



ASYLUMCONNECT
Corporate Partnership Guide
Help Show Persecuted LGBTQ+ People
[#YouBelong](#)

About AsylumConnect

In over 80 countries it remains illegal or fundamentally unsafe to live openly as a LGBTQ+ person. As a result, every year, tens of thousands are forced to flee their home countries due to persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Co-founded by a trans American and gay asylum seeker at the University of Pennsylvania, AsylumConnect is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing **the world's first web and mobile resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution.**

Since launching in 2016, AsylumConnect's free web and mobile resource platform has made **140,000+ matches** between LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution (including asylum seekers, refugees, undocumented immigrants and homeless youth) and independently verified affirming legal, medical, mental health and social service providers. AsylumConnect's free technology is currently available in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

What We Do: We use technology to instantly match LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution with verified safe legal, medical, mental health and social service providers.

Our Vision: With AsylumConnect at scale, every LGBTQ+ person fleeing persecution will know where it is safe to go for help regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race/ethnicity, immigration status and/or income level.

Our Values:

- Belonging
- Acceptance
- Intersectionality
- Innovation
- Inclusivity
- Safety
- Trust
- Affirming
- Freedom
- Diversity
- Equity



Testimonials

“I know that I either leave this place or die. Any information [on the LGBTQ asylum process] will be very valuable to me as I am all by myself here. I have no friends knowing about me nor any family member. **My only source is the internet.**”

— Trans asylum seeker from the Middle East to AsylumConnect

“If AsylumConnect had existed when I was applying for asylum it would have made my life much easier. **AsylumConnect’s work truly saves lives.** I was homeless for about three years because I could not find services for undocumented lesbians, work, or anyone who could explain to me how the immigration process work[ed] and what my options were.”

— Lesbian asylee from Mexico

“It’s wonderful to see AsylumConnect continue to thrive. **I will be needing it now more than ever.** A huge thanks to [AsylumConnect] for all the work and advocacy you are doing for us; especially a time like this.”

— Bisexual asylum seeker from Jamaica

Our Story

AsylumConnect co-founders Sy and Jamie met as college students at the University of Pennsylvania. Sy shared his experience struggling to find safe resources during his own U.S. asylum process. **Despite access to technology, upon arrival in the United States Sy struggled as a gay asylum seeker to know where it was safe to go for help to meet his basic needs, from finding legitimate pro bono legal representation for his asylum claim to LGBTQ+ affirming health care, mental health support, housing, and educational opportunities. As a trans man from a conservative background, the feeling of not being able to live authentically deeply resonated with Jamie.** During their senior year, Sy and Jamie co-founded AsylumConnect to extend the first ever digital lifeline to other persecuted and marginalized LGBTQ+ people.

AsylumConnect is founded on the belief that **every** LGBTQ+ person deserves the safety and freedom to live authentically.

When AsylumConnect reaches scale, **every** LGBTQ+ person will know where it is safe to go for help regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race/ethnicity or income level.

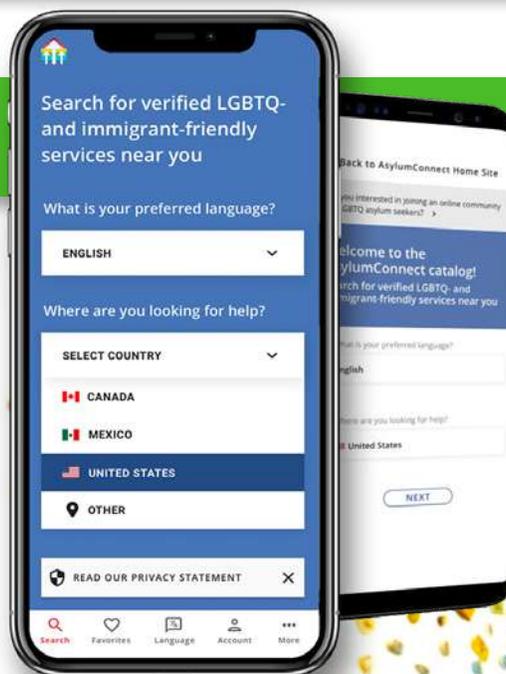


AsylumConnect's Free Lifesaving Technology

We provide **the world's first web and mobile resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution**. Our free resource website and mobile app instantly matches LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution with independently verified safe legal, medical, mental health and social service providers. Attorneys, law students, case managers and other direct service providers also leverage the free platform to efficiently gather verified trusted referrals for their LGBTQ+ clients.

