



Seek LGBTQ+ resources.

Reach safety.

Find belonging.

## **InReach Media Kit**

### **Media Contacts**

InReach Press Team

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### **About InReach**

**InReach is a trans-led tech nonprofit increasing access to safe, verified resources for the diverse LGBTQ+ community. InReach provides the world's first tech platform matching LGBTQ+ people facing discrimination and persecution with safe, verified resources.** The free InReach App is available on web (desktop and mobile), and native iOS and Android. InReach currently lists verified services in all 50 U.S. states, D.C. and U.S. territories, Canada and Mexico.

InReach's free technology instantly matches LGBTQ+ people facing discrimination and persecution with affirming, independently verified medical and mental health care, immigration and other legal help, safe housing, meal assistance, education and employment, translation, community and spiritual support, and more critical services. InReach aims to serve as a digital one-stop-shop for the intersectional LGBTQ+ community. InReach has services for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants, LGBTQ+ Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) community, LGBTQ+ youth and their caregivers, and more LGBTQ+ communities.

Since launching in 2016, the InReach App has surpassed 400,000 user sessions (with over 250,000 user sessions coming from 2022 alone in the face of a record number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills sweeping across the U.S.). InReach currently spans over 8,000 verified services with new resources being independently verified and added every day by trained volunteers.

For its novel use of technology to ensure *every* LGBTQ+ person finds the safety to live authentically, InReach has earned national and international recognition including:

- **2022 Data for Justice Prize**, World Justice Challenge 2022 at the World Justice Forum in The Hague, Netherlands
- **2021 Passion Fund Gold Winner** by Linktree x Square
- **2020 Fast Company World Changing Ideas Awards**, Finalist in Apps Category
- **2020 Forbes 30 Under 30** in Law & Policy
- **2019 Foursquare For Good Challenge Winner**, Foursquare
- **2019 Roddenberry Fellowship**, The Roddenberry Foundation

## Why InReach Is Needed

- **80+** – In over 80 countries around the world it remains illegal or fundamentally unsafe to live openly as a LGBTQ+ person.
  - Same-sex activity between consenting adults is subject to criminalization in approximately 70 countries
  - Of these 70 countries, 31 carry a sentence of 10+ years in prison, and **12 countries still impose the death penalty**
  - 12 countries target gender identity through 'cross-dressing' or 'impersonation' laws

*“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 InReach

*“I am planning to move to the U.S. to live like a normal human being without fear of persecution. **Show me the way.**”* — Gay asylum seeker from the Middle East to InReach
- **1,700,000+** – There are over 1.7M cases backlogged in the U.S. immigration court system.
- **289,700** – There are an estimated 289,700 LGBTQ+-identified individuals among the adult undocumented immigrant population in the U.S.
- **300+** – During 2022, more than 300 bills were introduced across the U.S., the majority targeting the trans community.
- **21.6%** – LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. have a collective poverty rate of 21.6%, as compared to 15.7% for their straight cisgender peers.
- **40%** – An estimated 40% of homeless youth in the U.S. identify as gay or transgender: 4x higher than the average population.

Before InReach, there was no holistic, technologically advanced platform built for the intersectional LGBTQ+ community. In response, InReach has created **the first and only scalable tech platform** designed to fill this critical information gap.

## How InReach Started

Jamie co-founded AsylumConnect (now InReach) during his senior year at the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, he met fellow student Sy. Sy shared his personal experience struggling to find safe resources during his U.S. asylum process. Despite access to technology, upon arrival in the United States Sy struggled as a gay immigrant to find reliable data on where it was safe to go for help to meet his basic needs, from finding legitimate pro bono legal representation for his LGBTQ+ asylum claim to affirming health care, mental health support, housing, and educational opportunities. As a trans man who grew up in a conservative environment, the feeling of not being able to live authentically and lacking easily accessible information on how to find affirming support deeply resonated with Jamie.

