



Equality Hub

Amanda Solloway MP
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Dr Onkar Sahota
London Assembly
Email at: Davena.Toyinbo@london.gov.uk

Our reference: MC2022/10255

1 August 2022

Dear Dr Sahota,

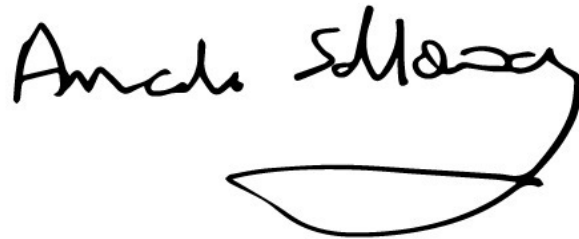
Thank you for your letter of 14 June, addressed to the Minister for Women and Equalities. I am responding as Minister for Equalities, with responsibility for the proposed legislation to ban conversion therapy practices. I am very sorry for the delay in my reply, your letter has just been brought to my attention.

I understand your concerns on this issue. I would like to reiterate that this Government believes that all conversion practices are wrong, and we are committed to banning these practices. As you are aware, we ran a public consultation from 29 October 2021 to 4 February 2022, to understand the wide range of views on the topic. We continue to engage widely with victims of conversion therapy, stakeholders from across the spectrum and interested Parliamentarians from all sides.

As announced in the Queen's speech, we are progressing legislation that seeks to protect everyone, including transgender people, from being subjected to practices that seek to change their sexual orientation. We aim to bring forward this legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows. As the Government set out in the recent Westminster Hall Debate, our approach recognises the complexity of the issues and the need for further careful thought: we will carry out separate work to consider the issue of conversion therapy concerning transgender status. It is key that measures complement the existing clinical regulatory framework in this space, and that clinicians feel able to deliver legitimate therapies in supporting those experiencing gender dysphoria, especially those under 18. There is no equivalent service as regards sexual orientation.

We are also driving forward important non-legislative measures. The conversion therapy victim support service will be comprehensive in support of anyone who feels they have been the victim of, or are at risk of, these practices - whether targeting transgender status or sexual orientation. The service will be delivered by Galop, the nation's leading LGBT+ anti-violence charity, and will include a helpline and website, providing tailored support, information and signposting to external services such as counselling and access to emergency housing.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write. I hope you and all members of the Greater London Assembly find this information helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amanda Solloway". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Amanda" and the surname "Solloway" clearly legible. The signature is positioned above a simple, stylized line drawing of a leaf or a drop shape.

AMANDA SOLLOWAY MP
Minister for Equalities