

Dear Representative

### **Beware the Trojan Horse**

On 29 January 2026, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will vote on a resolution to “ban conversion practices” (<https://rm.coe.int/doc-for-a-ban-on-conversion-practices-draft-report/4880299b1c>)

On the face of it one might assume that this was a benign proposal to put a stop to the appalling historic practices used against homosexuals to “make them straight”. Fortunately such practices no longer exist in Europe – thanks to the enlightened view most countries now have towards gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals. In the rare cases where an individual is bullied or assaulted in an attempt to discourage them from being gay, existing criminal laws are in place to punish the perpetrators.

We know the real reason behind this bill -- as we have seen similar bills introduced all around the world. It is to discourage parents, teachers, therapists and clinicians from helping children and young people who are distressed because they think they are, or want to be, the opposite sex. The actual goal is to prevent them from exploring the causes of their distress in a neutral non-ideological environment.

Victoria, Australia is a good example of the climate of fear such a bill induces among therapists – who risk jail sentences of up to 7 years. Many therapists now refuse point blank to see children and young people. The same applies in other countries where gender activists have pushed through bans on talking therapy while claiming to be banning old-fashioned gay conversion therapy. It is a thoroughly dishonest tactic.

Those driving this bill, including the proposer Kate Osborne, believe that children and young people can be “born in the wrong body” and that everyone has a gender identity which may be different from their sex. This leads them to promote puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgery for any child who is distressed as they approach puberty. Her goal is to criminalise those who believe – like Baroness Hilary Cass – that talking therapy is the responsible way of helping such children and young people come to terms with their journey into adulthood.

As gays, lesbians and bisexuals ourselves we are especially knowledgeable on this subject and extremely concerned:

- Some of us were once supporters of Stonewall and ILGA -- when they represented gay rights. Neither ever mentioned a ban on conversion practices during their campaigning heyday – because it has not been an issue in Europe for many decades. It was only *after* they abandoned gay rights and switched to promoting gender identity doctrine that they started campaigning for a ban – Stonewall in May 2021 and ILGA in Feb 2020. Both organisations share the same beliefs as Kate Osborne – and their ban would effectively end talking therapy for children and young people – since therapists would not dare to risk false accusations of conversion therapy – followed by court cases and potentially harsh sentences.
- We know that the awful reality is that the vast majority of children and young people who would be harmed by this ban – not just by the absence of therapy but also by the medical interventions served up to them -- are same-sex attracted. This is clear from research at the former youth gender identity development services (GIDS) at the Tavistock Clinic in London, and from other gender clinics around the world.

*The terrible truth about the Trojan Horse is that all those who support the proposed ban on conversion practices are directly damaging children and young people likely to grow up gay or lesbian.*

By refusing them access to therapy and guidance they are more than likely to go along with the idea spread at school, university and on social media that anyone who differs from gender norms is trans. They will themselves be the victims of the worst kind of gay conversion therapy.

Please see this proposal in all its cruelty and vote it down.