So, during their senior year, Sy and Jamie co-founded AsylumConnect, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization started as the world's first technology platform for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, to fill the critical resource information gap facing the diverse LGBTQ+ community. The organization is founded on the belief that every LGBTQ+ person deserves the safety and freedom to live authentically. Jamie has led the organization since.

**In May 2022, AsylumConnect officially became InReach.** Since launching its App in 2016, the organization has seen the platform be used by a wide variety of LGBTQ+ people, in addition to those community members seeking asylum. The organization rebranded to InReach to better communicate and reflect the value of its free technology to a broader LGBTQ+ user base.

Today, InReach has services for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants, LGBTQ+ BIPOC communities, the transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) community, LGBTQ+ youth and their caregivers, and more LGBTQ+ communities.

InReach's cause continues to deeply resonate with Jamie as a trans man from a conservative background. Jamie also leads the organization with firsthand experience using the InReach App to locate trusted trans affirming legal help for his name and gender marker changes, lifesaving gender-affirming medical care, and critical mental health services as he navigated his own transition at the age of 26.

## Impact Data & Testimonials

Since launching in 2016, the free InReach App has matched thousands of LGBTQ+ people facing discrimination and persecution with independently verified direct service providers. (\*95%+ of InReach's user sessions to-date are in the United States.)

### Highlights:

- United States: 380,000+ user sessions
- Canada: 6,000+ user sessions
- Mexico: 2,000+ user sessions

### Verified Service Area Coverage:

The free InReach App is currently available in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, Canada, and Mexico.

InReach currently spans over 8,000 verified services with new resources being independently verified and added every day by trained volunteers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>\*Every direct service provider listed on InReach is vetted by our trained volunteers to be welcoming to LGBTQ+ people facing discrimination and persecution. Our trained volunteers also re-verify each service provider listed on the platform at least once every 6 months for maximum user safety and quality control. ([Learn more.](#))

The most common verified service categories listed on the InReach App include: Mental Health, Legal, Medical, Community Support, and Education & Employment.

#### **InReach App Sample Features:**

- **Verification (Safety):** Every service provider listed on InReach is verified (and re-verified at least once every 6 months) by trained volunteers.
- **Translation:** Currently available in native English and Spanish, and over 100 additional languages provided on-demand via Google Translate.
- **Anonymity:** The InReach App is designed to protect users' confidentiality and safety online. We do not require any personally identifiable information.
- **Documentation Search Filters:** Users can easily filter out service providers that require specific documentation (such as medical insurance, proof of age / income / residence, or a referral) to access.
- **Digital Accessibility:** The free InReach App is available on web (desktop and mobile), and native iOS and Android. Our new redesign (coming in 2023) will strive to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) level AA criteria.

#### **InReach App Logged-In Features:**

- **Public Ratings and Written Reviews:** Users can share public ratings (one to five stars) and written reviews on all verified direct service providers' InReach profile pages.
- **Save and Share Resources:** Once logged-in, users can also save and share their personalized resource list(s) via print or email.
- **Suggest a Resource:** Once logged-in, users can "suggest" new LGBTQ+ resources for inclusion in the App to InReach's Resource Team.
- **Service Provider Features:** Direct service providers who register for a free user account can also take steps to "claim" their organization's profile page on the InReach App and help our Resource Team to keep their own organization's information up-to-date, 24/7.

## Organization Spokespeople



### **Jamie Sgarro, InReach Co-Founder & Executive Director**

Jamie Sgarro (he/they) is the co-founder and executive director of InReach. As a trans man who grew up in a conservative environment and who used the free InReach App to find verified trans affirming legal, medical and mental health services during his own transition, Jamie remains personally motivated to ensure other trans and queer people in need have access to InReach’s free technology.

