



Equality Hub

**Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP**  
**Minister for Equalities**  
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Our ref: MC2023/13628

Cat Smith MP  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

By email at: [petitionscommittee@parliament.uk](mailto:petitionscommittee@parliament.uk)

13 December 2023

Dear Cat,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 November regarding the Government's plans to legislate on conversion practices. I am responding as the Minister for Equalities. I apologise for the delay.

This Government is committed to protecting people who are victims of these practices. We are carefully considering this issue, including all of the responses we received to our public consultation, in order to ensure the action we take is robust, measured and avoids any unintended consequences.

I am grateful for all those - whether individuals or groups - who took the time to respond to our public consultation, as well as those who, like your Committee, are asking about next steps. A commitment was given to publish a draft conversion practices Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny. I am determined to meet that promise, as is the Minister for Women and Equalities. Attempts at so-called "conversion therapy" are abhorrent and some are already illegal, so a Bill would identify those practices as a particular threat to LGBT people and confirm the illegality of harmful processes intended to change someone.

We continue to fund the Conversion Practices Victim Support Service, which covers England and Wales. This service is operated by Galop, the UK's leading LGBT anti-violence charity. The confidential service is open to anyone who is currently, has previously, or is at risk of experiencing conversion practices. I would encourage those who are affected by such abhorrent practices to contact the service, which can be found at [www.galop.org.uk](http://www.galop.org.uk) or contacted by phone at 0800 999 5428.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Andrew', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP**  
Minister for Equalities