

Programme

Expert roundtable
Brussels, 27 June 2014

Asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression

- 10h30 – 11h **Registration**
- 11h – 12h15 Introduction and welcoming remarks from the day's moderator, Roisin Pillay, Director of the ICJ Europe Regional Program, and Livio Zilli, Senior Legal Adviser, UN Representative, Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity program, ICJ
- Opening session**
- Speaker:
 Professor Nicole LaViolette
 'Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Refugee Law: Some Reflections on Legal Challenges and Responses'
- Discussant:
 Professor Jens Vedsted-Hansen
 'Assessment of the evidence (or "credibility") in asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression'
- 12h15 – 12h30 **Lunch**
- 12h30 – 13h **Showing of:**
 'No Place for Me: the Struggles of Sexual and Gender Minority Refugees', a video produced by the Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex urban refugees in Mexico, Uganda and South Africa tell their stories.
 N.B. optional, shown in the same room where the roundtable takes place, please feel free to bring your lunch from the room next door if you want to watch this video.
- 13h – 14h15 **Adjudicating asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression**
- Speaker:
 Dr. Alice Edwards
 'X, Y and Z: The "A, B, C" of Claims based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity? Reflections on the CJEU judgment in X, Y and Z and UNHCR's Guidelines on International Protection No. 9'
- Discussant:
 Sabine Jansen
 'Assessing the credibility of sexual orientation in light of the ABC cases'

14h15 – 14h45 **Coffee break**

14h45 – 16h **What constitutes persecution in asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression**

Speaker:

Neil Grungras

'Understanding Persecution on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression'

Discussant:

Joe Tan

'Criminalisation of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression in the asylum context'

16h – 16h30 **Coffee break**

16h30 – 18h **European human rights and refugee law: an evolving dynamic**

Speakers:

Nuala Mole and Paul Harvey

'The relevance of European human rights law to asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression'

Discussant:

Professor Hemme Battjes

'The Dutch approach to the discretion requirement'

The ICJ is grateful to McDermott Will & Emery for making the venue and facilities for the expert roundtable available free of charge as part of their pro bono engagement with the organization's program of work on international protection claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.