

23 September, 2012

Dear

'The Right to Decide' Campaign: Book and Petition

The task of valuing diversity, showing respect to minorities and encouraging society towards greater equality in British society is very challenging. We write to assure you of our prayers in your work. We also think you would be concerned about any group who is being denied their place in our country, and who may be being discriminated against. The Westminster government has sought to balance divergent interests so that minorities are valued ensuring that their rights are protected in law and celebrated in society. This is particularly so of gay men and women.

However, some men and women who have homosexual feelings and practices, experience these as unwanted. Many of them have never taken on a 'gay' identity, others have been unwilling to act on their feelings for many reasons, (not only religious) and some have decided to move beyond practising homosexuality. We are writing to you today to ask that you honour this minority and respect their goals and their right to personal choice in this matter.

Are you aware that professional psychotherapeutic bodies, such as the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) now forbid therapists to assist clients to reduce homosexual feelings, even if they are married and want to protect their families? Such bodies articulate no exceptions to this rule and thereby completely disregard the autonomy of the people they exist to serve.

The enclosed complimentary copy of a recently released book: ***"The Right to Decide: Seeking justice for choices around unwanted same-sex attraction"*** presents some personal accounts of such individuals who, moving away from homosexuality, are now forbidden to receive professional help to achieve their own goals.

Surely this cannot be right? It seems that such people may only be helped to express their same-sex feelings, and not to control them – irrespective of their personal goals or wishes. Are you in favour of this?

I write to ask you to sign our petition **"Right to decide to reduce homosexual feelings where possible, using professional help"** to correct this injustice, at this address <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/38542>.

Yours sincerely



Mike Davidson, PhD FHEA
DIRECTOR