

# STIGMA IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ITS EFFECT ON LGBTQ FORCED MIGRANTS: A LITERATURE REVIEW

This study intends to highlight the prevalence of sexual violence amongst migrants, especially forced migrants belonging to the LGBTQ community and highlights the reason why it tends to be hidden

## AUTHORS

Parangimalai Madan Kumar Sandhyaa

## AFFILIATIONS

University of British Columbia

## Introduction

There are more than 100 million people who are displaced forcibly from their homes, living in places, in camps, who face elevated risks for sexual violence. These statistics increase exponentially when it comes to refugees who are a part of the LGBTQ community. Based on prior studies, individuals compelled to migrate because of their gender identity, and/or expression, face considerable challenges, leading to substantial risks and health-related consequences during and after migration.

However due to the social stigma attached to sexual violence as well as a lack of research on LGBTQ communities, there has been little to no efforts on understanding the experience of the forced migrants in these communities leading to a large knowledge gap.

## Objective

This study intends to highlight the prevalence of sexual violence amongst migrants, especially forced migrants belonging to the LGBTQ community and highlights the reason why it tends to be hidden.

This would help enhance reproductive health services as well as identify policy gaps that might exist in today's world.

## Methodology

Systemic search was conducted on various scholarly databases including PubMed, PsychInfo, Scopus and Google Scholar. Keywords used on the search include "LGBTQ" "forced migrants" "sexual violence" "refugee" "sexual stigma" and "SRH".

15 articles were read, out of which 9 were selected and systematically reviewed. 5 articles were then selected and used for the study.

## Discussion

These forced migrants were targets of intense violence acts i.e., hate crimes. The people in their host countries completely exploited them, including expecting sexual favors from them. Findings confirmed that the target population not only face a lot of challenges of forced migration regardless of their gender identity and/or orientation but also face specific burdens related to their multiple intersecting identities.

## Results

Studied show that all sexual violence victims, especially migrants, tend to not talk about their sexual trauma due to various reasons. These include the negative cultural conception about sexual violence survivors that exist in today's society which tends to call the survivors as "immoral". Survivors experience a sense of being kept "down" by feelings of shame, low self-esteem, engaging in self-isolation. This exists at a larger level in forced migrants of the LGBTQ community.

## Conclusion

To wrap up your poster, present two to three key findings. You can also add a brief explanation or narrative to these that can encourage conversation or dialogue with the audience. These findings can be actionable items that can lead to implementation, policy creation, or further study.

## REFERENCE

- Gottvall M, Brunell C, Eldeba A, Johansson Metso F, Jirwe M, Carlsson T. Post-migration psychosocial experiences and challenges amongst LGBTQ+ forced migrants: A meta-synthesis of qualitative reports. doi: 10.1111/jan.15480. PMID: PMC10092230.
- Shaw, A. (2022). LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers: A review of research and Data needs. University of California, The Williams Institute.
- Yarwood V, Checchi F, Lau K, Zimmerman C. LGBTQ+ Migrants: A Systematic Review and Conceptual Framework of Health, Safety and Wellbeing during Migration. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Jan 13;19(2):869. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19020869. PMID: 35055698; PMCID: PMC8775429.
- De Schrijver L, Vander Beken T, Krahe B, Keygnaert I. Prevalence of Sexual Violence in Migrants, Applicants for International Protection, and Refugees in Europe: A Critical Interpretive Synthesis of the Evidence. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2018 Sep 11;15(9):1979. doi: 10.3390/ijerph15091979. PMID: 30208610; PMCID: PMC6165364.
- Phillimore, J., Block, K., Bradby, H., Ozcurumez, S., & Papoutsis, A. (2022). Forced migration, sexual and gender-based violence and integration: Effects, risks and protective factors. Journal of International Migration and Integration, 24(2), 715–745. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-022-00970-1>