For his work on InReach, Jamie has earned national and international recognition for outstanding contribution in social impact including as the recipient the Millennium Campus Network’s 2015 Millennium Peace Prize at the United Nations, member of the Clinton Foundation’s 2017 CGI U Alumni Honor Roll of social innovators, [2019 Roddenberry Fellow](#), [2020 Forbes 30 under 30 honoree](#) in Law & Policy, finalist in [Fast Company’s 2020 World Changing Ideas Awards](#), a Gold Winner in the [2021 Passion Fund](#) by Linktree x Square, and the Data for

Justice Prize Winner at the [World Justice Challenge 2022](#) at the World Justice Forum in The Hague.

Jamie has been a featured speaker on LGBTQ+ rights and technology for social good, and his work has appeared in national outlets including The HuffPost, Forbes, Teen Vogue, The Clinton Foundation’s “Why Am I Telling You This?” Podcast, The Advocate, The Hill, NowThis, and NBC OUT.

Jamie holds a B.A. cum laude with distinction in Health & Societies from the University of Pennsylvania and a M.S. in Management from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. He is currently a part-time J.D. candidate at Northeastern University School of Law.

More about Sgarro can be found at his personal website [www.jamiesgarro.com](http://www.jamiesgarro.com) and he can be followed on Twitter [@jamiesgarro](https://twitter.com/jamiesgarro).

### **Other Spokespersons**

InReach has an Ambassador Program of individuals who have successfully leveraged InReach’s free technology to access safe, verified resources for themselves or their clients:

<https://inreach.org/inreach-ambassador-program>

More about the other members of the organization is available at: <https://inreach.org/about-us>

## **Featured Press for InReach (fka AsylumConnect)**

### **November 2022 Upwork Blog**

The Upwork Foundation Grants \$1.68 Million To Help People Displaced By Conflict Find Work—No Matter Their Location

[www.upwork.com/blog/upwork-foundation-grants-2022](http://www.upwork.com/blog/upwork-foundation-grants-2022)

### **June 2022 The Clinton Foundation Stories**

One CGI U Alum's Journey to Harness Technology to Connect LGBTQ+ Individuals with Safe, Verified Resources

[www.clintonfoundation.org/stories/one-cgi-u-alums-journey-to-harness-technology-to-connect-lgbtq-individuals-with-safe-verified-resources](http://www.clintonfoundation.org/stories/one-cgi-u-alums-journey-to-harness-technology-to-connect-lgbtq-individuals-with-safe-verified-resources)

### **June 2022 ABC 7 New York**

Watch the 2022 NYC Pride March (InReach featured at ~12 mins)

<https://abc7ny.com/nyc-pride-march-gay-lgbtq/11834241>

### **June 2022 The World Justice Project Announcement**

World Justice Challenge Winners announced in The Hague

<https://worldjusticeproject.org/news/world-justice-challenge-winners-announced-hague>

### **June 2022 GW Today**

For LGBTQ+ People Seeking Asylum, the Path Is Fraught with Difficulty

<https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/lgbtq-people-seeking-asylum-path-fraught-difficulty>

### **August 2021 Linktree Company Announcement**

Linktree Announces Passion Fund Winners

[www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/linktree-announces-passion-fund-winners-301354695.html](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/linktree-announces-passion-fund-winners-301354695.html)

### **June 2021 Los Angeles Blade**

It's time to prioritize the plight of trans and queer refugees (Op-ed)

[www.losangelesblade.com/2021/06/18/its-time-to-prioritize-the-plight-of-trans-and-queer-refugees](http://www.losangelesblade.com/2021/06/18/its-time-to-prioritize-the-plight-of-trans-and-queer-refugees)

### **April 2021 Greatist**

Millennial Change Makers

<https://greatist.com/live/millennial-change-makers>

### **August 2020 NBC OUT**

Trump proposals threaten LGBTQ asylum-seekers' hopes of refuge in U.S.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/trump-proposals-threaten-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-hopes-refuge-u-s-n1236736>

### **July 2020 The American Prospect**

The Public Comment Battle to Save American Asylum

<https://prospect.org/justice/the-public-comment-battle-to-save-american-asylum>

**July 2020 Forbes.com**

Trump's New Asylum Regulations Could Have Devastating Effects For LGBTQ People. The Leaders Of AsylumConnect Explain Why.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mollysprayregen/2020/07/12/trumps-new-asylum-regulations-could-have-devastating-effects-for-lgbtq-people-the-leaders-of-asylumconnect-explain-why/#367fef0b6858>

