

## PROVIDING PRACTICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

*Volunteers in the Guardian  
Group mentor LGBT  
refugees, asylum seekers, and  
asylees in San Francisco and  
nearby communities.*

*We help newcomers navigate  
government bureaucracies,  
transportation systems, and  
different cultures.*

*Most importantly, we provide  
a consistent non-anxious,  
non-judgmental, presence.*



## Guardian Group

First Unitarian Universalist Society  
of San Francisco

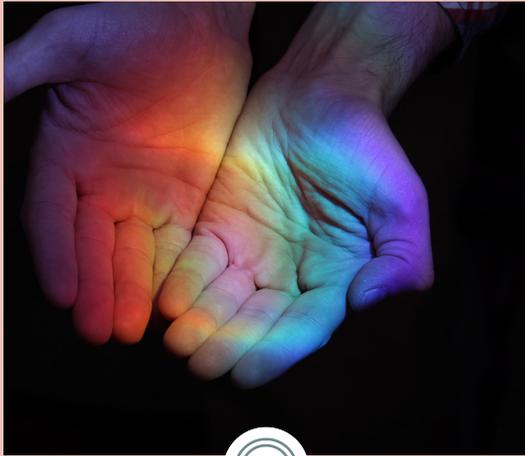
415-776-4580  
info@RefugeeGuardianGroup.org  
www.RefugeeGuardianGroup.org



## Help LGBT Refugees Settle in Our Community



Guardian Group  
*Saving the World One Refugee at a Time*



## The Guardian Group

### A HANDS-ON SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

The Guardian Group is a Social Justice initiative of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco. The Guardian Group provides immediate, hands-on help to newly-arrived LGBT refugees, asylum seekers, and asylees.

The Guardians are people refugees can rely on to give independent advice and to provide unconditional friendship.

The Guardians often hear of needs that are not met by any governmental service and devise ways to obtain what is needed for the refugee. With other members of the Group, Guardians determine what can be funded by donations or what alternatives can be developed.

## Why Guardians for LGBT People?

Heterosexual refugees who come to the United States typically have supportive family from their countries of origin. They can live with these families in low-cost areas of the United States.

LGBT refugees generally cannot live with others from their countries because prejudice against sexual minorities is strong, even among fellow refugees. In addition, these refugees need to live in metropolitan areas such as San Francisco where homophobia is not the cultural norm.

Guardians provide the personal and financial support that heterosexual refugees often receive from their families.

### Terms we Use

**Refugee**— A person who flees their homeland to a third country. The UN determines whether or not they qualify to be classified as a “refugee”. They wait for the US to grant them entry. As soon as they arrive in the US they are able to work and are on path to citizenship.

**Asylum Seeker** — A person who arrives in US on a tourist, business, student, etc. visa. *or arrives without documentation.* Within a year of entering the US, they make a case to the Department of Homeland Security that they are unable to return home due to fear of persecution. They cannot work for six months. Health care is available only if they are a San Francisco resident. They may wait years for their case to be adjudicated.

**Asylee** — An asylum seeker who has been granted asylum.

## YOU CAN HELP

The Guardian Group needs you!

- ◆ Provide free or very-low cost housing.
- ◆ Volunteer to be a Mentor for a refugee.
- ◆ Volunteer to build the Guardian Group infrastructure by writing grant requests, serving on the steering committee, and helping with other administrative duties.
- ◆ Donate money.  
The Guardian Group uses donations to:
  - ◇ Buy transit passes
  - ◇ Pay for California ID cards
  - ◇ Support job searching activities by fixing a computer, paying for extra transportation, etc.
  - ◇ Etc., etc., and etc.!

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

Guardian Group  
1187 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Make check out to “UUSF” and please put “Guardian Group” in check memo line.

