# Britain's asylum system faces challenges from false LGBT claims, says Peter Tatchell



Britain’s asylum system is reportedly facing challenges due to a rise in claims from individuals falsely presenting themselves as gay in attempts to secure asylum status. This issue has been highlighted by Peter Tatchell, a well-known campaigner for LGBT rights and founder of the Peter Tatchell Foundation. Tatchell revealed that his charity is receiving daily contact from as many as 30 individuals, mostly from Pakistan, who appear to be fabricating evidence of their sexual orientation to strengthen their asylum applications.

Tatchell noted that the foundation has observed a surge in small donations, usually under £3, being made to their accounts almost daily—sometimes reaching as many as 30 donations in a single day. These donations are frequently followed by requests for membership cards or letters that affirm the donors’ supposed sexual identity. These documents are then presumably intended to be used as evidence in support of their claims to the Home Office.

In a letter addressed to Joanna Rowlands, the Home Office’s immigration chief, in January, Tatchell pointed out: “It has come to our attention that some asylum applications from South Asia have referenced the Peter Tatchell Foundation in support of their claims to secure asylum. For the past 18 months, we have noticed almost daily donations of less than £3, sometimes as many as 30 in a single day. It is apparent many of these donors are likely asylum applicants. We have also received emails from some of these ‘donors’ requesting membership cards or letters for their asylum applications.”

Speaking to the Daily Mail, Tatchell emphasised that the foundation’s longstanding work with LGBT asylum seekers has been largely positive. He stated, “The people we help have gone on to become model members of the community, contributing to the UK economy. Any suspicious requests for help are promptly investigated and blocked.” He added that none of the individuals officially assisted by his foundation have been exposed as fraudulent.

This uptick in fabricated claims as reported by Tatchell presents an additional layer of complexity within the UK’s asylum procedures, underpinning ongoing concerns about verifying the authenticity of asylum seekers’ claims, particularly those based on sexual orientation. The Peter Tatchell Foundation continues to support genuine LGBT refugees while striving to identify and prevent misuse of their resources.

The Express is reporting this issue amid wider scrutiny of the UK's immigration and asylum systems, reflecting concerns about monitoring and verifying claims to ensure fairness and integrity in the process.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.petertatchellfoundation.org/we-helped-gay-pakistani-win-refugee-status/> - This article details the Peter Tatchell Foundation's assistance to a gay Pakistani individual who faced death threats and an unwanted marriage, highlighting the challenges faced by LGBT asylum seekers from Pakistan.
2. <https://www.petertatchell.net/asylum/azam-peter-tatchell-foundation-helped-me-get-asylum/> - This piece narrates the experience of Azam, a human rights activist and journalist from Pakistan, who sought asylum in the UK with the help of the Peter Tatchell Foundation, underscoring the risks faced by activists from Pakistan.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-24479812> - This BBC News article discusses the challenges faced by gay and lesbian asylum seekers in the UK, including the requirement to 'prove' their sexuality, which relates to the difficulties in verifying the authenticity of asylum claims based on sexual orientation.
4. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/migrant-crisis-record-number-asylum-seekers-claiming-gay-allowed-stay-britain-echr-rules-claims-nearly-triple-one-year> - This report highlights a significant increase in asylum seekers claiming to be gay in the UK, raising concerns about the potential for fraudulent claims and the strain on the asylum system.
5. <https://www.petertatchellfoundation.org/asylum-advice-for-lgbt-refugees/> - This resource provides guidance for LGBT refugees seeking asylum, emphasizing the importance of credible and effective asylum applications, which is pertinent to the issue of verifying the authenticity of such claims.
6. <https://www.petertatchell.net/asylum/home-office-refuses-asylum-to-most-lgbt-refugees/> - This article discusses the low approval rates for LGBT+ asylum seekers in the UK, highlighting systemic challenges in the asylum process that may be exacerbated by fraudulent claims.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2048455/migration-madness-bogus-asylum-seekers> - Please view link - unable to able to access data