

ASYLUM INTERVIEW PREP: SAMPLE QUESTIONS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION

1. How did you hear about the asylum process?
2. Why are you applying for asylum?

First I am going to go into events that happened in your home country and then we will talk about what your experience has been like living in the United States

3. When did you first realize you were gay?
4. Did you ever act on those feelings?
5. Were you ever bullied or threatened?
6. Did the people who did these things say anything to you that made you think they were doing it because they thought you were gay?
7. Did anyone see this happen to you?
8. Did you report the people who did this to you? Did you tell anyone?
9. Did the bullying and threats make you change the way you felt about yourself or acted in public?
10. At that time, were you aware of how gay people in [country] were treated?
11. Did you ever tell your parents or other family members about your feelings toward other boys?
12. Do you think others suspected you were gay (teachers, relatives, friends)? How would they know?
13. When was the first time you experience harm because someone thought you were gay?
14. What was the worst incident?
15. What was the last incident before coming to the U.S.?
16. Did you ever harm yourself for your feelings about being gay?
17. Did you ever date anyone in [country]?
18. How long did the relationship last?
19. Were you public about it?
20. What did you do to hide the relationship?
21. How did the relationship end?
22. Did you have any gay friends in [country]?
23. Do you stay in touch with them?
24. Are they still in [country]?
25. Are they openly gay there now?

United States

26. What made you want to come to the United States?
27. Have you had relationships with men here in the United States?
28. Has anything been different about your relationships here than in [country]?

I now would like to talk generally about conditions for gay people in [country]

29. How do people in [country] treat people who are gay?
30. What can a gay person do in [country]?

- a. Can they get a job?
 - b. Can they access healthcare?
 - c. Can they access stable housing?
31. If you were openly gay in [country], what would a “day in the life” be like?
32. How do you meet other gay people in [country]?
33. How would people in [country] know someone is gay?

I now want to ask about what might happen in the future if you go back to [country]

34. If you had to go back to [country] what do you think would happen?
35. Do you fear any specific harm?
36. Who would harm you?
37. What would happen if you reported it to the police?
38. Do you know any gay people in [country] now?
39. Does your family know you are gay?
40. Does anyone else in [country] know you are gay?
41. What do you think would happen if you came out to your family?
42. Could you go to anyone for protection in [country]?
43. Could you live safely anywhere else in [country]?