



HM Government

Banning Conversion Therapy

What do you think?



easy
read



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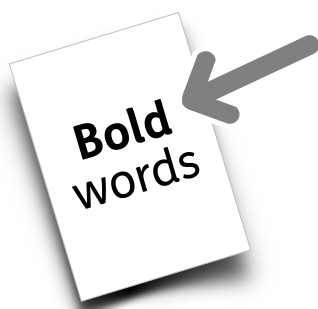
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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The Government wants to ban **conversion therapy**.



Conversion therapy is an attempt to change your **sexual orientation** or to change you from or to being **transgender**.



Sexual orientation means what sex you are attracted to. For example male, female or both.



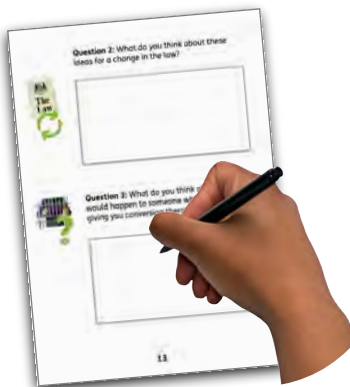
Transgender is when your gender is different from your birth sex.



We believe that conversion therapy is wrong, as everyone should be free to be themselves.



This information explains some of the different ways we want to stop conversion therapy from happening.



What do you think?

Please tell us what you think by answering the questions in this document.



You can choose whether or not to answer some of the other questions.

But the questions we do need you to answer are marked with the word 'required'.



We need your answers by Friday, 4 February 2022 at 11:45pm.

You can send your answers back to us by:



- post:
Conversion Therapy Consultation
Team
Government Equalities Office
20 Great Smith St
Westminster
London SW1P 3BT



- email:
ctconsultation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk



Overall Question: Do you agree or disagree that the Government should ban conversion therapy? *Required.*

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

Please tell us why you think this:

Banning physical conversion therapy



Physical conversion therapy is where something physical is done to you to try and change your sexual orientation or change you from or to being transgender. Sometimes this may be violent.



There are already laws which stop people being violent against you.

We want the law to say that people may get an extra punishment if they were violent because they wanted to do conversion therapy.



The law is already clear that physical conversion therapy is banned.



We expect the Police and other services to train their staff so they know how to support people who have been a victim of physical conversion therapy.



Question 1: Do you support, or not support, our plans to ban physical conversion therapy?
Please tick one box. *Required.*

Strongly
support

☐

Support

☐

Neither
support or
not support

☐

Not
support

☐

Strongly
not
support

☐

Prefer not
to say

☐

Please tell us why you think this:

Banning talking conversion therapy



Genuine talking therapy is used a lot by:

- counsellors
- mental health professionals.



It is a good way to help people with problems with feelings and their mental health.



But talking conversion therapy is different because it tries to change your sexual orientation or change you from or to being transgender.



We want to make talking conversion therapy against the law if:

- you are under 18, or
- it is done without your permission.





Giving permission

We want the law to say that:

- you have to be over 18 to give permission to have talking conversion therapy.



- you have to have all the right information about the harm talking conversion therapy can do and be able to understand this, before you give permission.



- no one should **pressure** you to give your permission.

Pressure means they are making it difficult for you to say 'no'.



- it will be a serious crime if anyone gives you talking conversion therapy without your permission, or forces you to have it.



Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with our ideas to make it a serious crime if anyone gives you talking conversion therapy if you are under 18, or if you are over 18 without your permission, or forces you to have it? *Required.*

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with our ideas for a change in the law? *Required.*

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Prefer not to say



Question 4: Do you think our ideas are missing anything? *Required.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

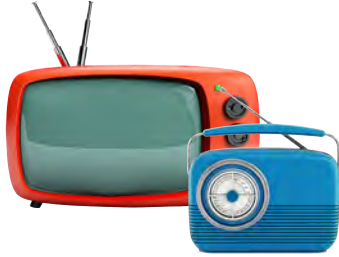
☐

I don't know



If you said 'yes' to Question 4, please tell us what you think our ideas are missing:

Other things we are doing



TV and radio

Many people start to get involved with conversion therapy through TV and radio.



