

Joint Statement in Support of UK Minister Morgan's Call to end 'Gay Cure' Therapy

End Aversion Therapy Not Client Right to Informed Consent and Self-Determination

**From
Core Issues Trust and Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and scientific integrity/NARTH Institute**

The UK's Secretary for Education, and Minister for Women and Equalities, Nicky Morgan has today called for a ban on therapeutic support from unwanted homosexual behaviours. Her speech at the Pink News Awards ceremony once again uses the hackneyed straw man 'Gay Cure' argument to demolish a practise that doesn't exist except in the minds of those who have politicised homosexuality to achieve political ends.

'Gay Cure' or 'Conversion Therapy' as the Conservative Government refers to it of course, is the invention of long-discredited approaches developed by Psychiatrists and Medical Practitioners in the UK's esteemed Royal Colleges. The practice was widely accepted and used throughout the British Empire and Colonies up to the late 1950s. It was essentially a behaviourist approach making use of 'Aversion Therapy' and chemically inducing physical aversion assisted by 'electro-shock' techniques. This unsuccessful treatment approach ensured that patients experienced unpleasant and lasting aversion to homosexual thoughts. We know of no statement from any Royal College in the United Kingdom that has recognised these facts nor apologised unreservedly for such inhumane treatments under successive Conservative Governments of the period.

We support Minister Morgan's call to end such aversion therapy 'cure' practices in the UK where she identifies them. We urge her also to lead the government in acknowledging its historical role in developing, promoting and exporting such abusive and discredited practices at home and in its former colonies.

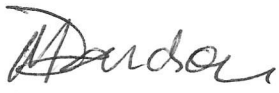
We further appeal to Minister Morgan, who self identifies as a Christian to acknowledge the rights of individuals to decide the trajectory of their sexual identity and practices to align with their primary personal and spiritual values, without coercion from government ministers. We call on Minister Morgan to recognise the right of personal autonomy for persons to choose their sexual orientation.

Core Issues Trust will continue to invite adult citizens in the United Kingdom to be fully informed of all options when considering their response to unwanted

homosexual feelings. We will also continue to advocate the use of standard psychotherapeutic and counselling talking-therapies to explore the presenting difficulties associated with homosexual experience. Our work will further continue to assist our clients in identifying trauma, reducing shame, enhancing self-esteem and assertiveness and practising healthy roles conducive to their own values, therapeutic goals and aspirations. We shall respect their personal and individual autonomy.

We will remain in close association with other groups and individuals across Europe and North America to ensure the highest professional collegial accountability and practice standards in responding to the growing requests for help and support. We deplore the untenable position that Minster Morgan's remarks place upon UK professionals who have been forced to abandon those unwilling to normalise or affirm the homosexual inclinations they experience.

Our services offer only one guarantee for any seeking our support: we will not abandon individuals' rights to safe-spaces in which to explore personal issues using talking therapies in a safe, supportive environment. Neither will we coerce seekers into acceptance of sexual practices and identities that contradict their primary values.



Dr Michael Davidson
Director, Core Issues
Trust



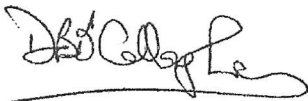
Dr Carolyn Pela
LMFT President,
Alliance for
Therapeutic Choice
and Scientific
Integrity



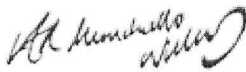
Dr Joseph Nicolosi
Clinical
Psychologist,
Chairman, Clinical
Committee NARTH
Institute



Dr Christopher Rosik
Clinical Psychologist
and Former President,
Alliance for
Therapeutic Choice
and Scientific Integrity



Dermot O'Callaghan
Council of Reference
Core Issues Trust



Andrea Williams
Council of
Reference, Core
Issues Trust
CEO Christian
Concern and
Christian Legal
Centre



Michelle A. Cretella,
MD, FCP, President
of the American
College of
Pediatricians



Dr Keith Vennum,
Psychiatrist,
President in
waiting, Alliance for
Therapeutic Choice
and Scientific
Integrity

**Signed on behalf and before members and friends of the Alliance for
Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity's Annual Conference,
Fort Worth Texas, 23rd October 2015.**

Further information M Davidson +44 (0)7833098998