

Addressing the amplified risks of pandemic times for LGBTQI refugees



Learnings for now and the renewal

Simon Fraser University

Unceded Coast Salish territories: Skwxwú7mesh, Úxwumixw and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Nations
Vancouver | Surrey | Burnaby

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Pathways to Prosperity, 2020

Community of Practice



Rainbow Coalition for Refuge



Evolving Language of Human Diversity

SOGIESC

Sexual Orientation

**Gender Identity &
Expression**

Sex Characteristics

LGBTQI

Lesbian Gay Bisexual

Transgender

Intersex

Queer

LGBTQ2 Refugee Resettlement Journey Map, May 25th 2018

Seven Key Issues

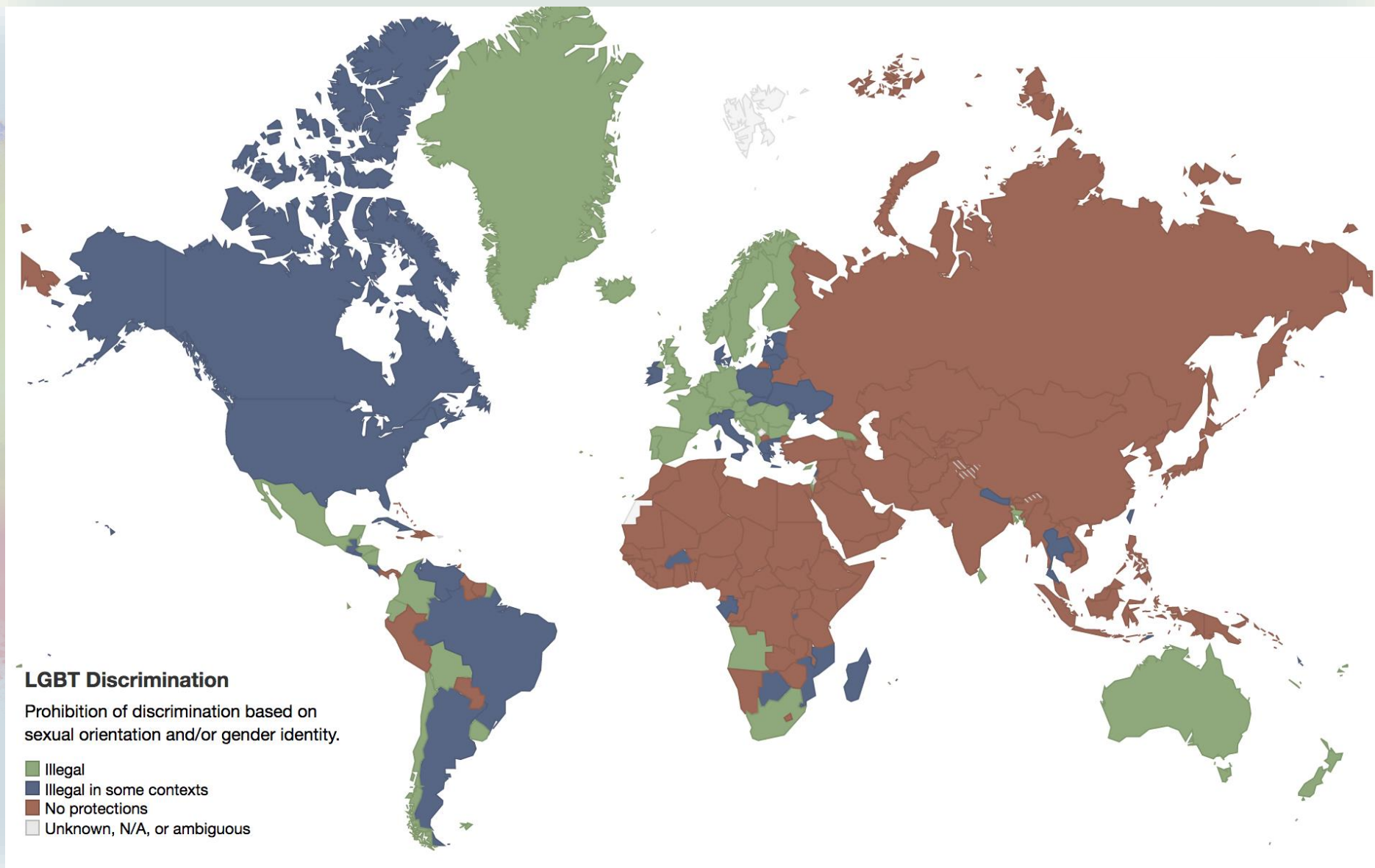
- 1** Implement SOGIE training as a system-wide standard for resettlement.
- 2** Increase and strengthen partnerships with LGBTQ2 civil society organizations in Canada to facilitate the settlement of LGBTQ2 refugees.
- 3** Provide mental health support across the resettlement continuum to support LGBTQ2 refugees, recognizing the intersectionality of trauma that LGBTQ2 refugees have experienced.
- 4** Ensure the visibility of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) policies on non-discrimination and confidentiality.
- 5** Secure permanent funding for the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Pilot, making it a permanently funded, privately sponsored LGBTQ2 refugee program.
- 6** Develop jointly, via the IRCC-Coalition, a crisis response plan for LGBTQ2 refugees.
- 7** Collaborate to reduce barriers to resettlement and ensure comprehensive resettlement ID and destining.