TV and radio have strict rules that should cover programmes that mention conversion therapy. These rules are made by an organisation called Ofcom.



We think that these rules are strong enough. If you are not happy with the way TV and radio are talking about conversion therapy, you should report it to Ofcom at:

www.ofcom.org.uk/complaints



Adverts

We have been thinking about what to do about adverts for conversion therapy.



Adverts must follow rules set out by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).



We think that these rules are strong enough. If you are not happy with an advert about conversion therapy you should report it to ASA:

www.asa.org.uk/make-a-complaint



Online

We are looking at making a new law that keeps people safe online.



We are also looking at new laws about online advertising.



We will make sure these new laws make a difference to advertising conversion therapy online.



Question 5: Do you agree or disagree that Ofcom's rules do enough to control the promotion of conversion therapy on TV or radio? *Required.*

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Prefer not to say

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Please tell us why you think this:



Question 6: Do you know of any TV or radio that is encouraging conversion therapy?
Required.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I don't know



If yes, please tell us what these examples are:



Question 7: Do you agree or disagree that the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) rules already stop adverts for conversion therapy? *Required.*

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

Question 8: Do you know of any adverts that are encouraging conversion therapy? *Required.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I don't know



If you said 'yes' to Question 8, please tell us what the adverts are:

Protecting you from conversion therapy abroad



We do not want people to be taken abroad for conversion therapy.



We are looking at setting up **Conversion Therapy Protection Orders**.



A **Conversion Therapy Protection Order** is an order given by a court that could say you cannot be taken abroad to have conversion therapy.



You could ask a court to give you a Conversion Therapy Protection Order.

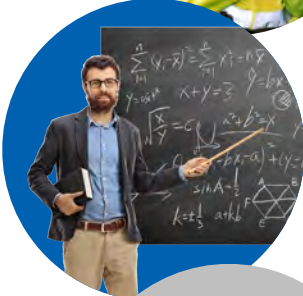


Anyone can ask the court to give you a Conversion Therapy Protection Order, including:

- the local council.



- the police.



- a teacher.



- a community organisation.



- a friend of yours.



- a member of your family.



If someone breaks the Conversion Therapy Protection Order they could get a fine or go to prison.



Question 9: Do you agree or disagree that there isn't enough protection for victims of conversion therapy? *Required.*

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Prefer not to say

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Question 10: Do you agree or disagree that there is a need for Conversion Therapy Protection Orders? *Required.*

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Prefer not to say

☐☐☐☐☐☐



If you said 'yes' to Question 10, please tell us why you think this:

Charities that support conversion therapy



There may be people from charities who encourage conversion therapy.



Charities have to follow the rules of the **Charity Commission**.

The **Charity Commission** is a government organisation that makes sure charities are run properly.



The Charity Commission can stop someone from being in charge of a charity if they do something wrong.



Our changes to the law will help the Charity Commission to stop someone from being in charge of a charity if they have been encouraging conversion therapy.



Question 11: Do you agree or disagree with our ideas for working with the Charity Commission to stop someone from being in charge of a charity if they have been carrying out conversion therapy? *Required.*

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Prefer not to say

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Please tell us why you think this:

Making money from conversion therapy



We think that people who make money from conversion therapy should be treated more seriously by the courts.



They should get larger fines, or go to prison for longer.



They should also have any money they have made taken off them.

Making sure services do something



With this ban we expect the Police and other services to:

- write down what their staff should do if conversion therapy has been taking place.



- train their staff so they know how to support people who have been a victim of conversion therapy.



Question 12: Do you agree or disagree that the following services are doing enough against people who might already be carrying out conversion therapy? *Required.*

- **Police**

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Crown Prosecution Service** – this is one part of the Government that deals with crimes.

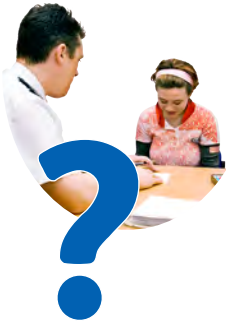
Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Other public services**

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Please explain your answer to Question 12:



Question 13: Do you agree or disagree that the following services are giving people enough support when they have been forced to take part in conversion therapy? *Required.*

- **Police**

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Crown Prosecution Service** - this is one part of the Government that deals with crimes.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Other public services**

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Please explain your answer to Question 13:



Question 14: Do you think the Police, Crown Prosecution Service and other public services could be doing more to support people who have been forced to take part in conversion therapy? *Required.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I don't know



If you said 'yes', please tell us what more you think they could do:

Supporting people



We want to do more to help people who have gone through conversion therapy.



