



EMBARGOED UNTIL 06:00 BST, MONDAY 2 JUNE 2025

Milestone for LGBTQI Rights: Micro Rainbow launches 30th safe house for asylum seekers

The UK-based organisation scales its housing initiative to offer 40,000+ bed-nights a year to LGBTQI individuals fleeing persecution.

London, UK – Micro Rainbow, the UK's leading organisation supporting LGBTQI asylum seekers, has reached a major milestone with the launch of its **30th safe house**. This expansion brings the organisation's housing capacity to **more than 40,000 bed-nights each year**, offering safety, dignity, and hope to some of the most marginalised individuals in the asylum system.

To mark this achievement and kick off **Pride Month**, Micro Rainbow is also proud to debut its powerful new short film, ***Who's There?***, which tells the fictionalised story of Alex, a gay man from Malawi, as he begins a new life in a Micro Rainbow safe house.

New film launch: "Who's There?"

Premiering on Saturday 31 May and Sunday 1 June at **Mighty Hoopla** – as part of Micro Rainbow's partnership with shoe retailer **Schuh** – a 30-second teaser of *Who's There?* introduces viewers to Alex. After arriving in the UK, Alex hides in fear and silence, still traumatised by the persecution he fled. But when he meets Gabe, a fellow asylum seeker living in the safe house, a simple act of kindness and human connection changes everything.

Directed by **Thomas Paul Martin**, the film captures the emotional reality that many LGBTQI asylum seekers face: still hiding in plain sight, even in countries where they should be safe.

Creating safety, reclaiming identity

"Alex's story is one of courage and hope," said **Sebastian Rocca**, Founder and CEO of Micro Rainbow. "In *Who's There?* we see just how vital safe spaces are for LGBTQI asylum seekers. A place to sleep is important, but what we offer is more than a bed – it's the chance to **be yourself without fear**."

Opening the 30th safe house marks an incredible milestone: Micro Rainbow is now halfway to achieving the goal of eradicating homelessness among LGBTQI asylum seekers in the UK. Our dream is that every LGBTQI person fleeing persecution can have that chance."

A call to action

Micro Rainbow is calling on allies, media, and supporters to **watch, share, and amplify** the film, and to help expand its life-saving housing programme. To view the film and find out how you can support, visit: www.microrainbow.org/whos-there

For further information or images please contact: Rosalind Duignan-Pearson,
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About Micro Rainbow

Founded in 2012 Micro Rainbow is the leading not for profit organisation in the UK supporting the integration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people who flee persecution and reach the UK in search of safety. Micro Rainbow's holistic approach to integration is based on three pillars: safe housing, social inclusion, and employability support. These programmes ensure that LGBTQI refugees are not only safe but also able to live fulfilling, independent lives. Micro Rainbow has won several awards for innovation and as a top social enterprise and is recognised for creating the first ever national safe housing scheme for LGBTQI people fleeing persecution, with a current capacity of over 40,000 bed-nights a year. Micro Rainbow is committed to eradicating the homelessness of people fleeing persecution in the UK. It continues to raise social investment to make that happen. Find out more at: www.microrainbow.org

