



Subject: Research 'Fleeing Homophobia. Seeking Safety in Europe'.

Dear Madam, Sir,

The VU University of Amsterdam and the Federation of Dutch Associations for the Integration of Homosexuality, COC Netherlands, jointly work on the research project "*Fleeing Homophobia. Seeking Safety in Europe. Best Practices on the (Legal) Position of LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex) Asylum Seekers in the EU Member States*". The research is funded by the European Refugee Fund and the Dutch Ministry of Justice.

In order to collect data for the research in each country, 26 experts on asylum law have been contacted. They will write a report on the situation of LGBTI asylum seekers in each of their countries. The country reports will describe legislation and policy; practice; and case law concerning the criteria for recognising LGBTI asylum seekers as refugees or as entitles to subsidiary protection, as well as asylum procedures in as far as they hinder or facilitate a proper assessment of the claims of LGBTI asylum applicants. In addition, we will make an inventory of statistical data. The country reports will be the basis for a comprehensive analysis. The final report as well as the country reports will be published on a website.

In order to ensure that these reports reach their objectives and deliver good and exact results, we encourage you to welcome and assist the legal expert for your country by answering his/her questions, providing relevant information and responding to invitations to interviews and meetings.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Thomas Spijkerboer, Professor of Migration Law at VU University Amsterdam, Project coordinator

Mr. Sabine Jansen, COC Netherlands, Principal Researcher