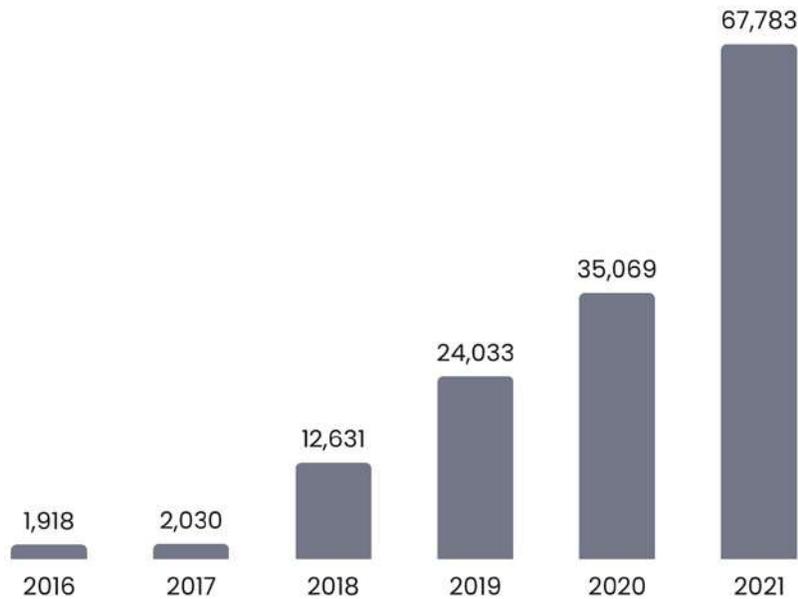
AsylumConnect is currently available in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, Canada and Mexico. The platform also offers a translated international resource page for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees who are outside of North America and still in transit.

Together, we can ensure all members of the diverse LGBTQ+ community—including asylum seekers and refugees, undocumented immigrants, young people experiencing homelessness, those facing family or community rejection due to their identity, people of color, and other transgender and non-binary people in need—always have trusted information on where it is safe to go for help.

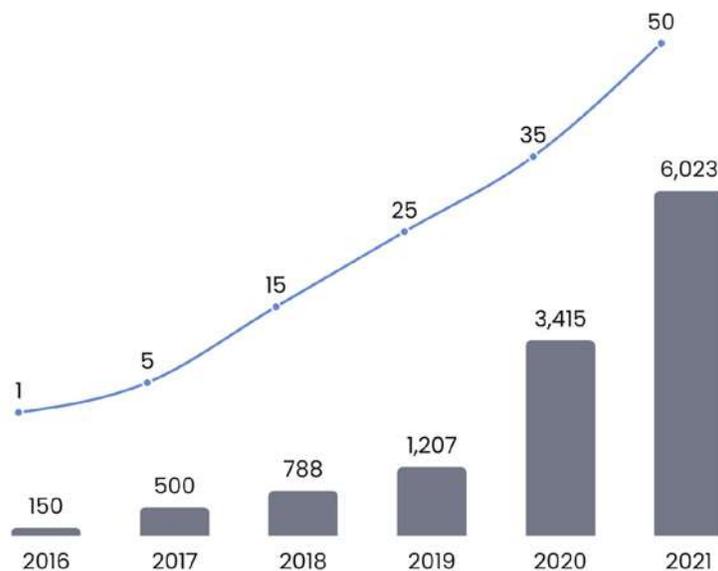


Our Impact

Since launching in 2016, the AsylumConnect platform has made **over 140,000 matches** between LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution and independently verified affirming direct service providers.



Heading into 2022, the AsylumConnect platform lists **over 6,000 services** across all **50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, Canada and Mexico** independently vetted by trained volunteers to be welcoming to LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and other LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution.



*For more information on our unique tailored verification process, visit our website: asylumconnect.org/our-vetting-process

Featured User Stories

We routinely hear success stories of how our free technology has impacted LGBTQ+ lives.



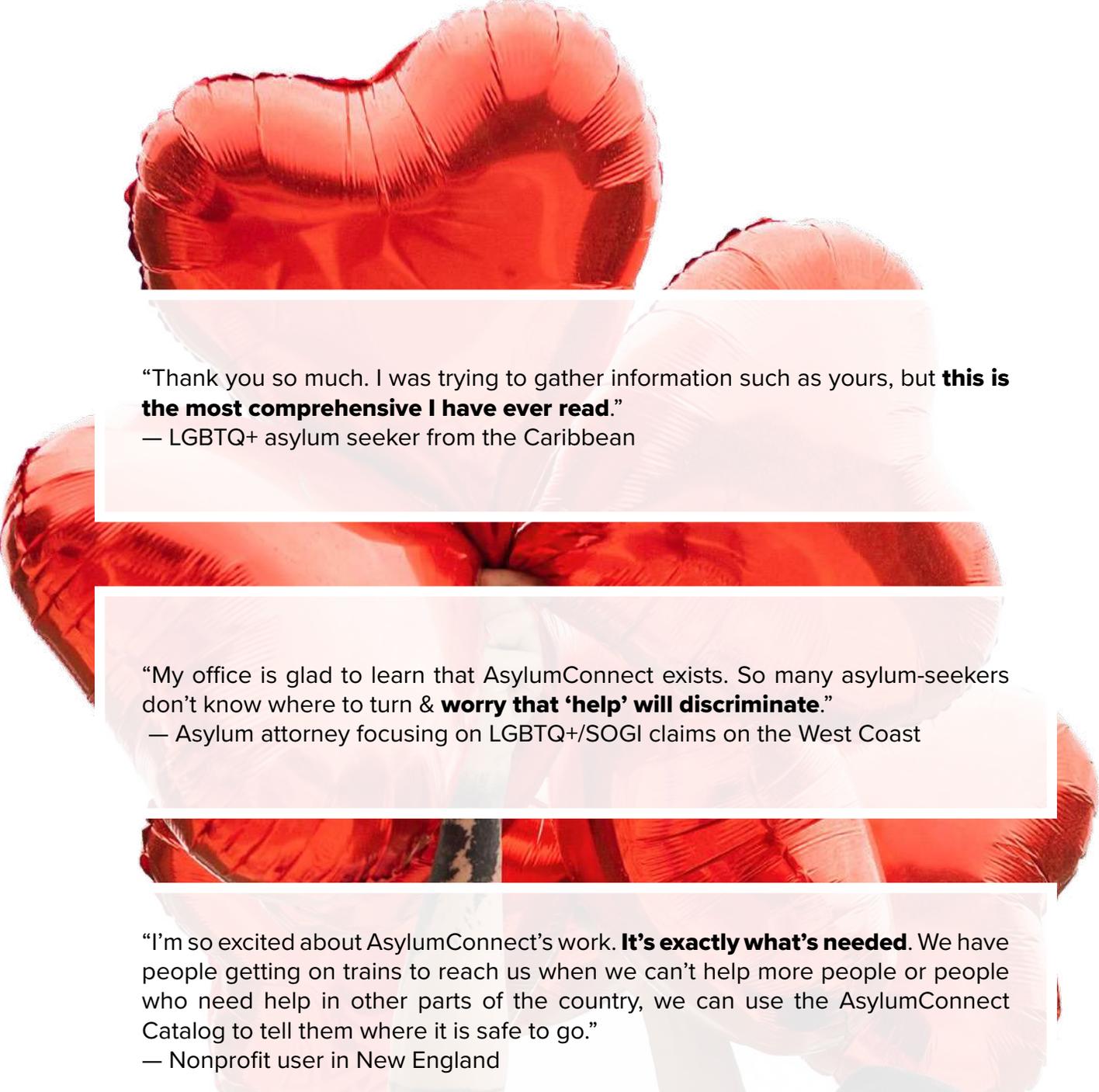
“SARA” is a trans woman living in the Bronx, New York, who fled her home country of Nigeria due to multiple death threats because of her gender identity. When searching for safe services, Sara faces multiple barriers due to her identity as a trans person, an undocumented immigrant, a non-native English speaker and a person of color. While she wants to remain in the U.S. to avoid the life-threatening situation she faces in Nigeria, she was unaware of asylum protections until she is referred to AsylumConnect by a friend. She uses AsylumConnect to find a pro bono attorney with expertise in serving members of the LGBTQ+ community. She also uses the app to easily find a free support group for trans women of color and a pro bono, trans-affirming doctor and therapist. As an undocumented person, Sara appreciates the app’s ability to filter out direct service providers that require specific documentation (photo ID, proof of age/income/residence, medical insurance, a referral) to access. She trusts AsylumConnect due to its unique emphasis on confidentiality and user safety, and LGBTQ+ affirming care.

