

FORUM: Human Rights Council (H.R.C)

QUESTION OF: Ending Conversion Therapy: Enhancing the Protection of LGBTQ+ Individuals from Harmful and Pseudoscientific Practices

SUBMITTED BY: Canada

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Australia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Rwanda, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Mexico

Recalling article 1 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) affirms that all humans are born free and equal in their rights opposite the law and in their dignity and Article 27 recognizes everyone's right to participate in cultural life

Recognizing that attempts to change someone's gender identity or sexuality in a medical setting are ineffective and pseudoscientific,

Emphasizing the significant damage that ideas that sexuality can be changed or needs to be 'cured' does to LGBTQ+ rights,

Whereas conversion therapy is pseudoscience, abusive, and abhorred by eternal reputed medical and psychological associations with the co-signing of the World Health Organization,

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

1. Encourages Member States to create and integrate legislation into their national legal framework by:
 - a) prohibiting the practice of all forms of conversion therapy targeting sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, regardless of the age of the individual or if consent was retrieved,
 - b) prohibiting public advertisement and promotion of services or products claiming to change sexuality or gender identity,
 - c) limiting negative attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community that encourages people to change their belief for society's acceptance,
 - d) provisions for prosecuting institutions facilitating or funding conversion therapy;
2. Asks for involved stakeholders to promote the understanding and accepting of the LGBTQ + community while also respecting all of their rights;
3. Calls upon Member States to consider conversion therapy as harmful and discriminatory without fear of conversion therapy being forced on them;

4. Calls upon Member States to increase investment into campaigns for the purpose of educating and raising awareness in order to stop the misinformation surrounding the LGBTQ+ community through ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) partnering with NGOs to start initiatives aimed at schools to raise awareness on the issue,
 - b) partnering with NGOs to provide initiatives targeted at companies/places of work to break the stigma around the issue,
 - c) investing in campaigns that are involved in directly contacting individuals in ways such as:
 - i. leaflet distribution,
 - ii. public protests,
 - iii. events, such as fundraisers or awareness campaigns;

5. Encourages Member States to require psychological assessments for individuals seeking conversion therapy worldwide, to ensure that they are mentally healthy, through means such as, but not limited to:
 - a) mandating pre-therapy psychological evaluations to assess the psychology behind those seeking conversion therapy, with the aim of identifying any underlying psychological distress or coercion before proceeding with such practices,
 - b) implementing professional standards and guidelines for therapists and practitioners of conversion therapy, ensuring that they follow ethical practices and are held accountable for the psychological well-being of their clients,
 - c) creating awareness campaigns that inform the public about the psychological risks and potential harm associated with conversion therapy, particularly emphasizing the importance of mental health in the decision-making process, through:
 - i. public service announcements,
 - ii. online campaigns,
 - iii. engaging mental health organizations and NGOs to promote understanding of the risks, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Psychological Association (APA),

6. Urges Member States to partner with NGOs to provide free extensive supportive structures for victims of conversion therapy, including:
 - a) mental health services, such as:
 - i. trauma-focused therapy by counsellors who are well educated on the topic at hand and are avid supporters of LGBTQ+,
 - ii. peer support groups, to unite the community that has been traumatized through this pseudoscientific practice,
 - iii. counsellors in schools, that are separated from general counselors if they do not support that approach,
 - b) legal aid to victims who want to take the course of justice by being allowed to:
 - i. filing complaints against perpetrators,

- ii. having financial support in order to have justice,
- iii. obtaining reparations for the violation perpetrated;

7. Calls for Member States to create a comprehensive and secure reporting system to document and address incidents of conversion therapy, ensuring that individuals can safely report such practices and that authorities can take appropriate legal action, through means such as, but not limited to:
 - a) establishing a confidential, accessible reporting platform where individuals, including minors and their families, can report incidents of conversion therapy without fear of retaliation, with the platform available both online and in person at designated government or non-governmental centres,
 - b) ensuring legal protection for whistle-blowers and those who report incidents of conversion therapy, offering confidentiality and protection against discrimination or harm for individuals who come forward with credible information,
 - c) developing a coordinated response mechanism between law enforcement, human rights organizations, and medical professionals to investigate reported incidents, take legal action against perpetrators, and provide support to victims of conversion therapy;

8. Requests for collaboration between the HRC and United Nations General Assembly Legal Committee (GA6) to set legislations that punish and address all forms of discrimination-related violence, including but not limited to:
 - a) penalties for culprits of hate speech addressing LGBTQ+ individuals,
 - b) taking away licenses and possible imprisonment for psychologists involved in conversion therapy.

