Subject: Please reject the Draft Conversion Practices Bill

Dear [MP's name],

I am one of your constituents, and I am writing because I believe the Government's Draft Conversion Practices Bill could harm lesbian, gay and bisexual people, the families that love them, and the professionals who help them when they need it.

LGB Alliance exists to protect the lives, rights and interests of lesbian, gay and bisexual people. We know that attempts to shame, coerce or pressure someone out of being gay are cruel and wrong. Abuse, violence and coercion should be dealt with firmly.

But the abuse people usually mean when they speak of conversion practices is already illegal. Assault, threats, harassment, sexual offences and controlling or coercive behaviour are against the law. The question for Parliament is whether this Bill will stop abuse without making it harder for children and young people to realise and accept that they may grow up lesbian, gay or bisexual. I do not believe it will.

Children and young people who do not conform to sexist stereotypes, are distressed by puberty, or feel uncomfortable with the expectations placed on girls and boys can be encouraged to believe that they were born in the wrong body. Many would, in the normal course of things, grow up lesbian, gay or bisexual.

They need adults who can ask questions, explore same-sex attraction and reassure them that there is nothing wrong with being gay. The Bill could make parents, teachers, safeguarding professionals, therapists and clinicians afraid to have those conversations because questioning a young person's gender identity could lead to a complaint, investigation or criminal prosecution.

This creates a terrible danger. A Bill introduced in the name of ending conversion practices could make it legally safer to affirm a transgender identity than to explore whether someone could be coming to terms with being lesbian, gay or bisexual. It would in effect convert away the gay.

I am asking you to:

1. Oppose and vote against the Draft Conversion Practices Bill.
2. Write to the Minister for Equalities and the Joint Committee considering the Bill, asking them to reject it in its entirety. Please send me a copy of any reply you receive.
3. Make your opposition to the bill public - #ItsOkayToBeGay @AllianceLGB

Please also visit https://lgballiance.org.uk/conversion-practices, where you can read LGB Alliance's evidence and hear directly from lesbian, gay and bisexual people, parents of LGB young people, clinicians and LGB detransitioners.

Children and young people who may grow up lesbian, gay or bisexual need time, honesty and the freedom to understand who they are. They need to hear from you that it is OK to be gay.

Please say no to this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

[Your full name]
[Your full address]
[Your postcode]
[Your email address]
[Your telephone number]