

Conversion Practices (Prohibition) Bill

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to prohibit practices whose predetermined purpose is to change a person's sexual orientation or to change a person to or from being transgender; and for connected purposes.

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: -

1. Conversion practices: prohibition

(1) An offence is committed if a person:

- (a) offers, undertakes or takes payment for conversion practices, or
- (b) offers, provides or takes payments for materials or guides to conduct conversion practices, or

(2) aids, abets, counsels, or procures a person who is not a United Kingdom national or United Kingdom resident to do a relevant act of conversion practice outside the United Kingdom and —

- (a) it is done in relation to a United Kingdom national or United Kingdom resident, and
- (b) it would, if done by such a person, constitute an offence under subsection clause 1.

(3) If an offence under clause (2) is committed outside the United Kingdom—

- (a) proceedings may be taken, and
- (b) the offence may for incidental purposes be treated as having been committed, in any place in England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

2. Conversion practices: definition

(1) In this act conversion practice is a course of conduct or activities who's premeditated purpose is to change someone's actual or perceived sexual orientation or change a person to or from someone's actual or perceived transgender identity.

(2) To change can mean to replace one sexual orientation or transgender identity status with another orientation or identity, or to suppress said sexual orientation or transgender identity to negate it partly or entirely.

(3) No offence is committed if

(a) the expression only of a belief or a religious principle made to an individual that is not part of a premeditated programme, course of conduct or activities intended to change or suppress the individual's sexual orientation or transgender identity,

(b) the individual expression of disapproval of or acceptance of someone sexual orientation or transgender identity,

(c) it is done by any person lawfully exercising parental responsibility in accordance with the Children Act 1989,

(d) any action that a health practitioner takes when providing a health service if the health practitioner:-

(i) considers in their reasonable professional judgement it is appropriate to take that action;

(ii) there was no premeditated outcome in terms of sexual orientation or transgender identity or lack of it at the start of any course of treatment; and

(iii) is a member of a professional health body and complies with all legal, professional, and ethical standards when taking the action.

(e) assisting individuals who are undergoing a regulated course of treatment, or

(f) facilitating or offering support to individuals exploring or questioning their sexual orientation, transgender identity or lack of it.

(4) The Secretary of State may lay out guidelines as to how these exclusions shall be exercised.

(5) The Secretary of State may amend section 2(3) by statutory instrument using the affirmative procedure.

3. Penalty for offences

(1) A person natural or corporate guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(2) A person guilty of an offence shall be deemed to be disqualified from being charity trustees under section 178(1)b of the Charity Act 2011

4. Final provisions

(1) This Act extends to England and Wales[, and Northern Ireland but only sections 1(2) extends to Scotland].

(2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

(3) This Act may be cited as the Conversion Practices (Prohibition Act) 2024

(4) The secretary of state must make arrangements no later than 4 years after the act comes into force—

(a) for a committee of the House of Commons to carry out a review of the operation of this Act and, if appropriate in consequence of its findings, to make recommendations for the amendment of this Act, and

(b) for the publication and laying before parliament of the committee's findings and recommendations (if any).