



Government
Equalities Office

Meg Hillier MP

By email at: meghilliermp@parliament.uk

Our reference: COGEO-004804

Your Reference: MH65175

24th May 2021

Dear Megan,

Thank you for your email of 17 March, on behalf of your constituents regarding conversion therapy. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Our National LGBT Survey in 2017 found that 2% of respondents had undergone conversion therapy, and a further 5% of respondents had been offered it. This Government has also heard many first-hand accounts of the harm which these abhorrent practices cause. In July 2020, the Prime Minister reiterated our commitment to tackling conversion therapy, and we have been working hard to identify the best way to do so.

I am pleased to confirm that we will be introducing legislation to end conversion therapy practices for good, when Parliamentary time allows.

We will be launching a consultation aimed at hearing a range of views so we can ensure our legislative proposals are informed, balanced and effective in tackling this issue. The consultation will seek further views from the public and key stakeholders to ensure that the ban can address these practices while protecting the medical profession, defending freedom of speech, and upholding religious freedom. The evidence we gather from this consultation, will be considered alongside the results of the research we have commissioned on the prevalence, nature and impact of conversion therapy, which will be published. I will set out more details on next steps in due course.

I am also pleased to announce we will be funding a package of support for victims of conversion therapy. This package will fund a helpline for victims, as well as, providing resources for those in safeguarding positions, such as teachers, to identify and report conversion therapy cases.



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Conversion therapy must end and legislating will allow us to put a stop to these abhorrent practices for good.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch".

**Kemi Badenoch MP
Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury &
Minister for Equalities**