



The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Minister for Women and Equalities
Government Equalities Office
Sanctuary Buildings
16-20 Great Smith St
London
SW1P 3BT

27 March 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you in our capacity as Officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT+ Rights regarding a forthcoming draft Bill to ban conversion practices.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT+ Rights works to protect and advance LGBT+ equality in the UK and across the world. We ensure that LGBT+ issues are permanently part of the Government's agenda and the wider national conversation about human rights and equality, raised by motivated Parliamentarians both nationally and internationally. We work with organisations across the public, private and third sector to champion LGBT+ rights.

As you will know, it has been nearly five years since the UK Government committed to banning conversion practices. We therefore warmly welcomed the Government's announcement on 17th January 2023 by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport that "the Government will publish the draft Bill shortly and will ask for pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee in this parliamentary session" ([Online Safety Update, 2023](#)). This has been confirmed by Minister for Equalities Stuart Andrew MP in that "the Government will publish a draft Bill setting out our approach banning conversion practices which will go for pre-legislative scrutiny by joint committee in this parliamentary session" ([Written Question, 2023](#)). Lastly, on 16th March 2023 the Leader of the House of Commons confirmed "we are on schedule to have pre-legislative scrutiny by the Joint Committee in this parliamentary Session, with a view to bringing forward a Bill in due course" ([Business Questions to the Leader of the House, 2023](#)). As announced by the Prime Minister, we understand that the parliamentary session has been extended to the Autumn of 2023.

We are concerned that it is now March and we are yet to see a draft Bill. In order for the Government to meet its deadline as promised on the floor of the house of enacting pre-legislative scrutiny within this parliamentary session, it is important that a draft Bill is published as a matter of utmost priority in order to enable proper time for the Bill to be scrutinised. We believe that a Bill ought to be published in April at the latest, with pre-legislative scrutiny beginning as soon as the Bill is published, concluding with a final report being published in September. **We must ensure that we do not prolong already unnecessary delays while many LGBT+ people remain at risk of these abhorrent practices.** We ask that our concerns are taken on board and action undertaken swiftly.

We would be grateful if the Minister could therefore confirm when we can expect a draft Bill to be published, as well as a guarantee that pre-legislative scrutiny will commence immediately thereafter and completed within this parliamentary session. The safety and wellbeing of many LGBT+ people in this country depends on it.

We hope to hear back from you soon.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Angela Eagle MP - Co-Chair

Elliot Colburn MP - Co-Chair

David Mundell MP - Deputy Chair

Dan Carden MP - Vice Chair

Hannah Bardell MP - Vice Chair

Peter Gibson MP - Vice Chair

Martin Docherty-Hughes MP - Vice Chair

Stewart Malcolm McDonald MP - Vice Chair

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP - Vice Chair

Lord Collins of Highbury MP - Treasurer

Alicia Kearns MP