



Report on conversion therapy

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Author	Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
Presented	To the HRC at its 44th session, June 2020
Link	A/HRC/44/53

Background

"Conversion therapy" is an umbrella term used to describe interventions of a wide-ranging nature, all of which have in common the belief that a person's sexual orientation or gender identity can and should be changed. Such practices aim (or claim to aim) at changing people from gay, lesbian or bisexual to heterosexual and from trans or gender diverse to cisgender.

Depending on the context, the term is used for a multitude of practices and methods, some of which are clandestine and therefore poorly documented.

Conversion therapy currently happens in a multitude of countries in all regions of the world. Perpetrators include private and public mental health-care providers, faith-based organizations, traditional healers and State agents. Promoters include family and community members, political authorities and other agents.

Summary

The word "therapy", derived from the Greek, denotes "healing". However, practices of conversion therapy are just the opposite: they inflict severe pain and suffering, resulting in long-lasting psychological and physical damage, the Independent Expert concludes in his report.

He also notes that these practices are inherently degrading and discriminatory. They are rooted in the belief that LGBT persons are somehow inferior, and that they must at any cost modify their orientation or identity to remedy that supposed inferiority. He highlights that such practices constitute an egregious violation of rights to bodily autonomy, health, and free expression of one's sexual orientation and gender identity. When conducted forcibly, they also represent a breach to the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.

The Independent Expert calls for a **global ban on conversion therapy**. This process would need to include:

- Clearly defining the prohibited practices
- Ensuring public funds are not used to support them
- Banning advertisements
- Prohibiting such interventions in health-care, religious, education, community, commercial or any other setting—public or private
- Establishing punishments for non-compliance, and investigate respective claims
- Creating mechanisms to provide access to all forms of reparations to victims

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Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity

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[So-called "conversion therapy" \(2020\)](#)

[Social, cultural and economic inclusion \(2019\)](#)

[Data collection and management \(2019\)](#)

[Legal recognition of gender identity and depathologisation \(2018\)](#)

[Overview of violence and discrimination \(2018\)](#)

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[Decriminalisation and anti-discrimination measures \(2017\)](#)

Issues in focus

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Methodology

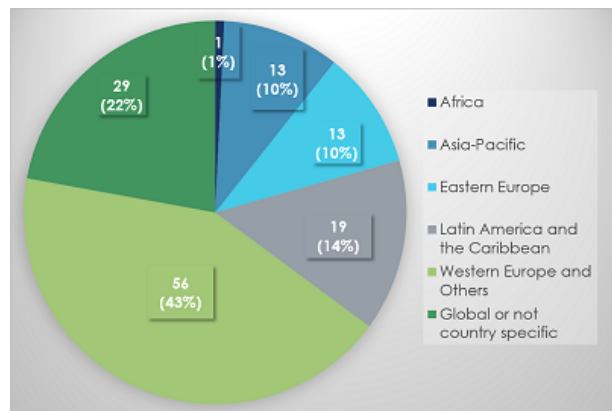
For the preparation of this report, the Independent Expert carried out an extensive literature review and outreach measures. On 21 November 2019, he issued a call for written submissions, in response to which he received 33 contributions from Member States, including national human rights institutions, and 94 from civil society organizations, academics, medical practitioners, faith-based organizations, parliamentarians and individuals. Find graphs and charts showing the breakdown of inputs received by region, followed by links to the inputs received below.

On 5 February 2020, he held a public consultation in Geneva. See the concept note ([English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#))

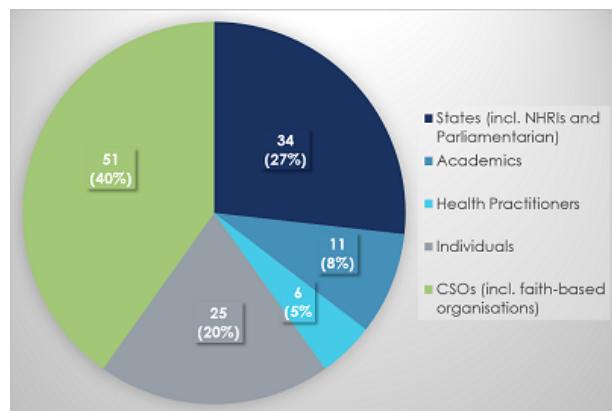
On 29 February 2020, he convened a meeting of experts in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Inputs received

Number (and percentage) by region



Number (and percentage) by stakeholder type



Number by stakeholder type and by region



Member States

- [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [Chile](#)
- [Costa Rica](#)
- [Denmark](#)

Effective inclusion of LGBT persons

Contact information

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Personal social media of the Independent Expert:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Twitter](#)

Others involved

[OHCHR and the human rights of LGBTI people](#)

External Links

[Free & Equal: United Nations for LGBT Equality](#)

- Ecuador
- France, mission d'information « flash », synthèse
- Georgia
- Germany
- Honduras
- Iraq
- Ireland and annex
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Luxemburg
- Malta, statement at public consultation
- Mexico
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Sweden
- The Netherlands
- Uruguay

National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies and Ombudspersons

- Argentina – Defensor del Pueblo de la Nación
- Denmark - Danish Institute for Human Rights
- France - Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'Homme (CNCDH)
- India - National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- Luxembourg - Commission consultative des Droits de l'Homme (CCDH) et Prise de position de la Commission Nationale d'Éthique
- Mexico - Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH)
- Nicaragua - Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (PDDH)
- Portugal - Ombudsman
- Ukraine - Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
- United Kingdom - Equality and Human Rights Commission

