



Simon Lightwood MP
Minister for Equalities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 2HQ

13th October 2026

Alex Barros-Curtis
Chair of the Joint Committee on the Draft Conversion Practices Bill
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Alex,

Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the draft Conversion Practices Bill

I am writing to formally present the draft Conversion Practices Bill to the Joint Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny, and to welcome the Committee's vital work in examining this legislation.

The Government committed in our manifesto to the introduction of a full, trans-inclusive ban on conversion practices and I'm very pleased to be taking this further step towards delivering that promise.

A conversion practice is an act that is carried out with the intention of changing a person's sexual orientation or transgender identity.

The draft Bill introduces three new criminal offences: prohibiting abusive conversion practices, prohibiting acts that encourage or assist an abusive conversion practice outside England and Wales, and prohibiting the breach of a newly established civil 'conversion practice protection order'.

By bringing forward measures that prevent these harmful acts, we aim to ensure that all individuals are able to live freely, without fear or abuse. This is core to the Government's aim of supporting an inclusive and cohesive society.

In drafting this legislation, we have taken careful steps to balance the need for robust and adequate thresholds to protect individuals from abusive practices, while respecting freedom of religion and parental rights, and the need to ensure access to appropriate and effective healthcare support for all. I welcome the Committee's expertise in examining the draft legislation and making recommendations to help meet the Government's objective of bringing forward a full trans-inclusive ban. I want to work with the Committee to make legislation as robust and effective as possible.

My officials and I stand ready to support your process in any way we can. I look forward to working together on this important piece of legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lightwood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Lightwood MP
Minister for Equalities