



The Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations
Minister for Equalities

Katherine Fletcher MP
Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for Women)
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Government Equalities Office
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Tuesday 4 October 2022

Dear Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Parliamentary Secretary,

Congratulations on your appointments to the roles of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister for Intergovernmental Relations and Minister for Equalities, and Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for Women) at the Cabinet Office and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport.

We are members of the Ban Conversion Therapy Coalition; a broad coalition of LGBTQ+ charities, human rights organisations, local and national prides, and charities and organisations that provide particular support to LGBTQ+ communities. We work together, alongside our sibling coalitions End Conversion Therapy Scotland and Ban Conversion Therapy NI, to end the abhorrent abuse of sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices across the UK.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you both at your earliest convenience, in anticipation of a Government Bill to ban conversion practices intended to be tabled this month.

As you will be aware, it has been the standing commitment of Conservative Governments to ban conversion practices for over four years. Prime Minister Theresa May promised to ban conversion practices following the publication of the Government's *National LGBT Survey* in 2018, that found that **2.4%** of LGBTQ+ people had been subjected to conversion practices, rising to **4.3%** of trans and non-binary people. Prime Minister Boris Johnson committed to legislating to ban conversion practices in the Queen's Speech of this year. The Prime Minister, in her former role as Minister for Women and Equalities, has been consistent in her commitment to ban conversion practices in the UK, as clearly set out in her Ministerial Foreword to her proposals to ban sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices published last October.

We agree wholeheartedly with the Prime Minister that conversion practices are abhorrent and have no place in the UK, and with her stated conviction that all LGBTQ+ people should be able to live their lives free from harm. In your roles as Minister for Equalities and Minister for Women,

we would like to work with you to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from this abhorrent abuse. We would like to help you to ensure we have a ban that protects all LGBTQ+ people – lesbian, gay, bi, trans, non-binary and anyone who is not heterosexual or cisgender – in all situations, particularly the most prevalent: faith and religious settings, and by parents, family and community members.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to bring about this historic ban to support and protect survivors, victims and all those at risk of the abhorrent abuse of sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the Ban Conversion Therapy Coalition:

Aderonke Apata	Founder and CEO	African Rainbow Family
Patrick Corrigan	Head of Nations & Regions	Amnesty International UK
Claire Prosho	Founder	Claire's Trans Talks
Katie Neeves	Founder	Cool2BTrans
Jane-ann Clark and Karyn Wood	Trustees & Project Manager	Cumbria LGBT Pride and OutREACH Cumbria
David Wheeler	Steering Group Member	Families Together London
Natacha Kennedy	Co-Chair	Feminist Gender Equality Network
Caroline Paige and Craig Jones MBE	Chief Executives	Fighting With Pride
Leni Morris	CEO	Galop
Jay Stewart	CEO	Gendered Intelligence
Cat Burton	Chair	GIRES
Dr Alexander Rhys	Chair	It Gets Better UK
Max Cohen	Director	It's All About You Wellbeing CIC
Dominic Arnall	CEO	Just Like Us
Paul Roberts	CEO	LGBT+ Consortium
Paul Martin OBE	Chief Executive	LGBT Foundation
Alan Mercel-Sanca	Lead Officer	LGBT+ Network for Change
Izzy Pochin	Founder	LGBT+ Voices Dorset Forum
Stewart O'Callaghan	Founder and CEO	Live Through This
Monty Moncrieff MBE	Chief Executive	London Friend
Mark Fletcher	CEO	Manchester Pride
Susie Green	CEO	Mermaids
Matthew Hodson	Executive Director	NAM / aidsmap
Matt Mahmood-Ogston	Executive Director	Naz and Matt Foundation
Tor Docherty	Chief Executive	New Family Social
Danielle St James	Chief Executive	Not A Phase
Steve Chalke	Founder	Oasis
Dave Moreton	Community Advocate	Oasis Church LGBT+ Open House
Luke Dowding	Executive Director	OneBodyOneFaith
Jayne Ozanne	Director	Ozanne Foundation
Peter Tatchell	Director	Peter Tatchell Foundation
Dominic Davies	Founder and CEO	Pink Therapy
Jeremy Marks	Founder	Post Courage
Max and Maya Price	Founders	Proud2Be

Lisa Harvey-Nebil	CEO	The Proud Trust
Jamie Wareham	Director	QueerAF
Gerard Swan	Chair	Quest
John O'Doherty	Director	The Rainbow Project
Drew Dalton	Chair	ReportOUT
Pritpal Bhullar	Founder	Sikh LGBT+ Inclusion
Helen Walsh	CEO	Space Youth Project
Vicki Mulligan	Chair	Sparkle - The National Transgender Charity
Karen Skipper	CEO	Spectra
Steph Richards	Founder	Steph's Place UK
Nancy Kelley	CEO	Stonewall
Sarah Macadam	CEO	Thames Valley Positive Support
Anna Kear	CEO	Tonic Housing
Chay Brown	Director of Operations	TransActual UK
Ben Vincent	Coordinator	Trans Learning Partnership
jane fae	Chair	Trans Media Watch
Lucy and Avril Clark	Founders	Trans Radio UK
Daniel Browne	Chair	Warwickshire Pride
Riley Milligan	Trustee	Wolverhampton LGBT+