



Equality Hub

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Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
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By email: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

18 May 2022

Dear Sir George

Thank you for your email of 1 April, addressed to the Prime Minister, on behalf of your constituents, regarding the Government's commitment to ban conversion therapy. I am responding as Minister for Equalities, with responsibility for LGBT. I apologise for the time taken to respond.

The Government is clear that there is no justification for these damaging practices. We want to ensure people are protected from the extensive harm that conversion therapy causes victims. Responses to the consultation, which closed on 4 February, will inform final policy developments and contribute to the preparation of legislation to be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

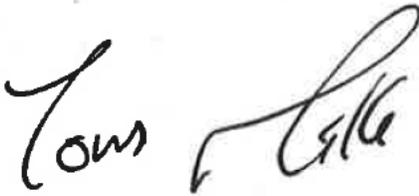
Your letter focuses on ensuring all members of the community are protected from conversion practices. Whilst nobody should be subjected to conversion therapy, there are different considerations to be made between conversion therapy that seeks to change sexual orientation compared to changing a person to or from being transgender. We will bring forward a ban that protects everyone from attempts to change their sexual orientation as soon as parliamentary time allows. We remain committed to exploring how best to protect people from all these practices and will provide further updates in due course.

It is our proposal that no setting will be exempt from our ban. Conversion therapy is conversion therapy anywhere, whether that is in public, private or a specific setting.

The Government recognises that legislating will only go some way to truly ending conversion therapy practices. Given the cross-cutting nature of conversion therapy, victims of these practices may be engaging a range of public services including helplines and support relating to domestic abuse, homelessness and hate crime. The Government

is putting in place a package of support specifically for victims of conversion therapy that will ensure they can find and access the help that they need.

Thank you for your letter on such an important issue, I hope you and your constituents found this information useful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Freer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

MIKE FREER MP
Minister for Equalities