

# MOVE ON ROUNDTABLE: INTEGRATING MIGRANTS & REFUGEES INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

Working with LGBT Refugees,  
A shared experience by Aloysius Ssali  
Coordinator  
Say It Loud Club



Migration & Gender:  
Vocational and  
Educational counseling

2015-1-UK01-KA204-013550



# SAY IT LOUD

- Homosexuality is criminalised in many countries globally, including in 42 of the Commonwealth nations.
  - LGBT people fleeing violence and persecution may arrive in the UK with no knowledge of their rights as an LGBT person, or no awareness of how to seek support in a different culture. They often carry experiences of trauma and/or violence
- Say It Loud Club has been supporting a number of LGBT people, providing support groups, workshops, and one-to-one casework in and around London since 2010.
- Say It Loud Club aims to give LGBT asylum seekers and refugees a unique opportunity to compare experiences and confront mutual challenges.

# CHALLENGES' TO MOVE ON

- LGBT asylum seekers and refugees face many difficulties including indignities around having to 'prove' their LGBT identity.
- Many end up being locked up in detention centres where they face more discrimination and threat of deportation without their cases being heard.
- There is not enough support for this group of people and as a result, many are forced to live in the underground
- Many asylum seekers may feel as though they have made a mistake claiming for asylum in the UK because of the way they feel treated by the system
- The aim was to establish a grass root support group that could help to reduce loneliness and try to eradicate isolation amongst LGBT people in our communities while raising awareness and thus community integration

# DISCUSSION

**Obstacles to employment that LGBT refugees confront**