



Seek LGBTQ+ resources.

Reach safety.

Find belonging.

InReach 2024 Media Kit

Media Contacts

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About InReach

InReach (fka AsylumConnect) is a 501(c)(3) trans-led tech nonprofit increasing resource access for the diverse LGBTQ+ community. The free InReach App **is the world's first tech platform matching LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination with safe, independently verified resources**. Our vision is for every LGBTQ+ person to have on-demand access to the safe, affirming resources they need to thrive.

Why InReach Is Needed

Right now, an unprecedented rise in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is threatening access to safe resources for LGBTQ+ people, [especially trans folks](#), in the United States.

How InReach fits:

- **Independent vetting process:** All service providers listed on InReach are [independently verified by trained volunteers](#) to be safe for LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination (and re-verified at least 1x every 6 months for safety).
- **InReach makes it easy for users to assess and compare their options:** InReach organizes all these verified providers in one place; InReach also aggregates useful information on each provider's services in a consistent format via InReach profile pages.

InReach has the expertise, engineering and vetting capacity to develop the most technologically advanced resource platform built for the diverse LGBTQ+ community.

- InReach's codebase uses some of the most popular frameworks/libraries, making it easier for developers to contribute to our open source repository.

- InReach is built for scale, uses crowdsourced translations to increase language accessibility, and has a custom back-end data portal to enable trained volunteers to efficiently verify and add affirming services to the InReach App.

InReach's custom technology is free, open-source and community-centric.

- We encourage other organizations to not only use the platform and claim their profile on InReach (if applicable) but also to help expand InReach in their community. Anyone can suggest resources via our public suggest resources form (*all resource suggestions are subject to InReach's vetting process for safety).
- We also encourage local community members and organizations to share existing resource lists (e.g., static webpages, excel files, google docs) to help build the platform and leave reviews on services they've accessed.
- As a tech nonprofit, InReach also has the ability to integrate with other organizations who maintain databases.

Our vision is to ensure every LGBTQ+ person has on-demand access to safe resources via building a dynamic tech platform that everyone can contribute their knowledge to for free.

About the InReach App

The free InReach App is the world's first tech platform matching LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination with safe, independently verified resources. InReach is available on web (desktop and mobile), and native iOS and Android.

InReach's open-source technology instantly matches LGBTQ+ people in need with independently verified, safe housing, medical and mental health care, immigration and other legal help, meal assistance, trans focused services, education and employment, translation, community and spiritual support, and more. InReach serves as a comprehensive digital one-stop-shop for the diverse, intersectional LGBTQ+ community: InReach lists verified services for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, refugees, and other immigrants, BIPOC communities, transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) folks, youth and caregivers, and more LGBTQ+ communities. The InReach App is free for everyone – including lawyers, case managers, social workers, teachers, and other providers and community organizations searching for affirming resource referrals for LGBTQ+ clients.

The InReach App currently lists over 9,000 services across North America independently verified to be safe for the diverse LGBTQ+ community, with new verified services being added every day by trained volunteers.

Sample InReach App Features:

- **Open-Source** – InReach is built for scale and local community input.
- **Vetted Resources Only** – Every service provider listed on InReach is **independently vetted** (and re-verified at least once every 6 months) to be affirming for the diverse LGBTQ+ community by trained volunteers.
- **Safety First** – We know online anonymity can be a life-or-death issue for LGBTQ+ people. That's why our app is designed to protect users' confidentiality and safety online.
- **Localization (Translation)** – As an open-source platform, InReach uses **crowdsourced translations**. Real people verify (and edit as needed) our machine-generated translations to ensure accuracy, inclusivity and cultural competence.
- **Holistic** – InReach lists 15 categories of verified support, including trans focused services, legal help, safe housing, meal assistance, abortion care, mental health and medical care, translation and interpretation, community support, and more.
- **Personalize Your Search** – Users can easily filter out providers that require fees and specific documentation (e.g., photo ID, medical insurance, proof of age/income/residence, or a referral) to access.
- **Leave Ratings and Reviews** – Logged-in users can share public ratings (one to five stars) and reviews on all verified service providers' profile pages.
- **Suggest New Resources** – Logged-in users can **suggest new LGBTQ+ resources** for inclusion in the app to InReach's Resource Team.
- **Save and Share Resources (Coming Soon)** – Logged-in users can save and share their personalized resource list(s) via print/email.
- **Sorting Search Results (Coming Soon)** – Sort verified providers by LGBTQ+ community focus (e.g., *sort verified providers by BIPOC and/or TGNC and/or immigrant providers first*).
- **Service Provider Features (Coming Soon)** – Providers who register for a free user account and "claim" their organization's profile page will gain access to a suite of free tools to showcase their services on InReach.