**June 2020 Between The Lines**

AsylumConnect Helps LGBTQ Refugees Find Support Across U.S., Co-Hosts June 20 Virtual Pride

<https://pridesource.com/article/asylum-connect-helps-lgbtq-refugees-find-support-across-u-s-co-hosts-june-20-virtual-pride/>

**June 2020 The Hill**

This World Refugee Day and Pride month we need to save LGBTQ asylum (Op-ed)

<https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/503580-this-world-refugee-day-and-pride-month-we-need-to-save-lgbtq-asylum>

**April 2020 Fast Company**

World Changing Ideas Awards 2020: Apps Finalists and Honorable Mentions

[www.fastcompany.com/90492187/world-changing-ideas-awards-2020-apps-finalists-and-honorable-mentions](http://www.fastcompany.com/90492187/world-changing-ideas-awards-2020-apps-finalists-and-honorable-mentions)

**December 2019 Forbes**

Forbes 30 Under 30, Class of 2020 (Law & Policy List)

[www.forbes.com/30-under-30/2020/law-policy](http://www.forbes.com/30-under-30/2020/law-policy)

**November 2019 GO Magazine**

This New App For LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Is A Game-Changer

<http://gomag.com/article/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

[www.teenvogue.com/story/lgbtq-asylum-seekers-marginalization-four-organizations-help-resource-guide](http://www.teenvogue.com/story/lgbtq-asylum-seekers-marginalization-four-organizations-help-resource-guide)

**August 2019 Forbes.com**

Jamie Sgarro's AsylumConnect Helps LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Access Safe Services

[www.forbes.com/sites/mollysprayregen/2019/08/14/katie-sgarros-asylumconnect-helps-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-access-safe-services/#5db85d25ff84](http://www.forbes.com/sites/mollysprayregen/2019/08/14/katie-sgarros-asylumconnect-helps-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-access-safe-services/#5db85d25ff84)

**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)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stonewall-50-pride-progress-future-fight-for-lgbtq/id1462232601?i=1000442930121>

**June 2019 NowThis**

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

<https://nowthisnews.com/videos/news/asylumconnect-helps-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-find-resources-in-the-us>

**January 2019 The Advocate**

LGBTQ Asylum Seekers Cannot Wait Safely in Mexico (Op-ed)

[www.advocate.com/commentary/2019/1/04/lgbtq-asylum-seekers-cannot-wait-safely-mexico](http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2019/1/04/lgbtq-asylum-seekers-cannot-wait-safely-mexico)

**January 2019 Roddenberry Foundation Fellows List**

<https://roddenberryfoundation.org/our-work/roddenberry-fellowship/fellowship-in-action/2019-fellows>

**August 2018 The Daily Beast**

The Malaysian Gay Man Fighting for His Life, and Many Other LGBT Asylum Seekers

[www.thedailybeast.com/the-malaysian-gay-man-fighting-for-his-life-and-many-other-lgbt-asylum-seekers](http://www.thedailybeast.com/the-malaysian-gay-man-fighting-for-his-life-and-many-other-lgbt-asylum-seekers)

**July 2018 The Advocate**

Trump Policies Will Send LGBT Asylum Seekers to Their Deaths (Op-ed)

[www.advocate.com/commentary/2018/7/09/trump-policies-will-send-lgbt-asylum-seekers-their-deaths](http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2018/7/09/trump-policies-will-send-lgbt-asylum-seekers-their-deaths)

**December 2017 The Clinton Foundation**

The Honor Roll: A young leader provides a lifeline for LGBTQ asylum seekers in the U.S.

<https://stories.clintonfoundation.org/the-honor-roll-a-young-leader-provides-a-lifeline-for-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-in-the-u-s-59b1de680539>

**InReach’s Social Media**

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