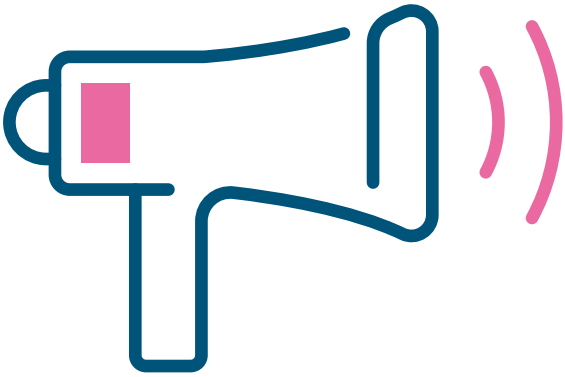
BANNING CONVERSION PRACTICES

We maintain the need for a comprehensive ban on all conversion practices, including talking therapies, in all settings. Conversion practices, which are any attempts to change or suppress and individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, are abusive and extremely harmful to those who are subjected to them. This abusive practice must be comprehensively outlawed and tackled, with no legal loopholes for those conducting or promoting conversion practices.

In recognition of the seriousness of conversion practices and the harm it causes, the must be no equivocation on the notion that adults should be able to 'consent' to this abuse. It should further be emphasised that a ban on conversion practices must be fully inclusive of trans and gender diverse individuals, as well as those who are asexual.

A legislative ban on medical conversion practices, while welcome, would not be enough to reduce or eliminate these practices where they are really happening today: in the community, in religious settings, and in the home. Most medical oversight bodies have already banned practitioners from conducting these so-called 'conversion therapies', including the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the president of which described conversion therapy as a "damaging, degrading and discriminatory practice."

It is vital that a joined-up approach to stamping out conversion practices takes place across the UK and Ireland to ensure that no one can be forced to cross the border or travel to go through conversion practices, and Northern Ireland has the opportunity to lead this charge.



A Comprehensive, Inclusive Ban on Conversion Practices must:

- Ensure trans individuals, including trans young people, are protected from these practices wherever they occur.
- Leave no loopholes where these practices could continue, including for adults who are coerced into 'consenting' to this abuse, and for those who would be taken out of the country for conversion.
- Deliver a joint-up approach to tackling conversion practices across the UK and Ireland, ensuring there is no movement North-South or East-West to be subjected to conversion practices.