*See [here](#) for a quick demo of the InReach App on mobile.

Featured Awards & Recognition

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

Our Impact

By the Numbers

- **App Users: 400,000+** people have used InReach to access safe, verified resources
- **App User Sessions: 450,000+** separate visits on the platform
- **Services Listed: 9,000+** searchable verified services listed on InReach

InReach Proudly Serves the Diverse LGBTQ+ Community

The free InReach App is designed for the diverse and intersectional LGBTQ+ community. We are proud to have users from a wide variety of sexual orientations, gender identities, races/ethnicities, immigration statuses, ages, and more. ****Note: Following our safety-first approach, we do not require any personally identifiable information to use InReach. Users who choose to create a free InReach user account have the option to share demographic information via an anonymous online survey.***

Shared **LGBTQ+ identities** of InReach App users during 2023 included:

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Intersex
- Lesbian
- Nonbinary
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Questioning
- Transgender Man
- Transgender Woman

Shared **rac**es/**ethnicities** of InReach App users during 2023 included:

- American Indian/Native American/Indigenous Person
- Asian
- Biracial/Multiracial
- Black
- Latino/a/x/e/Hispanic
- Middle Eastern/North African
- South Asian
- white

Shared **immigration statuses** of InReach App users during 2023 included:

- Asylum Seeker
- Asylee (granted asylum)
- Dreamer (DACA recipient)
- Refugee
- Other Immigrant (B1 visa holder)
- Other Immigrant (not specified)
- None

Shared **countries of origin** of InReach App users during 2023 included:

Bahrain	Lebanon
Bangladesh	Mauritania
China	Mexico
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
DR Congo	Nigeria
France	Pakistan
Guatemala	Russia
Guinea	Senegal
Haiti	Somalia
India	Tajikistan
Jamaica	Uganda
Jordan	Ukraine
Kenya	Venezuela
Kyrgyzstan	Zimbabwe

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 lists 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.

"When I first began my transition at the age of 26, I did not know where to start. So I turned to InReach. I used the free InReach App to locate trusted trans friendly legal help for my name and gender marker changes, lifesaving gender-affirming medical care, and critical mental health services as I navigated my transition. With the support of InReach, I am proud and grateful to now live openly as a trans man." – Jamie Sgarro, Co-Founder & Executive Director at InReach

Organization Spokespeople



Jamie Sgarro, InReach Co-Founder & Executive Director

Jamie Sgarro (he/they) is the co-founder and executive director of InReach (fka AsylumConnect). After co-founding the organization at the age of 21, Jamie has led InReach for 9 years in establishing the world's first tech platform matching LGBTQ+ people facing persecution or discrimination with safe, verified resources. As a trans man who grew up in a conservative environment and who used the InReach App to find affirming resources 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, Netherlands and most recently, led InReach to be recognized on Fast Company's 2023 ['Most Innovative Companies' list](#).

Jamie has been a featured speaker on LGBTQ+/TGNC rights and technology for social good, and his work has appeared in national outlets including Forbes, Teen Vogue, The Advocate, The Hill, and NowThis.

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.

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

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