“EVAN” is a college student from Uganda. During their time in college, Evan “came out” as non-binary. Evan now fears returning to Uganda after graduation and begins investigating their options to stay in America. They are referred to AsylumConnect by their school’s LGBTQ+ student club. Evan is relieved to hear of AsylumConnect and immediately feels a sense of validation and hope. Evan uses AsylumConnect’s free resource app to connect with a pro bono attorney with experience in LGBTQ+ asylum to discuss their legal options. Evan also uses AsylumConnect to quickly find LGBTQ+ affirming medical and mental health care, as well as to line up short-term housing for after graduation.

“ANASTASIA” is a queer woman who left Russia after threats of violence because of her LGBTQ+ identity. She came to the U.S. on a short-term visa to attend a conference in Brooklyn, New York. Upon arrival in Brooklyn, she began to apply for LGBTQ+ asylum. Before arriving, Anastasia is mainly concerned with finding LGBTQ+ affirming housing and uses AsylumConnect to plan ahead. Once she is in Brooklyn, Anastasia moves into the housing she found on AsylumConnect. Her priority now becomes finding an experienced lawyer to help file her asylum application. Then she is interested in finding local clothing, food, affirming medical and mental health care, and LGBTQ+ inclusive social support. She remains hesitant in meeting new people, as she worries about facing the homophobia she did in Russia. She still worries about her family’s safety in Russia, and so she is also concerned with anonymity. Anastasia relies on AsylumConnect’s free, confidential resource app to answer all of her resettlement questions, and she takes special comfort in knowing the app is private and all service providers listed are verified to be LGBTQ+ affirming.

“ERIC” is a bisexual man who fled his home country in Asia after physical and verbal attacks due to his sexual orientation. Upon arrival in San Francisco, California, Eric applies for LGBTQ+ asylum in hopes of living authentically. However, due to the U.S. immigration case backlog of over one million cases, Eric is told his asylum case may not be heard for months or even years. Eric hasn’t yet received his employment authorization document (EAD), which is required to legally work in the U.S., and has nowhere to go during this long wait. Eric’s attorney refers him to AsylumConnect so he can survive the lengthy asylum process. Eric uses AsylumConnect’s free app to find a local support group for Asian LGBTQ+ immigrants, free and confidential rapid HIV testing, emergency housing and a free English as a Second Language (ESL) class. Eric finally begins to feel at home.





“Thank you so much. I was trying to gather information such as yours, but **this is the most comprehensive I have ever read.**”

— LGBTQ+ asylum seeker from the Caribbean

“My office is glad to learn that AsylumConnect exists. So many asylum-seekers don’t know where to turn & **worry that ‘help’ will discriminate.**”

— Asylum attorney focusing on LGBTQ+/SOGI claims on the West Coast

“I’m so excited about AsylumConnect’s work. **It’s exactly what’s needed.** We have people getting on trains to reach us when we can’t help more people or people who need help in other parts of the country, we can use the AsylumConnect Catalog to tell them where it is safe to go.”

— Nonprofit user in New England

Featured Supporter Testimonials



“The work that AsylumConnect is doing for the LGBTQ+ community is more important now in 2019 than ever before. I am beyond proud to support them in their mission of providing access to care and resources for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, and that our technology is going to play even a small role in helping them improve the lives of their community of users.”

— Dennis Crowley, Co-Founder & Executive Chairman, Foursquare



“We are proud to support our CGI U students turning #IdeasIntoAction through **critically important** mental health initiatives. [Jamie] Sgarro [and AsylumConnect] is working to help LGBTQ people seek refuge from persecution in their home countries.”

— Former U.S. President Bill Clinton

“The Forbes 30 Under 30 list has become the preeminent recognition for the most up-and-coming visionaries, game-changers and pioneers the world has to offer – and we can’t wait to see what they accomplish next.”

— Randall Lane, Chief Content Officer, Forbes



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Partnership Opportunities

Companies interested in partnering with AsylumConnect can select from a variety of virtual employee engagement experiences, or opt to purchase a corporate partnership package for sustained collaboration throughout the year.

VIRTUAL EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Support AsylumConnect’s lifesaving work by purchasing a virtual lunch and learn session, or other customizable virtual employee engagement opportunity. Companies are welcome to purchase a one-time engagement or a series of engagements for a reduced price.

Virtual “Lunch and Learn” Events

Our presenters deliver informative and engaging virtual “Lunch & Learn” sessions. We will work with your company to customize the session to meet your employees’ specific interests.

