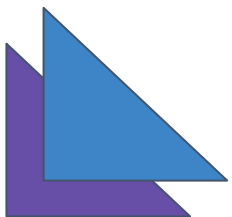


LBT Refugee Women's experiences of violence and GBV services in Lebanon and Turkey

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Background and Rationale

- LBT women's experiences have often fallen between cracks
- Previous research by MOSAIC and others shown high levels of violence
- Continuums and layers of violence and discrimination
- Issues of accessing GBV services
 - Lack of access/knowledge of services
 - Residency status
 - Past poor experiences
 - Fear of being 'outed'
- Impacts of multiple simultaneous crises

Methodology

- Caveat: research still on-going
- Lebanon (Beirut, Mount Lebanon) and Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul, Mersin) – to be expanded
- Service provider interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Key informant interviews
- Online survey
- Focus mostly on Syrian women, but also Palestinian, Iranian, Egyptian, Algerian, Jordanian

Types of violence

- Early life violence
 - Family violence (physical, sexual, verbal, psychological abuse)
 - Peer bullying
- Violence in adolescence/adulthood (In home countries)
 - Forced marriage (incl child marriage)
 - DV/IPV/marital rape
 - Pressure to have children
 - Sexual exploitation and blackmail
 - Death threats (immediate and extended family, community members)
 - Violence in Syrian Army (Syrian trans women)
- Violence in adulthood (In Lebanon/Turkey)
 - Exploitation and blackmail
 - Sexual violence, physical violence, verbal and emotional abuse, harassment
 - Death threats
 - Economic violence

Perpetrators

- Formal security actors and armed groups
 - Syrian security forces and armed opposition militias
 - Lebanese and Turkish security forces (police, immigration, public order private security)
 - Party-political militias (Lebanon)
- Family
 - Partners
 - Family (esp male family members physically, female family members emotionally)
- Community members
 - Other refugees (incl LGBTIQ+ community)
 - Host community (incl LGBTIQ+ community)
- Employers and colleagues
- Service providers
- Landlords
- Taxi drivers

Experiences of services

- Often very poor experiences of the police => lack of reporting
- Law enforcement and service providers lack understanding of diverse SOGIESC
- Experiences of xenophobia
- Importance of informal safety networks (peers, friends, safe spaces)
- Challenges ensuring lesbian and bisexual women can access services
- Lack of specialised MHPSS
- Turkey: financial support for trans refugees eaten up by inflation

Initial conclusions

- Experiences echo heterosexual/cisgender women's experiences – but exacerbated by diverse SOGIESC
- Visibility as a risk factor – self-isolation
- Refugees 'in limbo' – not continuing education, not starting transition therapy
- Wide range of violence, but also cumulative impact of 'micro-aggressions'
- Syrian lesbian and bisexual women harder to reach
- Extend research to non-LGBTIQ-focused service providers?

THANK YOU!

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