

▶ **SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT ADHEOS**

- ▶ 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.

	French person	Asylum seeker	Refugee	Illegal immigrant
Welfare Benefit <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■
Universal Health Care Coverage <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■
State medical aid <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■
Housing scheme (ALS, APL, ALF) <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■
Asylum seeker allowance <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■
Right to work <sup>2</sup>	■	■	■	■
Family allowance	■	■	■	■
Children's schooling	■	■	■	■
Transportation assistance <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■

<sup>1</sup> According to your financial status

<sup>2</sup> For asylum seekers: right to work a few months after registration with the OFPRA

■ YES      ■ NO

▶ **CONTACT ADHEOS**



**ADHEOS Centre LGBTI**  
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ASSOCIATION LGBTI MILITANTE & FRIENDLY



Refugees Welcome



**AIDE & DÉFENSE HOMOSEXUELLE POUR L'ÉGALITÉ DES ORIENTATIONS SEXUELLES**

06 26 39 66 13  
**ADHEOS CENTRE LGBTI**

**SAINTES - CENTRE LGBTI ADHEOS**

5 PASSAGE DE L'ANCIENNE CASERNE 17100 SAINTES  
 > 05 46 92 98 55  
**OPENING HOURS**  
 > Mondays by appointment only  
 > The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month: 2pm - 6pm  
 > The 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month: 7.30pm - 11.30pm

**LA ROCHELLE - SALLE ADHEOS CAS**

(COLLECTIF ACTIONS SOLIDAIRES)  
 21 RUE SARDINERIE  
 17000 LA ROCHELLE

by appointment only

**ANGOULEME - CENTRE LGBTI ADHEOS**

5 BOULEVARD BERTHELOT (access by Place Saint Martial)  
 16000 ANGOULEME  
 > 05 45 92 75 33  
**OPENING HOURS**  
 > The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
 2.00pm - 6.00pm  
 > By appointment

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# Asylum Application based on sexual orientation or gender identity

**BE and ACT**



AIDE & DÉFENSE HOMOSEXUELLE POUR  
L'ÉGALITÉ DES ORIENTATIONS SEXUELLES

Homosexual help and defense  
for sexual orientation equality



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.



**ACT**

LGBTI asylum  
seekers' information

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
Transgender or Intersex people.

**BE**

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.

▶ **LGBTI RIGHTS TO ASYLUM**

ADHEOS association, an LGBTI center (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex people) in Poitou-Charentes Aquitaine, located in La Rochelle, Saintes and Angoulême, informs you, lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender or intersex individuals, about your rights as asylum seekers.

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.

→ 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.

▶ **RIGHT TO BE AND LIVE AS LGBT IN FRANCE**

All people from the asylum commission in ADHEOS, OFPRA, the interpreters, the staff of the CADA (Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers), are bound by the duty of confidentiality. We cannot disclose who you are, or your grounds for asylum to other people. For example, it is not possible without your consent to disclose your name, address or why you have applied 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.**

