For the SLS Reporter Spring 2020

On 1 May 2019, an international conference entitled 'Contemporary Challenges Facing LGBT+ Asylum Seekers: UK and Global Perspectives' was geld at the University of Reading, School of Law, under the auspices of the *Global Law At Reading* (GLAR) research group. The conference convenor, Dr Ruvi Ziegler, serves as co-convenor of the *Migration & Asylum Section* of the Society of Legal Scholars and is an Associate Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple - both of which generously supported the event.

The conference consisted of two panels.

The first panel, which was focused on *UK Perspectives*, featured three speakers: S Chelvan of No 5 chambers offered an overview of developments in UK LGBT+ asylum case-law over the past three decades. Dr Moira Dustin, co-director of the 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum' (SOGICA) project at Sussex, presented research findings based on interviews with LGBT+ asylum seeker. Lastly, Kanouo Siegning Martin Guerin, a seeker, of asylum from Cameroon, moving described his experiences in his country of origin and the asylum process which, at the time of writing, has not concluded. The panel was chaired by Dr Ziegler; a podcast is available [online](https://www.reading.ac.uk/GlobalLaw/GLARPodcast33.aspx).

The second panel, which focused on *Global Perspectives*, featured four speakers: Dr B Camminga of Wits (South Africa) described the predicament of Transgender refugees in Greece and Kenya, as reflected in their field research. Prof Nuno Ferreira, also a co-director of SOGICA, highlighted challenges arising from the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights regarding asylum claims of sexual minorities. Dr Vickie Knox of the Refugee Law Initiative at the University of London explored the protection schemes available to LGBT+ people fleeing Central America. Finally, Denise Venturi of UNHCR described the importance of continuous training for decision-makers in assessing asylum claim based on the organisation's experiences in Italy. The panel was chaired by Dr Ana Beduschi (Exeter); a podcast is available [online](http://www.reading.ac.uk/GlobalLaw/GLARPodcast34.aspx).

By bringing together practitioners, seekers of asylum, NGOs, and academics from law, political science, and sociology, the conference has sought to enable the sharing of experiences, good (and bad) practices across jurisdictions, and to advance the protection of LGBT+ persons the world over.