LGBTQ2 Resettlement Journey Map

- The LGBTQ2 Journey Map exercise represents the resettlement journey of three different LGBTQ2 refugees; a gay male, a lesbian woman and a transgender woman. It documents their journey from leaving their country of origin to their final arrival and settlement in Canada.
- The aim of this work was to highlight barriers specific to LGBTQ2 refugees in their resettlement process and identify key issues that could be further developed to improve the resettlement process for this vulnerable population.
- Participants in the process included Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Privy Council Office Secretariat, Global Affairs Canada, United Nations Refugee Agency and The Coalition; that is working on LGBTQ2 refugee protection.

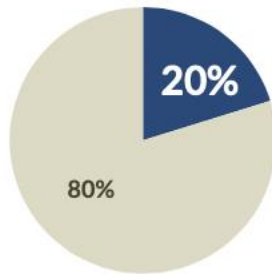


Uneven Human Rights Protections



Uneven Human Rights Protections

39 UN Member States
20% UN Member States



AFRICA	LAC	NORTH AMERICA	ASIA	EUROPE	OCEANIA
2 /54	8 /33	1 /2	0 /42	28 /50	0 /14

Protection against inciting hate

Persecution against SOGIESC Diversity

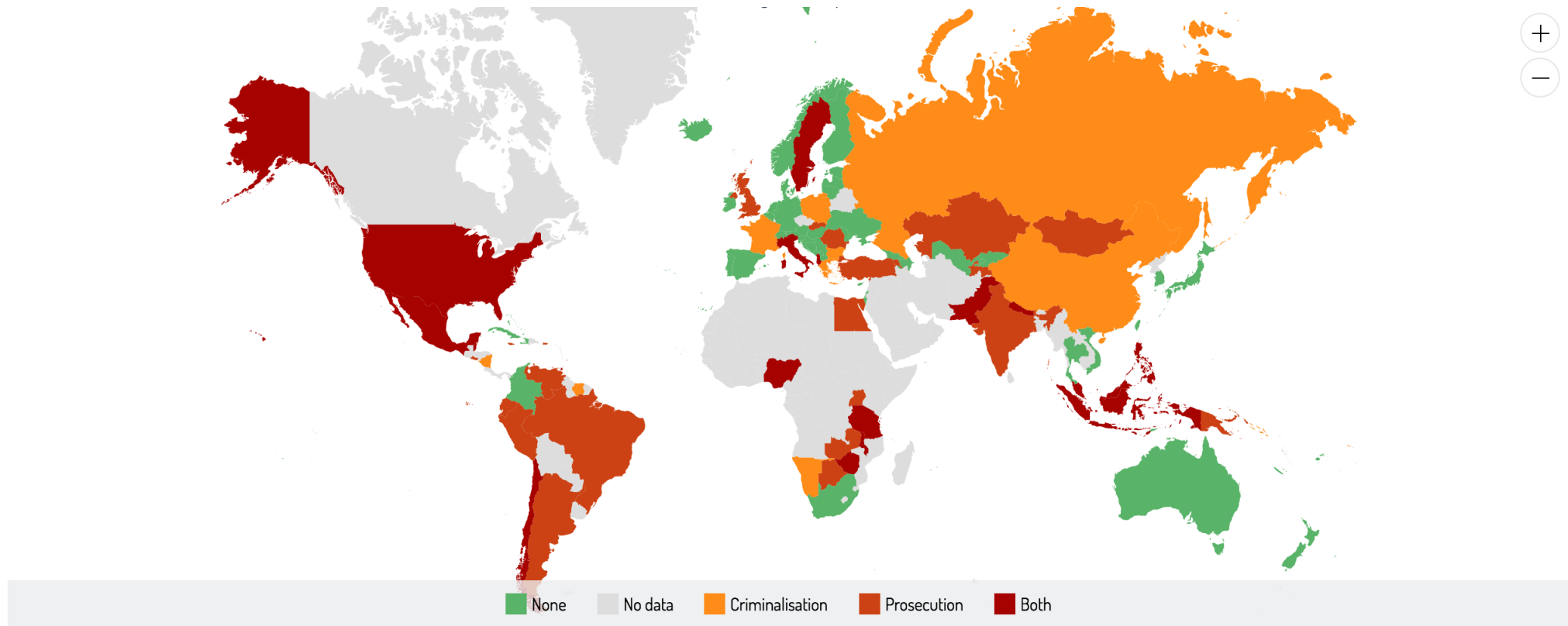


At least **68** countries criminalize same-sex relationships

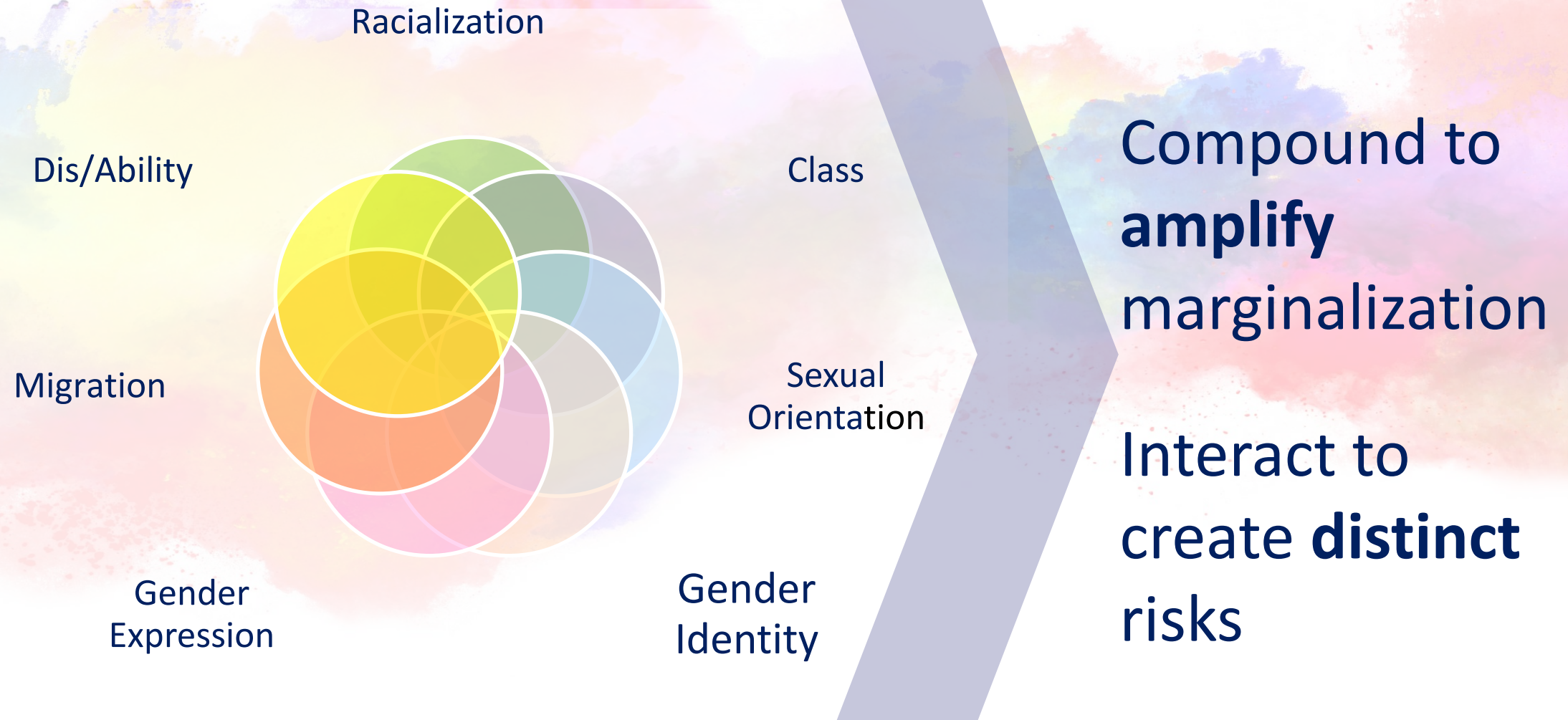
ILGA

Persecution against SOGIESC Diversity

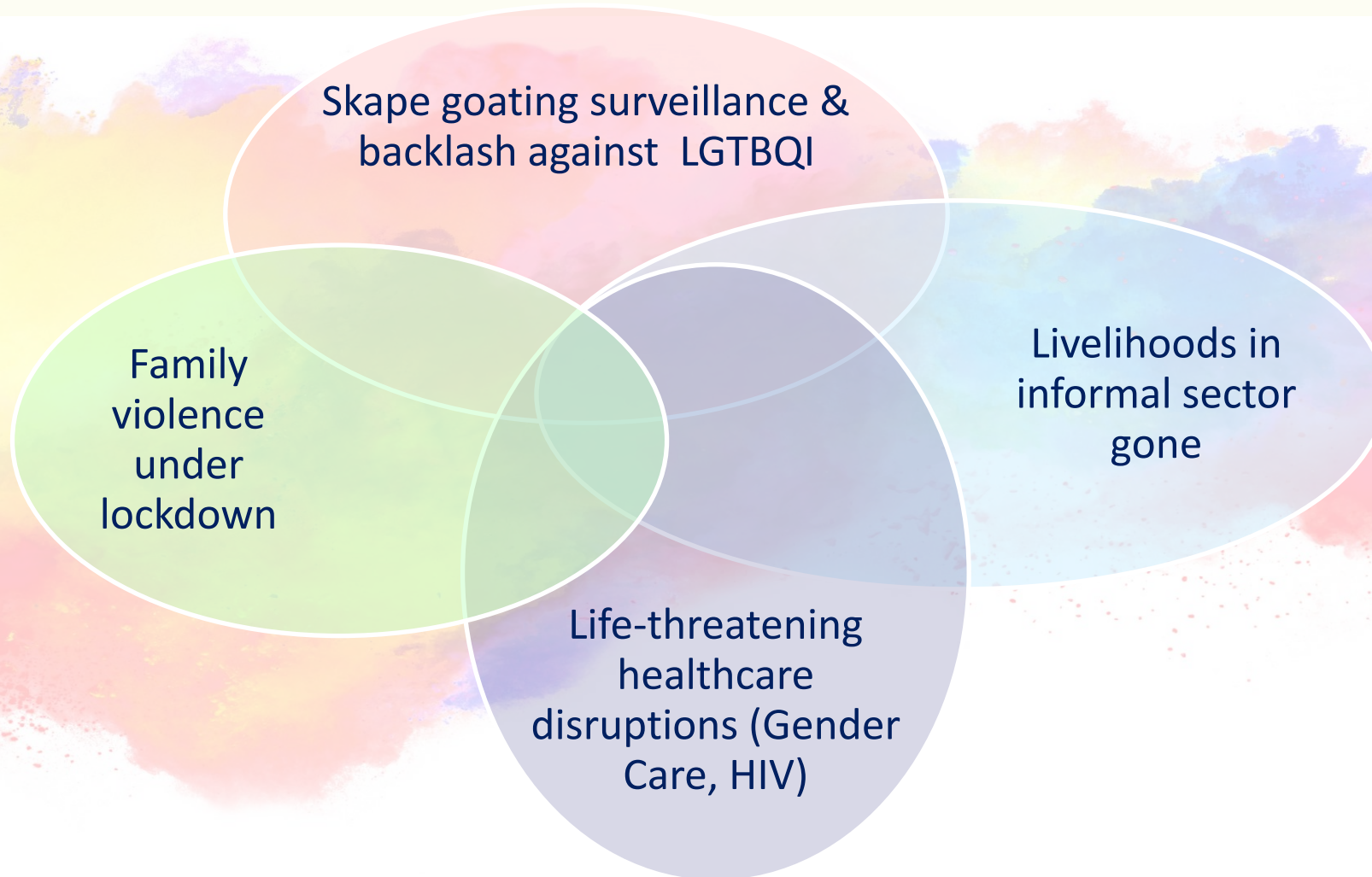
At least **57** countries criminalize gender diversity



