

TO: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

FROM: Dr M Davidson Chairman, International Federation for Therapeutic and Counselling Choice, (IFTCC.org) CEO, Core Issues Trust.

TOPIC: A call to abandon "Conversion Therapy" bans in the UK

DATE: 24th September 2019. WORKING SESSION 13: 3-6 p.m. Tolerance and non-discrimination II

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. It has also reaffirmed the need for determination by the participating States in combating all acts and manifestations of hate. It has recognized that achieving such freedoms and rights often involve a common approach, while at the same time recognizing the uniqueness of the manifestations and historical background of each form (Brussels 2006).

In the United Kingdom, the state has indicated its intention to ban what it calls "Conversion Therapy". The state claims in its documentation, that this involves anything from "pseudo psychological" to "corrective rape" (something surely already illegal). What this really means is that any individual or group which upholds the right and freedom to self-determine identities that are formerly LGBT, or "ex-gay", or those supporting persons to maintain such identities, are potentially to be criminalised. I refer to the UK's National LGBT Strategy (2018), based on the National LGBT survey of 2018.

Traditional views, those held by Christian and other religious groups and the ethical standards around human sexuality they hold to, are being ignored. This has been achieved through the UK's LGBT National Survey Report, which refused to include persons who are formerly homosexual and who have benefitted from pastoral or professional help in maintaining their ex-gay identity and life-choices. This has also been supported by poor journalism and a national media that, in this area, refuses to examine the issue critically and with due awareness of actual scientific research data. In short, there is a determination to push through LGBT rights that overrule any minority view opposing the enshrinement of LGBT rights.

I call on the OSCE to consider the following recommendations:

- (1) That the state supported discrimination against and persecution of ex-LGBT persons or those formerly gay or homosexual in practise or identity, is halted.
- (2) That the proposed ban of so called "Conversion Therapy" is recognised for what it is - an assault on therapeutic choice and the right to self-identity and -determination.
- (3) That the UK government encourages regulation, rather than the banning of therapeutic and religious practices offered to persons seeking help for unwanted same-sex feelings and behaviours.
- (4) That the UK government recognises that simple statements from executive managers of professional mental health bodies promoting LGBT rights, at the expense of those formerly or ex-gay, from whatever level, are discriminatory - without due care and careful scientific analysis of this marginalised group.

TO: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

FROM: Aleksandra Maria Lesnik, civil society, Warsaw, Poland; the supporting member of Core Issues Trust.

TOPIC: A call to protect the human rights and freedom of speech of ex-LGBT community and christians in Poland and all over the world

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I would like to call on the OSCE to consider the following recommendations:

- (1) That the state supported and protected the freedom of speech of ex-LGBT persons.
- (2) That the LGBT persons, who do not accept their homosexuality and desire to change, could receive the support of both professional therapists and pastors.
- (3) That the society had access to various sources of information (including the protestant doctrine and its perspective) in regard to sexual identity and the existence of different solutions offered to persons seeking help for unwanted same-sex feelings and behaviours.
- (4) That the employees from all market sectors had the right not to perform the activities that would contradict their beliefs.

Currently when ex-LGBT persons talk about their beliefs or share testimonials of their transformation, their message is defined as 'hate speech'. However, one cannot contradict the fact that there are more and more people who experienced the true change and transformation of the way they used to define their sexual identity. I am such an example. 4 years ago I was a lesbian, and today I am a woman who can't wait to be married to a man and have children. Even though both my family and the society accepted my choice and was supportive of that, I still felt that this lifestyle is not natural and deep inside I was unhappy. I was lucky and in one of the protestant churches I found support and transformed my sexuality. I must underline that it wouldn't be possible without the pastoral help and love that I was surrounded with.

Also, I would like to point out that our choice to leave homosexuality is good for traditional family and increases the population. Moreover, we are existing identities and we should have the freedom to believe and say that sexuality is not fixed and we can experience the change.

Why do transgender people have the right to change their sex so that it matches the way they feel inside, and at the same time LGBT people who want to remove same-sex attraction from their life are denied the right to do so? I was a lesbian myself and I fully understand and love this community. We don't want to push our outlook on anyone, we don't want to force anybody to change the way they feel! We simply want our voice to be heard: that there is a choice. My message is not hate speech, but the speech of love because I experienced the overwhelming love of God and it transformed me.