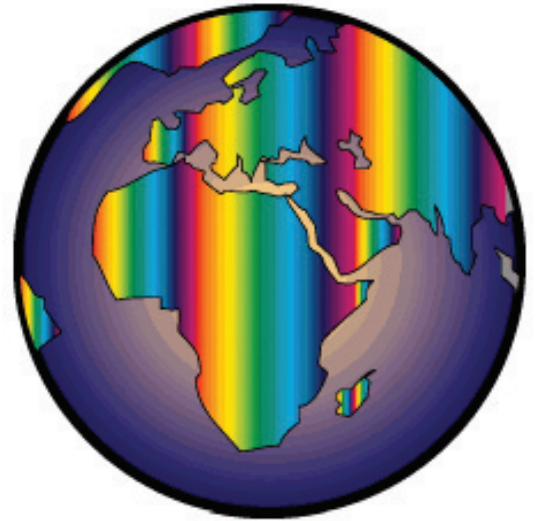


# LGBT Refugee Services

*"You can't understand if you were born here, with this freedom... But when I walk around here and see the rainbow flag flying high next to the American flag, I just think wow, what a world. I can sleep at night. Thank you JFCS/East Bay. The reception and welcome you gave to me helped me feel at home in my new country."*

*~ Refugee from Uganda*



JFCS/East Bay provides comprehensive services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals who have fled their home countries due to persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our program serves refugees who have been in the country for up to five years as well as people who have been granted asylum.

Unlike other refugees, LGBT individuals often arrive in the country alone; many have been victims of violence, torture, and rape. Tasks such as navigating the U.S. health care system, finding housing, making friends, and finding work are made even more difficult without a family or social support group.

JFCS/East Bay has been supporting newcomers to the area for eighty years, starting with Jews escaping Nazi Germany and expanding over time to other groups of refugees and immigrants who have experienced racial or religious discrimination in their home countries. We continue this tradition of caring by working with other supportive organizations and individuals to welcome LGBT refugees and asylees to the Bay Area.

## **JFCS/East Bay's LGBT Refugee Services include:**

- Support with the resettlement process.
- Help enrolling in benefits programs.
- Assistance navigating the health care system, including referrals to local services.
- Counseling services and mental health referrals.
- Support finding educational and vocational resources.
- Outreach to LGBT social and cultural groups.
- Volunteer support with English, life skills, and social integration.
- Case management.
- Farsi-, Dari-, Russian-, and Spanish-speaking staff.

**For more information,** Carol Palecki  
**please contact:** Outreach/Training Coordinator  
(925) 927-2000, ext. 252  
cpalecki@jfcs-eastbay.org