- **Sample Session Topics:**
 - Technology For Good
 - Diversity, Inclusion & Equity
 - Global LGBTQ+ Rights
 - Transgender Rights
 - Forced LGBTQ+ Migration
 - The U.S. Asylum System
 - Working With LGBTQ+ Clients
- **Sample Session Length:** 30-60 minutes (including an interactive Q&A session)
- **Sample Video-Conferencing Platforms:** Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams
- **Session Rates:** Our virtual lunch and learn prices start at **\$500 USD per session**. We also offer reduced pricing for companies interested in booking multiple sessions. Please [get in touch](#) for more information.

Other Custom Remote Employee Engagement Opportunities

Remote Phone Bank

Host a phone bank at your offices (or remotely with your employees working from home) for an impactful day of volunteering! Employees will complete AsylumConnect's virtual training program before making verification phone calls to direct service providers on the ground to help expand the world's first tech resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution. (*Learn more about our unique vetting process [here](#).)

Remote Hackathon

Host a hackathon at your offices (or remotely with your employees working from home) for a meaningful day of volunteering for your company's engineers and UX/UI designers.

Remote Translation (Spanish)

Make a difference through translation! Bilingual (Spanish/English) employees will complete AsylumConnect's virtual training on how to translate LGBTQ+ terminology and perform data entry before leveraging their Spanish language skills for good.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Please [get in touch](#) for more information on pricing for custom virtual employee engagement opportunities.



Learn more: AsylumConnect.org

Corporate Partnership Packages

Become a corporate partner of AsylumConnect to showcase your company's strong commitment to intersectionality, innovation and equity.

Interested in a long-term partnership with AsylumConnect? Learn more about our five corporate partnership packages below.

Pride Partner (\$5K-\$10k)

- Logo placement on AsylumConnect's website
- Logo inclusion on promotional materials for one (1) event hosted by the AsylumConnect Junior Board of young professionals
- Logo placement in annual report
- Feature in one (1) email newsletter
- Two (2) mentions on social media

Freedom Partner (\$10K+)

- Logo placement on AsylumConnect's website
- Logo inclusion on promotional materials for one (1) event hosted by the AsylumConnect Junior Board of young professionals
- Logo placement in annual report
- Feature in one (1) email newsletter
- Four (4) mentions on social media
- Ability for one (1) company representative to speak to the Junior Board of young professionals virtually (via our remote guest speakers series)
- One (1) customized virtual employee engagement opportunity per year, such as:
 - Host a virtual Lunch and Learn session for your employees
 - Host a phone bank at your offices (or remotely) for an impactful day of volunteering where employees can contribute directly to AsylumConnect's resource verification process and help build the world's first tech resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution
 - Sponsor the AsylumConnect Junior Board's remote Guest Speaker Series and invite your employees to attend
 - Up to two (2) guaranteed spaces for your employees (ages 21 to 40) on the AsylumConnect Junior Board
 - For tech companies: Partner with AsylumConnect to host a remote hackathon and invite your engineers and UX/UI designers to develop a new feature to enhance AsylumConnect's free resource website/mobile app

Liberty Partner (\$25K+)

- Logo placement on AsylumConnect's website
- Logo inclusion on promotional materials for one (1) event hosted by the AsylumConnect Junior Board of young professionals
- Logo placement in annual report
- Feature in two (2) email newsletters
- Four (4) mentions on social media
- Ability for one (1) company representative to speak to the Junior Board of young professionals virtually (via our remote guest speakers series)
- Up to two (2) customized virtual employee engagement opportunities per year, such as:
 - Host a virtual Lunch and Learn session for your employees
 - Host a phone bank at your offices (or remotely) for an impactful day of volunteering where employees can contribute directly to AsylumConnect's resource verification process and help build the world's first tech resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution
 - Sponsor the AsylumConnect Junior Board's remote Guest Speaker Series and invite your employees to attend
 - Up to four (4) guaranteed spaces for your employees (ages 21 to 40) on the AsylumConnect Junior Board
 - For tech companies: Partner with AsylumConnect to host a remote hackathon and invite your engineers and UX/UI designers to develop a new feature to enhance AsylumConnect's free resource website/mobile app

Equality Partner (\$50K+)

