (ALS, APL, ALF)</th>
<th>Asylum seeker allowance</th>
<th>Right to work</th>
<th>Family allowance</th>
<th>Children’s schooling</th>
<th>Transportation assistance</th>
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<tr>
<td>French person</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Illegal immigrant</td>
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<td>NO</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 According to your financial status
2 For asylum seekers: right to work a few months after registration with the OFPRA

CONTACT ADHEOS

ADHEOS Centre LGBTI
5 passage Ancienne Caserne
17100 SAINTES
contact@adheos.org
http://www.adheos.org
06 26 39 66 13

Advised by AIDE & DÉFENSE HOMOSEXUELLE POUR L’ÉGALITÉ DES ORIENTATIONS SEXUELLES
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But mentioning these questions is difficult for you because it addresses what is most personal. Moreover, a lot of people come from countries where sexuality - homosexuality even more - is taboo.

The ADHEOS association is an LGBTI center (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex people) in Poitou-Charentes Aquitaine, that offers support for asylum seekers in connection with the reception centers and the associations involved in this process.

The risk of such infringement, which could be regarded as persecution because of your sexual identity can lead to refugee status. So that the OFPRA (French Office for Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons), an administrative body which rules on the asylum application filed by an alien, can correctly make decisions, it is important that you explain your situation as soon as possible and what you fear as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex individual if you should return to your home country.

Getting help from an LGBTI association like ADHEOS allows you to better integrate into French society and better live your homosexuality, while increasing your chances of getting refugee status from OFPRA.

You are women and men persecuted in your country because of your sexual orientation or your gender identity, escaping your country simply for the right to live.

It is possible for you to obtain refugee status by basing your claim on the criterion of your sexual orientation or gender identity.

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The risk of persecution because of your sexual orientation, whether by the state, by family or other people threatening you, may make you eligible for refugee status. According to refugee law, French law and the regulations of the European Union, you are a refugee if you have good reason to fear persecution because of your sexual orientation or other affiliations of a particular social group.

Persecution may, for example, come from the authorities of the country of origin, but may also come from individuals or groups in your environment. It is possible that the authorities of your country are not able, or do not want to protect you against persecution.

You can read more information on asylum, on the laws and your rights and obligations on: http://www.adheos.org/droit-asile-refugie-lgbt-homosexuels-transgenres

SOME EXAMPLES

- Threats or violence of a serious nature from your family, state or other people can be grounds for asylum.
- If the laws, general rules or perception of society imply that you, because of your sexual orientation, be exposed to a serious infringement, such as a penalty, serious violence on your life and health, being deprived of education or the right to choose a profession or the right to health care, you may qualify for asylum.

If you are in France, victim of homophobic violence, of verbal and physical harassment because of your sexual orientation or gender identity, including from other refugees who do not accept your homosexuality, immediately notify members of ADHEOS association.

In France, the police and the justice system, but also the organizations working with asylum seekers have to protect you from homophobic violence.