

## INTERVISION

for professionals involved in accompanying applicants for international protection

### Applications for international protection based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity

**Where:** NANSEN, Rue Émile Féron 153, 1060 Brussels

**When:** Thursday 5 March 2026, from 9.15 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

**What:** This intervision focuses on applications for international protection based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI). It emphasizes the importance of high-quality guidance from the very start of the asylum procedure, as asylum authorities assess the credibility of both the applicant's SOGI and the fears invoked from the outset.

We bring together legal expertise, academic research, lived experiences and professional practice. The sessions will create a space for exchange between civil society organisations with expertise in supporting SOGI applicants for international protection, and insights drawn from research specifically focused on SOGI-based asylum claims.

This intervision is targeted at a broad audience, including social workers, lawyers and other professionals involved in accompanying applicants for international protection.

#### Useful resources:

- L. ROELS en L. CASTELEYN (2023), [Praktijkgids voor advocaten](#): Gendergerelateerde procedures om internationale bescherming – seksueel en gendergerelateerd geweld, seksuele oriëntatie en genderidentiteit
- NANSEN (2025), [Practical fact sheets on SOGI applicants for international protection](#)
- NANSEN Tool 2023-2, [Verzoeken tot internationale bescherming en gender: een bibliografie](#)
- NANSEN Profiel 2024-2, [Le besoin de protection internationale d'un homme marocain homosexuel victime de violences homophobes et atteint du VIH](#)
- NANSEN Profiel 2024-1, [Beoordeling van de beschermingsnood van een Irakese homoseksuele man in het kader van een volgend verzoek](#)
- NANSEN Profiel 2023-1, [Beoordeling van de nood aan internationale bescherming van lesbische vrouwen uit Afrika](#)
- NANSEN (2022), [Les demandes de protection fondées sur l'orientation sexuelle et l'identité de genre – premiers constats](#)
- SOGICA, [Final recommendations](#): 30 recommendations for improving the lives of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI) in the UK
- Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (2020), [Internationale bescherming van holebi's in België: Aanbevelingen en tips voor een beter verloop van de asielpprocedure](#)

#### The intervision will be held in English.

This intervision is accredited with 3 points by OVB and with 3 legal points and 1 non-legal point by Avocats.be.

## INTERVISION

<b>9.15 a.m.</b>	Welcome and registration
<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	Introduction – <b>Gert Bruininkx, NANSEN</b>
<b>9.35 a.m.</b>	<p>Preparing SOGI applicants for the asylum procedure in Belgium – <b>Iene Maveau, NANSEN</b></p> <p><i>This session is based on the <b>practical fact sheets</b> developed by NANSEN to support individuals accompanying SOGI applicants during the asylum procedure in Belgium.</i></p>
<b>10.10 a.m.</b>	<p>Exceptional encounters. Sexual orientation, gender identity and the Belgian asylum system – <b>Liselot Casteleyn</b></p> <p><i>This segment is based on Liselot's PhD research.</i></p>
<b>11 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>11.30 a.m.</b>	<p>What is left unsaid? – <b>Merhaba</b></p> <p><i>A conversation bringing together lived experience and diverse perspectives on underrepresented cultures and languages</i></p>
<b>12.30 p.m.</b>	Reflections based on experience in supporting SOGI applicants for international protection – <b>Rainbow Refugee Committee</b>
<b>1 p.m.</b>	Q&A
<b>1.30 p.m. CLOSING</b>	