

## One-day Symposium

### Sexuality, Nationality and Asylum: The New Plan for Immigration

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Headington Hill Hall, Oxford Brookes University

Organisers: Dr Alex Powell, Lecturer in Law, Oxford Brookes University with the support of The Fundamental Rights and Equality Research Group, the Critical Legal Perspectives on Law, Society, Gender and Diversity research Group, and the Migration and Refugees Research Network, all at Oxford Brookes University

Funding: This event is primarily funded by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Oxford Brookes University. Additional Funding by the Jean Monnet Programme.

## Call for Papers

We are delighted to invite you to a Symposium regarding **the impact of the UK Government's 'New Plan for Immigration' on sexual and gender minority asylum seekers seeking protection in the UK.**

### Background

With the passing of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, and the recent memorandum of understanding between the UK and Rwanda, the UK asylum system is in a period of flux, leading to legal uncertainty. With ongoing legal challenges and a difficult political climate, there is an urgent need to critically consider the impact of the new law. While analysis of the broader effects of the policy has begun, there is also an urgent need to look at the impact of these new policies on minorities and marginalised groups.



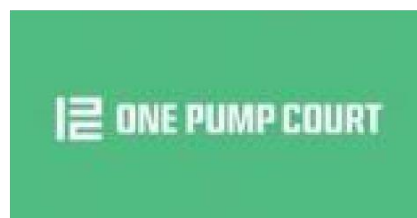
This symposium seeks to explore how the changing legislative landscape regarding the right to claim asylum in the UK will impact sexual and gender minority claimants. We invite contributions from both established scholars and early career researchers working in disciplines such as law, sociology, and politics to reflect on the implications of the shifting legislative context. Specifically, applicants are asked to reflect on:

- 1- The doctrinal significance of the Nationality and Borders Act as it relates to sexual and gender minorities.
- 2- The concrete results of both the Nationality and Borders Act and the Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda for the practice of refugee law as it relates to sexually and gender diverse people.
- 3- The impact of New Plan for immigration on the welfare of sexual and gender minority claimants.
- 4- Comparative perspectives regarding the shifting practice of the UK as compared to other refugee receiving states.
- 5- The impact of the New Plan for Immigration on non-state and third sector organisations who work with sexual and gender minority claimants.
- 6- The compatibility of the Nationality and Borders Act and associated Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda with the UK's international obligations towards refugees.

In addressing these areas, papers are encouraged to reflect on either 1) any disproportionate effects on sexual and gender minorities when compared to the wider group of asylum seekers; or 2) How organisations and practitioners can best support asylum claimants working through the new system; or 3) What forms of safe-guards may enable the new framework to work safely for sexual and gender minority claimants.

**How to Apply:** Applicants should submit an abstract of up to 250 words to Dr Alex Powell at [sexualityandnationality@gmail.com](mailto:sexualityandnationality@gmail.com) Abstracts should be accompanied by an author biography of up to 250 words.

**Registering to Attend:** Please send an email to [sexualityandnationality@gmail.com](mailto:sexualityandnationality@gmail.com) including the word 'registration' in the subject line. In this email, please outline why you wish to attend, including whether or not you have applied to present a paper. The symposium is free of charge. However, there is an upper limit on numbers. In the event that this upper limit is breached, reasons for wishing to attend will be used to select who will be able to attend.





**Bursaries:** In order to ensure inclusivity a small number of bursaries to enable travel and accommodation can be provided. In the first instance, these will be provided to those with lived experience of claiming asylum. However, it may also be possible to provide support for early career researchers who are unwaged, or without institutional support. If you wish to apply for a bursary please send an email to [sexualityandnationality@gmail.com](mailto:sexualityandnationality@gmail.com). In the subject line you should include the phrase 'bursary application'. In the body of the email, please outline your case for claiming. Please note that funding is limited, so applications for bursaries will necessarily be considered on a competitive basis.

**Registration Timeline:**

Abstract Submission Deadline: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Notification of Accepted Papers: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Final Deadline to Apply to Attend: Friday 28<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Programme and Attendance List Finalised and Circulated: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023

If you have any questions, please get in contact at [sexualityandnationality@gmail.com](mailto:sexualityandnationality@gmail.com).

Kind Regards,  
Dr Alex Powell

