

Is the UK Government Ban on “Conversion Therapy” Safe?

A Look at Relevant Peer-Reviewed Research

The UK Government relies on GEO commissioned scientific research, carried out by Coventry University, to introduce a “Conversion Therapy” ban.

This important **Day Symposium** brings together world-renowned experts in the field to present their own peer reviewed research, critique the Coventry study and to assess whether the proposed ban has scientific support.

PROGRAMME

9am - 5pm

9.00 - 9.30	Registration and Coffee
9.30 - 9.40	Welcome
9.40 - 10.20	An Overview of Research in the Field Sexual orientation and gender identity: What research and professional organisations say about causes, change, and rational reasons for choosing change-allowing therapy. Dr Laura Haynes
10.20 - 11.00	Correcting a False Research Narrative Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) reduces suicide and relieves minority stress, for both minors and adults: Correcting a false research narrative. Prof. Paul Sullins
11.00 - 11.15	Refreshments
11.15 - 11.55	Are Stigma and Homophobia the Primary Cause of Mental Health Distress for Non-Heterosexuals? The limitations of and alternatives to Minority Stress Theory. Dr Christopher H. Rosik
11.55 - 12.35	What About Transgender Affirmation and Medicine? Are there psychological benefits to social and medical gender-affirming treatment? Dr (Med) Andre Van Mol

12.35 - 1.05	<p>SOCE Harm and Effectiveness: What is the Truth?</p> <p>Sexual Orientation Change Efforts: Effectiveness and alleged harm.</p> <p>Dr Christopher H. Rosik, Prof. Paul Sullins</p>
1.05 - 1.45	Lunch
1.45 - 2.15	<p>Sexuality in Crisis, where is the Science?</p> <p>Dr (Med) Peter May</p> <p>Ten Questions for Policy Makers about the Government-commission Research on 'Conversion Therapy'</p> <p>Dr Carys Moseley</p>
2.15 - 2.55	<p>Sexual Attraction Fluidity Exploration in Therapy (SAFE-T)</p> <p>Therapeutic choice results in improved well-being.</p> <p>Prof. Carolyn Pela</p>
2.55 - 3.35	<p>Lived Experiences of Working Pastorally with Women, Men and Children with Unwanted SSA (Same-sex Attraction)</p> <p>Considering experienced pastoral counselors' viewpoints.</p> <p>Pastor Elizabeth Woning, Pastor Ken Williams</p>
3.35 – 4.05	<p>Is the Government's Ban for Conversion Therapy 'Both Ways' Feasible?</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion:</i> Implications for SOCE and gender identity change efforts, for both adults and children.</p> <p>Dr Laura Haynes, Dr Carys Moseley and Dr Christopher H. Rosik</p>
4.05 - 4.45	<p>Legal Implications of a 'Conversion Therapy' Ban</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion:</i> Considering equalities and human rights legislation.</p> <p>Roger Kiska, Michael Phillips, Ole Gramstad Jensen, John Steenhof, Andrea Minichiello Williams, Richard O'Dair</p>
4.45 - 5.00	Q&A

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The UK Government states “*Conversion Therapy does not work and can cause long lasting damage including negative mental health outcomes, homelessness, and isol-*

*ation. It is vital that a ban on conversion therapy is comprehensive and effective,”
and*

“We will continue to protect under-18s from being channelled into irreversible decisions. These proposals do not alter the existing clinical regulatory framework or the independence of regulated clinicians working within their professional obligations.”

(Mike Freer, Minister of Equalities communication to MPs, 29 October 2021).

This one-day event will challenge that statement to show that the research by Coventry University’s *Conversion Therapy: an Evidenced Assessment and Qualitative Study* produced to support a ban on ‘Conversion Practices,’ is **scientifically flawed and will harm adults and under 18s.**

This event will aid consultation responses, expose scientific errors in the UK Government research and discuss future implications of such a ban.

There will be research-based examination of hetero-affirming therapies, to demonstrate that they do not cause harm and **are** supported by scientific literature and a growing number of first-hand experiences.

Empirical evidence and live testimonies will be produced to show that affirming children to reject their biological sex, transgenering them with hormonal and surgical interventions **causes harm.**

There will be a presentation by leading lawyers in the field to examine the UK Government’s claim that religious freedom, free speech and client autonomy will be protected following such a ban.