



Women and Equalities Committee

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Minister for Women and Equalities
Government Equalities Office

VIA EMAIL

30 January 2023

Dear Kemi,

Draft Bill to ban conversion practices and pre-legislative scrutiny

I was pleased to see that, on 17 January, as part of her written statement on Report stage amendments to the Online Safety Bill, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport confirmed the Government's intention to publish a draft Bill to ban conversion practices in England and Wales.

She also confirmed the draft Bill will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny. We welcome this news, which we recommended in December 2021. We look forward to seeing the draft Bill published and scrutiny process set out.

As you know, the Women and Equalities Committee has a strong interest in this area. We heard evidence from a range of witnesses with diverse perspectives and the then Minister for Equalities in late 2021 and contributed our own observations to the Government's consultation.¹

We note the Government's intention is to establish a Joint Committee to conduct pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill. This is a complex and sensitive area, and we support your intention that a draft Bill be scrutinised. However, we made our recommendation over a year ago, and the Government committed to preparing legislation for Spring 2022. At this stage of the Parliament, we are concerned that pre-legislative scrutiny be conducted in a timely fashion, with a view to legislation being in statute before the next general election. In particular, we would like to see a Bill introduced in this session, and some progress made before prorogation.

¹ Oral evidence heard on [24 November](#) and [30 November](#) 2021 (HC 878); see also my [letter to the then Minister for Equalities](#), 8 December 2021



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I therefore reiterate the Women and Equalities Committee's offer, made in December 2021 and again on your appointment as Minister of Women and Equalities in October 2022, to conduct pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill. Committee staff would be very happy to liaise with your officials to identify a timeframe that would work for us both.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply.

Yours,

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee