



# Center Global

DC's LGBTI Asylum Network

## About Center Global

Due to the oppressive anti-LGBTI laws and social cultures in nearly 80 countries around the world, the United States is a frequent destination for LGBTI individuals fleeing persecution in their home countries to seek protection of a new and safer life. We as members of the LGBTI community in the U.S. have a duty to help provide safe passage for our brothers and sisters from other parts of the globe. It is to this end that Center Global, a program of the DC Center for the LGBT Community, was formed.

## Core Program Objectives

- Create a welcoming and an enabling environment in the DC area for LGBTI asylum seekers;
- Generate funds to help support LGBTI asylum seekers – filling the gap in existing support services; and
- Raise awareness within the community about the ongoing human rights situation of LGBTI people being persecuted in other countries.

## Activities and Accomplishments

Since our establishment in 2012, Center Global has provided direct assistance and services to 180 individuals from Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Burma, China, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Russia, and Ukraine, who are now in various stages of the asylum process. This has included guidance regarding the legal process, coordinating housing assistance, and providing limited financial support to these vulnerable individuals.

- Provided 24 LGBTI asylum seekers with financial assistance averaging \$1,680 per person in the past year and half.
- Worked in partnership with a volunteer social worker, a legal advisor and other community organizations to help guide asylum seekers through the immigration process. To date, 39 individuals have been granted asylum and another 53 have cases pending before the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service.
- Raised community awareness on LGBTI human rights issues by inviting resource experts to our monthly program meetings to learn about asylum/immigration, sponsored seven Town Hall Meetings, and organized a contingent to march in Capital Pride for the last three years. Additional events are planned each year.

For further information or to make a donation, visit [thedccenter.org/centerglobal](http://thedccenter.org/centerglobal); or contact us at [centerglobal@thedccenter.org](mailto:centerglobal@thedccenter.org) or 1-202-682-2245.



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