

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref HB 0691 22

Mike Freer MP
UK Government Minister for Equalities

mike.freer.mp@parliament.uk

1 April 2022

Dear Mike,

Yesterday I became aware of UK Government documents and a statement from Downing Street that the Prime Minister intended on abandoning the very clear commitments made to end the draconian practice of conversion therapy. It appears today that the rightful public backlash has resulted in a partial reversal of this minus the critical protections that were promised to the Transgender community.

The UK Government made a very clear commitment. It was stated that proposals would be 'universal and protect everyone whatever their sexual orientation and whether they are Transgender or not.' This commitment that was made directly by the Prime Minister, as part of last year's Queen's speech, in numerous discussions with the Welsh Government and most importantly to the LGBTQ+ community and the public through announcements and recent consultations.

We have engaged in good faith with your office and with the UK Government and seek urgent clarity on how you intend to proceed. If it is indeed the intention of the UK Government to abandon the clear commitments it has made, this would represent a most severe breach of trust for individuals and families who placed faith in the Government to end this draconian practice that causes direct harm to our LGBTQ+ communities.

I fear this will become yet another example of the UK Government attempting to undermine the rights of minority communities across the country that we should be striving to protect and empower.

In addition, it is alarming and shameful to read how the concerns of LGBTQ+ individuals are dismissed as 'noise' to be managed. This is wholly unacceptable and a clear indication of the UK Government's indifference to the rights of LGBTQ+ people and the very real threats faced. The Welsh Government will be commissioning urgent legal advice on the unilateral action we are able to take to ban conversion therapy. We will do all we can within our devolved powers to protect our LGBTQ+ community. I fear we can no longer have faith that the UK Government will do the same.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

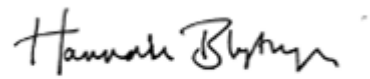
Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I look forward to your response as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerley,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark at the end.

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS

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