

POLICY BULLETIN

CONVERSION PRACTICES

Any act that might be considered a Conversion Practice is already illegal. The sole purpose of new legislation would be to ensure that therapists, and other professionals working with children, automatically affirm every child who says they are trans. The abhorrent, historical abuses suffered by gay people are being used by trans lobbyists to convince the public that this legislation is needed.



At last week's LGB Alliance Conference young LGB people told us about the pressure they are under to consider that being gender non-conforming and being attracted to people of the same sex is 'evidence' that they are trapped in the wrong body. They were told that medication, breast binding and surgery for young gay people is life-affirming.



At Conference we heard from three detransitioned lesbians and a detransitioned gay man, **Michael Kerr**. All four met with therapists only briefly. Michael told Conference that he had one short appointment with a therapist before being given life-changing medication and approval for surgery. His history of trauma was not taken into account. Michael was just days away from surgery when he spoke to another gay man whose genitals had been removed after he was encouraged to believe he could become a girl. The deep regret felt by the young man persuaded Michael not to go ahead.

A therapist, **Mark Smith**, told Conference that affirmation-only therapy flies in the face of best-practice and represents a dangerous exceptionalism for young people with additional vulnerabilities.

Dr Az Hakeem, a prominent psychiatrist and medical psychotherapist with a specialism in gender spoke to Tish; her gay son had been persuaded he should really be a girl and had embarked on medication. The impact on loving families of conversion practices legislation will be profound.

Conversion Practices legislation will mean vulnerable children and young people can demand that their self-diagnosed condition is endorsed by a medical professional.



To speak to any of the experts who attended our Conference or for a discussion about why Conversion Practices legislation would specifically harm lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, please email contact@lgballiance.org.uk