We are making plans to set up new services to help victims report conversion therapy, get support and understand their rights.

Helpline and messaging service



The helpline and messaging service will have staff trained to help victims:

- report their situation



- get support like:
 - advice about services that can help
 - advice about emergency housing
 - help if you are abroad.



It will help people to get counselling if they need it.



Online education

We will provide online information to help victims understand:

- their rights
- how to get support.



We will also give information online for teachers and professionals who help keep people safe about:

- the law



- how to recognise when someone is being made to have conversion therapy.



- how to report it



- how to help someone to get the services and counselling they may need



- how to help to keep someone safe from conversion therapy.

Costs and benefits of our ideas to ban conversion therapy



Question 15: Do you have any views on the cost or benefits of any of our ideas to ban conversion therapy? *Required.*

☐

Yes

☐

No



If you said 'yes', please tell us what proof you have and details of where we can see information about it:

How our ideas might affect people



It is important that we make sure we are being fair to everyone when we suggest making changes.



Question 16: Do you have any views as to whether our ideas to ban conversion therapy are unfair to any groups of people? *Required.*

☐ Yes

☐ No



If you said 'yes', please tell us what proof you have and details of where we can see information about it:

About you

Please give us a little information about yourself.



Question 17: Are you answering these questions for an organisation or for yourself?
Required.

- ☐ An organisation
☐ Myself

If you are answering for an organisation:



Question 18: What is the name of your organisation? *Optional.*



Question 19: What type of organisation is it?
Optional.



Question 20: Does your organisation work with any particular group of people? *Optional.*



Question 21: Which country does your organisation work in? *Optional.*



Question 22: How many people work in your organisation? *Optional.*

If you are answering for yourself:



Question 23: We are interested in hearing from people who have experience of conversion therapy. Please tick any the boxes that apply to you. *Optional.*

- ☐ I have experienced conversion therapy (we will ask a few questions about this on page 42)
- ☐ I have a family member who has experienced conversion therapy
- ☐ I work with victims of conversion therapy
- ☐ I work for an organisation that supports transgender people and/or people of all sexual orientations

- ☐ I work for a religious organisation
- ☐ I have religious beliefs
- ☐ I am a medical worker and I support people who question their sexual orientation or whether they are transgender
- ☐ I work with organisations that have experience of conversion therapy



Question 24: Where do you live? *Optional.*

- ☐ East Midlands
- ☐ East of England
- ☐ London
- ☐ North East
- ☐ North West
- ☐ Yorkshire and The Humber
- ☐ South East
- ☐ West Midlands
- ☐ Northern Ireland
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Wales
- ☐ Outside the UK



Question 25: How old are you? *Optional.*



Question 26: What is your sex? *Optional.*



Question 27: What is your ethnic group? *Optional.*



Question 28: What is your religion? *Optional.*



Question 29: What was the job of the person who earned the most money in your home when you were aged about 14? *Optional.*



Question 30: Is your gender the same as your birth sex? If no, please write details. *Optional.*



Question 31: How would you describe your sexual orientation? *Optional.*

☐

Gay - I am a man and attracted to men

☐

Lesbian - I am a woman and attracted to women

☐

Straight or heterosexual - I am attracted to the opposite sex

☐

Another sexual orientation - please say:



Question 32: Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting 12 months or more? *Optional.*

Your experiences of conversion therapy

Question 33: Have you ever been offered conversion therapy? *Required.*



Question 34: Have you ever had conversion therapy? *Required.*



Thank you



Thank you for your answers.

Please now send your answers back to us by:



- post:
Conversion Therapy Consultation
Team
Government Equalities Office
20 Great Smith St
Westminster
London SW1P 3BT



- or email:
ctconsultation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk



We need your answers by Friday, 4 February 2022 at 11.45pm.



For more information

If you need more information please contact us by email:
ctconsultation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk