



LGBT REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS: COMPARATIVE PROFILES BETWEEN FINLAND AND ITALY

This paper aims to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of international protection systems for LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers in Europe, taking Finland and Italy as specific case studies. Specifically, the article aims to demonstrate how sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) fully fall within the notion of “membership of a particular social group” within the meaning of the 1951 Geneva Convention. The comparison between the two EU Member States with different cultural and legal approaches highlights how both countries implement European and international legal principles in practice, highlighting good practices and persistent critical issues. Their different implementation of these common standards provides an ideal case study for assessing the actual harmonisation of asylum policies in the Union and for understanding the resistance and challenges that remain at national level, despite an increasingly defined supranational framework. In summary, the comparison between Italy and Finland allows us to move from an abstract analysis of legal principles to a concrete assessment of their implementation in different socio-institutional contexts, revealing that the protection of LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers is a complex challenge that requires not only good laws, but also cultural change, specific training and adequate resources, elements that both countries, albeit in different ways, are struggling to fully guarantee.