Please contact your Member of Parliament before coming Friday

TO ALL MUSLIM DOCTORS TO ALL IMAMS TO ALL MUSLIM LEADERS TO ALL MUSLIM WOMEN TO ALL MUSLIMS

Assalam Alaykum

Please help us in our Islamic health campaign against SAME-SEX ATTRACTION. Therapists should be allowed to offer assistance to those who want to reduce unwanted homosexual feelings and behaviour; PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP) before Friday 22 November AND URGE HIM / HER TO VOTE AGAINST THIS DESTRUCTIVE UNDEMOCRATIC BILL. Enclosed below A BRIEF about the bill.

Thank you

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Contact your MP re therapy for unwanted same-sex attraction

A bill which aims to ban therapists from offering assistance to those who want to reduce unwanted homosexual feelings and behaviours will have its **2nd reading** in the House of Commons **next Friday 22nd November**.

The name of the bill is the 'Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Bill 2013-14'.

Please <u>contact your MP</u> and urge them to vote against the bill on Friday.

To find your MP's contact details, go to the <u>Find your MP page</u> and follow these simple steps:

- 1. Type in your postcode and click the 'Find MP' button
- 2. Click on your MP's name
- 3. The contact details for your MP should appear on the page

You can use the brief guide below to inform what you say to your MP.

A short guide to reparative therapy

Several misconceptions lie behind the attempt to ban this kind of therapy in the UK. It's therefore important to be clear on what reparative therapy is and what it isn't, and also be aware of the false assumptions underlying the objections.

What reparative therapy is

- It is about helping people with unwanted feelings of same sex attraction who want to change
- It supports men and women with homosexual issues who voluntarily seek change in sexual preference and expression
- It respects the rights of individuals who identify as 'gay' who do not seek change

What it isn't

• It is not about coercing people or forcing people to change against their will

Some misconceived objections

Opponents of this kind of therapy say that:

- The motivation behind the therapy is homophobic rather than scientific
- practitioners promote discrimination
- practitioners lack familiarity with current scientific research and professional developments
- practitioners are not acting to advance the welfare of the individual

A big false assumption

The (big) false assumption behind these objections is that:

• Homosexuality is innate and immutable (like race) and is biological in nature

Busting the myths

- There is no sound scientific evidence to demonstrate that homosexuality is inherited genetically
- There are many studies which suggest the importance of childhood family experiences in the formation of sexual orientation
- Homosexuality is a concept, not a biological phenomenon there is no physical location for it in the brain
- There are many accounts of people who have found reparative therapy to be successful in reducing feelings of same sex attraction

The effects of banning it

Banning reparative therapy in the UK would:

- Force patients to accept a sexual identity that they choose to reject and are unhappy with
- Deprive patients of a treatment choice and the ability to seek help
- Deny patients a human right to treatment intended to help them shape their lives as they wish