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Karen Adam MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

By email: EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot

2 May 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing to provide an update on our work to end conversion practices, given this Committee's interest in this topic and detailed report published in 2022.

Conversion Practices that seek to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity are harmful and abusive. The Scottish Government remains absolute in our commitment to equality, the rights of the LGBTQI+ community and ending harmful conversion practices.

As you are aware, Both the Scottish and UK Governments have committed to ending these harmful practices and we have been engaging with the UK Government to explore a complementary approach, including through the extension to Scotland of legislation taken forward in the Westminster parliament.

We are working with the UK government on legislation extending to Scotland, that:

- applies across all settings;
- is trans inclusive;
- protects all ages; and
- does not include any exemption for consent

Because of this ongoing work, we have decided not to introduce legislation to the Scottish Parliament this session. However, if a collaborative approach cannot be progressed on these principles, then we will publish our own Bill in year one of the next Parliamentary session. In order to do so, we are continuing to develop our own legislation and policy towards ending harmful conversion practices in Scotland.

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We will also carry on with the development and delivery of other measures to end conversion practices and support survivors.

So far, we have funded the establishment of a national helpline in 2023, delivered by LGBT Health and Wellbeing, for anyone affected by conversion practices. We are improving how Primary Care Services in the NHS respond to those affected by conversion practices by updating mental health and wellbeing resources. We are supporting young people through our inclusive education programme and working with Young Scot to provide accessible, youth-focused information and signposting on conversion practices, safeguarding and support. This year we will provide over £1.1 million in funding to LGBTQI+ organisations to advance equality for this group

These recent weeks have been challenging for our LGBTQI+ communities and we want to reaffirm that we will continue our work to ban conversion practices once and for all.

I will write to the Committee again, later in the year, to advise you of progress with this work.

Kaukab Stewart MSP
Minister for Equalities

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