- Logo placement on AsylumConnect's website
- Logo inclusion on promotional materials for one (1) event hosted by the AsylumConnect Junior Board of young professionals
- Logo placement in annual report
- Feature in three (3) email newsletters
- Four (4) mentions on social media
- Ability for one (1) company representative to speak to the Junior Board of young professionals virtually (via our remote guest speakers series)
- Up to three (3) customized virtual employee engagement opportunities per year, such as:
 - Host a virtual Lunch and Learn session for your employees
 - Host a phone bank at your offices (or remotely) for an impactful day of volunteering where employees can contribute directly to AsylumConnect's resource verification process and help build the world's first tech resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution
 - Sponsor the AsylumConnect Junior Board's remote Guest Speaker Series and invite your employees to attend
 - Up to six (6) guaranteed spaces for your employees (ages 21 to 40) on the AsylumConnect Junior Board
 - For tech companies: Partner with AsylumConnect to host a remote hackathon and invite your engineers and UX/UI designers to develop a new feature to enhance AsylumConnect's free resource website/mobile app

Justice Partner (\$100K+)

- Logo placement on AsylumConnect's website
- Logo inclusion on promotional materials for one (1) event hosted by the AsylumConnect Junior Board of young professionals
- Logo placement in annual report
- Feature in four (4) email newsletters
- Six (6) mentions on social media
- Ability for up to two (2) company representatives to speak to the Junior Board of young professionals virtually (via our remote guest speakers series)
- Up to four (4) customized virtual employee engagement opportunities per year, such as:
 - Host a virtual Lunch and Learn session for your employees
 - Host a phone bank at your offices (or remotely) for an impactful day of volunteering where employees can contribute directly to AsylumConnect's resource verification process and help build the world's first tech resource platform designed for LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution
 - Sponsor the AsylumConnect Junior Board's remote Guest Speaker Series and invite your employees to attend
 - Up to ten (10) guaranteed spaces for your employees (ages 21 to 40) on the AsylumConnect Junior Board
 - For tech companies: Partner with AsylumConnect to host a remote hackathon and invite your engineers and UX/UI designers to develop a new feature to enhance AsylumConnect's free resource website/mobile app



Press Highlights



teenVOGUE



HUFFPOST

THEADVOCATE



OUT

The Seattle Times

August 2021 Linktree Company Announcement
[Linktree Announces Passion Fund Winners](#)

June 2021 Los Angeles Blade
[It's time to prioritize the plight of trans and queer refugees \(Op-ed\)](#)

April 2021 Greatist
[Millennial Change Makers](#)

August 2020 NBC OUT
[Trump proposals threaten LGBTQ asylum-seekers' hopes of refuge in U.S.](#)

July 2020 The American Prospect
[The Public Comment Battle to Save American Asylum](#)

July 2020 Forbes
[Trump's New Asylum Regulations Could Have Devastating Effects For LGBTQ People. The Leaders Of AsylumConnect Explain Why.](#)

June 2020 The Hill
[This World Refugee Day and Pride month we need to save LGBTQ asylum \(Op-ed\)](#)

April 2020 Fast Company
[World Changing Ideas Awards 2020: Apps Finalists and Honorable Mentions](#)

December 2019 Forbes
[Forbes 30 Under 30, Class of 2020 \(Law & Policy List\)](#)

November 2019 GO Magazine

[This New App For LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Is A Game-Changer](#)

September 2019 Teen Vogue

[LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Face Layered Marginalization, So These Four Organizations Are Here to Help](#)

August 2019 Forbes

[Jamie Sgarro's AsylumConnect Helps LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Access Safe Services](#)

June 2019 Clinton Foundation's "Why Am I Telling You This?" Podcast

[Stonewall 50: Pride, Progress, and the Future Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights Episode \(Podcast\)](#)

June 2019 NowThis

[AsylumConnect Helps LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers Find Resources in the U.S. \(Video\)](#)

January 2019 The Advocate

[LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Cannot Wait Safely in Mexico \(Op-ed\)](#)

August 2018 The Daily Beast

[The Malaysian Gay Man Fighting for His Life, and Many Other LGBT Asylum Seekers](#)

September 2015 Philadelphia Magazine

[Penn Alumni Establish First Ever Online Resource for LGBT Asylum Seekers](#)

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Instagram (@asylumconnect)



YouTube (@AsylumConnect)

If you are interested in learning more about our corporate partnership opportunities, please email corporate.partnerships@asylumconnect.org. *We'd love to hear from you!*

Learn more: [AsylumConnect.org](https://www.asylumconnect.org)