

Summary

Assessing credibility in LGBTI and conversion motivated asylum applications

The assessment of asylum applications in which LGBTI orientation or a religious conversion is the motive, is a complex matter where the decision is largely based on the credibility assessment of the sexual or religious identity. Asylum applications that are related to the personal identity are difficult, or even impossible to substantiate with documents, and there is much (public) debate about asylum seekers who claim to have been rejected because their sexual orientation or their conversion was not considered credible. At the same time, it is important that improper claims, whereby asylum seekers pretend to be LGBTI or converted in order to obtain a residence permit, are rejected.

This report examines the establishment of the credibility assessment of asylum cases with an LGBTI or conversion motive and the corresponding bottlenecks. In addition, leads for improving the credibility assessment, and examples of pilots and projects in other countries or domains are examined. Findings show that the Netherlands has implemented most good practices that came forward from the literature, but it is not clear yet whether these good practices can be sufficiently guaranteed throughout the asylum procedure.