**Claire Matthews (Head of Community Services, The Passage) ‘Supporting LGBTQIA+ survivors of modern slavery who are homeless’**

11 people openly told the passage that they were LGBTQI+ representing 8% of service users

Illegal sale of hormones as a control method.

Emergency accommodation in hostels for transgender people before final operations.

Experience of a service user at the Passage: arrived in Spain my boyfriend told me I owed him 8,000 euros to pay him back for the transportation, was drugged and forced to engage in sex exploitation. Client developed HIV, and then went on to belong to a mafia group in London has to pay wages to landlord and after 12 years after arriving in Europe stopped taking drugs and ran away, entered the NRM and entered a safehouse with a successful asylum claim now working in England as an artist.

**Rajiv Bera (Southwest London Law Centre) ‘The relevance of trafficking to LGBTQI+ protection claims’**

Senior caseworker within the immigration team at the southwest law centre. Represent those in complex legal claims in legal aid – those claiming asylum on the basis of sexual or gender identity. Many clients in precarious situations with convolved immigration histories. Often clients have experienced detention and destitution. Long term physical and mental health issues at play.

Highlight how prevalent modern slavery is to his client’s cases and how much it is missed.

Human trafficking – coerced into an exploitative situation (action, means, act) great utility in raising modern slavery in LGBTQI+ asylum claims particularly when there are delays in disclosure, having someone recognised as a victim and lead to a recognition that they are vulnerable to further harm in the future. Internal relocation in their country of origin – can show that this is unduly harsh.

Experiences of trafficking to not be missed in asylum claims (particularly when claims are considered inadmissible because of the routes they have taken in the UK / answer issues of late disclosure or late asylum claims.

 **Andrea Nicholson (Nottingham Research Fellow, Rights Lab) ‘Misplaced gendered perceptions of FSE: what the research tells us’**

99% in sexual exploitation are women and girls according to the Global Index, with an assumption that this is cis women.

Stonewalls report on trans experience 2/5 trans people have experienced a hate crime because of their gender identity in the last 12 months. Placing people at a risk of being targeted of traffickers (1/5 homeless rate) living in hostile environments 24% of youth population homeless are LGBTQI+

NRM statistics are not identifying people outside the traditional sex (male/female) only 10 people in NRM for SE identified as ‘other’ and in 2019 1 individual recognised as transgender. This suggests that transgender individuals are not being identified or supported out of FSE and points to wider anti-transgender bias and discrimination.

Gender perceptions of SE that it mainly applies to women and girls means that services don’t exist to support those individuals (tailored to the experiences of cis women) excluding others. These perceptions are emulated by the police –when they rescue a modern slavery victim that’s a women there is an assumption of SE – waiting for this to come out of women’s stories but don’t question in cases of men.

Binary understanding of modern slavery: Cis men in manual labour exploitation or women in SE.

Found that quite a lot of authors were conflating SE with sex work – little understanding that sex work can shift into trafficking / exploitation and back again.

Minority of hidden victims that aren’t reflected in policy making or statistics deepening the belief that this isn’t an issue affecting trans individuals.

Research from NGOs is where the data is coming from for the research – challenging the skewered statistics – academic work joining the effort bridging on the ground knowledge – working with survivors, trans community and NGOs to support NGO data and break down barriers.

**Anna-Maria Tesfaye (Queer Svit) ‘Preventing human trafficking of queer people during the war in Ukraine’**

Queer organisation which is black female led and since the war in Ukraine Queer Svit has been helping queer people evacuate who have been facing racism and transphobia on the borders.

Issues of survival sex or stigma of same sex work aggravated during war times.

Transgender individuals face obstacles for example trans women with male identity documents cannot leave Ukraine (cant cross the border) will do anything to cross. Transgender men including those with female documents, have to prove that they are unfit for military service reported difficulty crossing borders with issues including invasive body searches / degrading treatment.

Queer Svit provide immediate assistance, housing, information on misleading information on housing and employment.

**Aderonke Apata (Founder and CEO, African Rainbow Family) ‘Human Trafficking and Servitude: The Case for LGBTIQ People Seeking Asylum’**

African Rainbow Family has 5 centres across the UK supporting 600 individuals. Services have come across elements of trafficking as part of their asylum claims and sometimes are not aware that this is present. Often clients don’t believe that they have been trafficked until they have processed their experience, it is not easy to recognise come to terms with what they have been through.

LGBTQI+ Asylum seekers are usually exploited when they come over to work (also issues of debt bondage) usually someone they know helping to get a job in the UK or flee persecution as a result of sexual or gender identity. Passports are taken.

Anxiety and fear mean that survivors do not always speak out: passports gone, deportation risk is important consideration as for some who has been persecuted because of their identity its not an option to go back to their country of origin. Some used drugs which is a common theme to help them get by.

Scared to report crimes to police also because of fear of retribution on their families back home.

African Rainbow Family support individuals through counselling to begin to heal and offer group mental health sessions online.

Fearful that there will be more individuals passed through the cracks when they arrive in the UK with the threat of offshoring to Rwanda. Questions around how the Home Office is going to make sure people are going to be protected in the scheme. Under reporting of people seeking asylum who are from the LGBTQI+ community who have been trafficked – an area that needs more exploration in the research and data. Synergy in reporting is important so we have knowledge on the magnitude of the issue.

When people are refused in their claims and become destitute – people get desperate, and this leads to exploitation. There is also an issue around the burden of proof that an individual is claiming asylum because of their sexuality which can mean they are driven into relationships that they wouldn’t normally be in to prove they are LGBTQI+ putting people in the way of harm.

Listen to LGBTQI+ individuals claiming asylum (language barriers / the need for them to use words that will resonate in the UK) listen to them – does their situation look like trafficking. Cultural differences – what is known as trafficking is different in every country

Can make referrals to African Rainbow Family – do get in touch.

**Moud Goba (National Manager, Micro Rainbow) ‘Supporting homeless LGBTQI refugees who are survivors of modern-day slavery.’**

Working with LGBTQI+ asylum seekers in housing, offering social inclusion workshops and running safehouses – one reserved for NRPF.

Transgender survivors and asylum seekers receive £40 a week, and for transwomen who want to live in their feminine body access to hormones affirms for them who they are but in asylum accommodation without funds this is often overlooked. In some cases individuals are referred to gender clinics but Microrainbow sees GPs turning down hormones, which means individuals will turn to black market hormones but individuals needs money to access this so will go back to exploiters of sex workers to afford these costs (also additional costs of clothing and makeup).

In terms of those in Home Office accommodation – challenge of other refugees abusing LGBTQI+ asylum seekers pushing them out because of who they are: in instances like this Microrainbow able to offer safe accommodation.

We often overlook the intersectional challenges – gender, sexuality and immigration status are all reasons why a woman will stay in domestic servitude, accounting for hidden homeless in this space.