Implications of Intersectionality



International Impacts of Pandemic for LGBTQI



Principles & Learnings

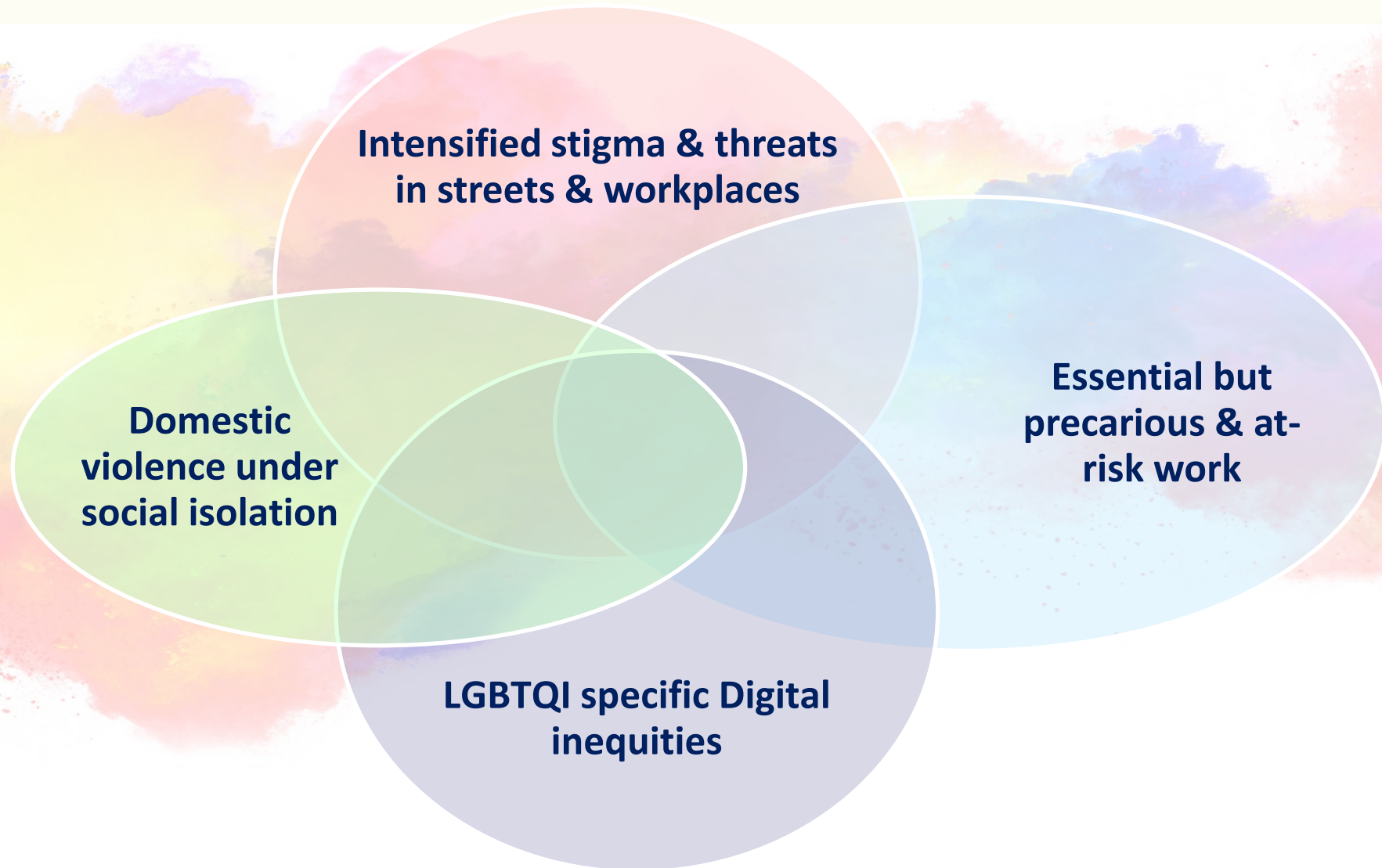


Refugee travel is **Essential** travel

G/local networks among LGBTQI Civil Society Orgs are **critical connectors**

COVID safe arrivals are underway, with resources & collaboration-What happens to resources in March 2021?

Pandemic Impacts on LGBTQI Settlement



Principles & Learnings



Don't aim for Normal – Opportunity to renew with equity

Lived Expertise informed (re)design

Consider Systemic, Indirect & Intersectional impacts

Collaborations flourish with reduced funding barriers

Resources

Pandemic Impacts & Recovery

- outrightinternational.org/content/vulnerability-amplified-impact-covid-19-pandemic-lgbtqi-people
- www.rainbowrailroad.org/what-we-do/report-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-displaced-lgbtqi-persons
- ASPIRE Guidelines of the UN Independent Expert on protection from SOGI violence and discrimination
www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SexualOrientationGender/Pages/Index.aspx

Human Rights Status of SOGIESC Diversity

- UN Free and Equal - www.unfe.org
- ILGA report - ilga.org/maps-sexual-orientation-laws
- Yogyakarta +10 - yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles-en/yp10/
- transrespect.org



THANK YOU

Rainbow Coalition for Refuge – coordinator@rainbowrefugee.ca

Thank you

Financé par :

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Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
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Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Immigration, Refugees
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Thank you to

SFU Community Engagement Initiative



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