



Seek LGBTQ+ resources.

Reach safety.

Find belonging.

InReach Media Kit

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About InReach

InReach is a trans-led tech nonprofit increasing resource access for the diverse LGBTQ+ community. InReach provides the world's first tech platform matching LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination 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 open-source technology instantly matches LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination 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 comprehensive digital one-stop-shop for the diverse 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 a nearly 4x increase in user sessions in 2022 from 2021 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 has on-demand access to safe resources, InReach has earned national and international recognition including:

- **2023 Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies**, 'Small and Mighty' category
- **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 Forbes 30 Under 30** in Law & Policy
- **2019 Foursquare For Good Challenge Winner**, Foursquare
- **2019 Roddenberry Fellowship**, The Roddenberry Foundation

Why InReach Is Needed

Resource Seekers: Before InReach, LGBTQ+ people had limited options when searching for safe resources. LGBTQ+ people were forced to sift through unverified results of large search engines, jump from website to website to try to find affirming resources to address all of their different legal, medical, mental health and social service needs, or hope that local community organizations' static resource lists were up-to-date and comprehensive.

Despite the rise in harnessing technology to tackle pressing social issues, the LGBTQ+ movement lacked a reliable, technologically advanced, holistic resource platform. The need has only increased with the recent surge in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. Through filling this clear information gap, InReach produces systemic change for our diverse community. **InReach's vision is for every trans and queer person to have on-demand access to the safe, affirming resources they need to survive and thrive.**

Service Providers: Providers undergo the same process when looking for safe resources for LGBTQ+ clients. We believe the whole LGBTQ+ movement—including service providers, community organizations, government agencies, etc. looking for referrals for LGBTQ+ clients—will benefit by combining resources to support the development of one trusted tech platform accessible to everyone in the community for free. Doing so will eliminate current inefficiencies, such as those created by non-technical providers spending their finite resources on attempting to create and maintain their own local referral lists without engineering, vetting or maintenance capacity. InReach's existence will allow for direct service providers to focus on fulfilling their crucial missions, ultimately improving the entire care model for LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination.

"It's [InReach is] 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 InReach to tell them where it is safe to go." - Service provider user

How InReach Started

Jamie co-founded InReach (fka AsylumConnect) during his senior year at the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, a classmate shared his personal experience struggling to find safe resources during the U.S. asylum process despite access to technology. 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, the two friends 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.

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 seeking asylum. The organization rebranded to InReach to better communicate and reflect the value of its free technology to a diverse LGBTQ+ user base.

Today, InReach has verified 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, thousands have used the free InReach App to access safe, verified resources. (*95%+ of InReach’s user sessions to-date are in the United States.)

Highlights:

- United States: 385,000+ 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.¹

The free InReach App lists a wide range of services, which we refer to as “resources”, for the diverse LGBTQ+ community:

- **“Crisis resources”** (e.g., emergency housing, food, legal help, mental health hotlines, medical care, drop-in centers for LGBTQ+ youth, abortion care, and more)
- **“Quality of life resources”** (resources that LGBTQ+ people need to not just survive but thrive, such as local community and social groups, spiritual support, art and music, sports and entertainment, haircuts and stylists, dental care, substance use, educational support for LGBTQ+ youth, career counseling, libraries, HIV and sexual health, language classes, and so much more).

InReach App Sample Features:

- **Vetting (safety)** –Every service provider listed on InReach is independently vetted (and re-verified at least once every 6 months) by trained volunteers.
- **Localization (translation)** –Available in native English and Spanish, with 100+ languages provided on-demand via machine translation. This year, we’re adding French, Arabic, Russian,

¹*Every direct service provider listed on InReach is vetted by our trained volunteers to be welcoming to LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination. 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.](#))

etc. translation ability through a third-party server, Crowdin. Crowdin will allow us to outsource translation needs to external translators, while maintaining an in-house translation team.

- **Anonymity (privacy focus)** –Preserving online anonymity can be a life-or-death issue for LGBTQ+ people. As a result, InReach is designed to protect users’ confidentiality online.
- **Search filters** –Users can easily filter out providers that require specific documentation (e.g., photo ID, medical insurance, proof of age/income/residence, or a referral) to access.
- **Digital accessibility** –The InReach App is available on web (desktop and mobile), and native iOS and Android. Our recent redesign (released in June 2023) strives to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) level AA criteria.
- **Save & share resources** –Users can save/share their personalized resource list(s) via print/email.
- **Ratings & reviews (local community perspective)** –Users can share public ratings (one to five stars) and reviews on all verified service providers’ profile pages.
- **Suggest a resource (scalability; local community perspective)** –Users can “suggest” new LGBTQ+ resources for inclusion in the app to InReach's Resource Team.
- **Service provider features** –Providers who register for a free user account can also “claim” their organization’s profile page on InReach and help keep their own information up-to-date, 24/7.

To ensure accessibility, the InReach App is free-of-charge for all users, including resource seekers and lawyers, case managers, social workers and other direct service providers searching for safe resource referrals for LGBTQ+ clients.

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 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, open-source technology to access safe, verified resources for themselves or their LGBTQ+ 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)

May 2023 INSIGHT Into Diversity

Resource Hub Sees Spike in Demand as Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation Grows

www.insightintodiversity.com/resource-hub-sees-spike-in-demand-as-anti-lgbtq-legislation-grows

April 2023 Northeastern Global News

Northeastern law student runs a nonprofit to help LGBTQ+ community members find needed resources

<https://news.northeastern.edu/2023/04/04/lgbtq-community-resources-nonprofit-inreach>

March 2023 Fast Company

The most innovative companies with fewer than 10 employees in 2023

www.fastcompany.com/90849059/most-innovative-companies-small-mighty-under-10-employees-2023

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

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

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

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

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

December 2019 Forbes

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Facebook](#) @weareinreach

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[YouTube](#) @weareinreach