Members of parliament

- Laurence Vanceunebrock [France], mission d'information « flash », synthèse, rapport d'information Outre-mer

Civil Society Organisations (including faith-based organisations)

- Ambassadors & Bridge Builders International [Australia] and annex
- Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos (AsiLEGAL) [Mexico]
- Association Legebitra [Slovenia]
- Born Perfect and the National Center for Lesbian Rights [USA]
- Brave Network, SOGICE Survivors and Equal Voices (Melbourne Branch)
- Campaign Against Homophobia [Poland]
- CHANGED Movement
- CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality [Global, The Netherlands, India, Kenya, Nigeria]
- COC Netherlands [The Netherlands]
- Coming out and Nuntiare et Recreare [Russian Federation]
- Corporación Promoción de la Mujer / Taller de Comunicación Mujer [Ecuador]
- Egale Canada [Canada]
- Equality Australia [Australia]
- Equality for All Foundation Jamaica Ltd. [Jamaica]
- European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups
- Family Research Council and annexes 1, 2, 3, 4
- Family Watch International

- [Feminista \[Kazakhstan\]](#)
- [Fundación Arcoiris \[Mexico\]](#)
- [Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression \(GIN-SSOGIE\) \[Global\]](#)
- [G37 Despacho Internacional \[Spain\]](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign \[USA\]](#)
- [Human Rights Watch \[Global, China\]](#)
- [ILGA Europe \[Europe\]](#)
- [ILGA World \[Global\]](#)
- [Independent Forensic Expert Group \[Global\]](#)
- [interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth \[USA\]](#)
- [International Federation for Therapeutic and Counselling Choice](#)
- [International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims \[Global\] and annex](#)
- [LGBT Foundation \[Global\]](#)
- [Más Igualdad Perú \[Peru\]](#)
- [No Conversion Canada \[Canada\]](#)
- [Oogachaga \[Singapore\]](#)
- [Our Duty \[UK\]](#)
- [OutRight Action International \[USA\]](#)
- [Ozanne Foundation \[UK\]](#)
- [Pink Armenia \[Armenia\]](#)
- [PROMSEX \[Peru\]](#)
- [Restored Hope Network \[USA\]](#)
- [Rethink Identity Medicine Ethics, Inc. \(ReIME\) \[USA\]](#)
- [Subversive Front \[North Macedonia\]](#)
- [The Aguda \[Israel\] and annex](#)
- [The Conversion Therapy Action Group \[New Zealand\]](#)
- [The Eastern European Coalition for LGBT+ Equality \[Eastern Europe\]](#)
- [The Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network \(6Rang\) \[Iran\]](#)
- [The National Board of the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany \(LSVD\) \[Germany\]](#)
- [The Trevor Project \[USA\]](#)
- [The Unitarian Universalist Association \[USA\]](#)
- [United States Joint Statement against "Conversion Therapy" \(USJS\) and annex](#)
- [Voice of the Voiceless \[USA\]](#)

Academics

- [Tyler Adamson, Stef Baral and Chris Beyrer \[literature review\] and annex \[table\]](#)
- [Joel Anderson and Elise Holland \[Global\]](#)
- [Florence Ashley \[Global\] and annexes 1, 2](#)
- [The Colombia Collaborative Project \[Colombia\], Spanish version](#)
- [Nancy Krieger \[Global\]](#)
- [La Trobe University and Human Rights Law Centre \[Australia\]](#)
- [Darius Longarino \[China\]](#)
- [Arvind Narrain and Vinay Chandran \[Global\]](#)
- [Transgender Health Research Lab \[New Zealand\], Executive summary](#)
- [The Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy \[USA\]](#)
- [Lysov, V.G. \[Global\]](#)

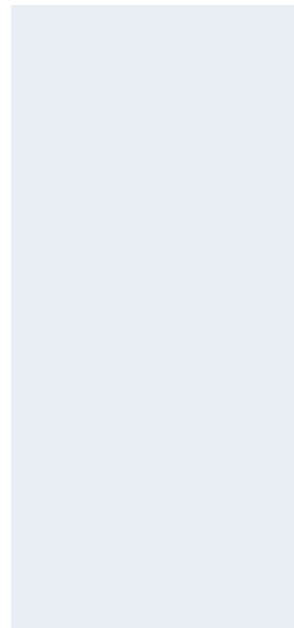
Health Practitioners

- [American Psychological Association](#)
- [American Public Health Association \(APHA\), the LGBTQ Caucus \[USA\]](#)

- [Asociación de Psicología de Puerto Rico, Comité de la Diversidad de Sexo, Género y Orientación Sexual \[Puerto Rico\]](#), annexes 1, 2, 3
- [Kirsty Entwistle \[Portugal\]](#)
- [Laura Paris \[Mexico\]](#)
- [The Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health \(LebMASH\) \[Lebanon\]](#)

Other individuals and researchers

- [Léo Canal \[France\]](#)
- [Steph James \[General\]](#)
- [Rebekah Murphy \[General\]](#) and annexes 1, 2
- [Timo Ojanen \[Thailand\]](#) and annexes 1, 2, 3, 4
- [Pedro Felipe Rivadeneira Orellana \[Ecuador\]](#) and annex
- [Cianán B. Russell \(Global\)](#)
- [SungWon Yoon-Lee and Eunhui Yoon \[Republic of Korea\]](#)
- [Berfu Yalcin](#)
- [Personal testimonies](#)

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