



Name
(Constituency)
House of Commons/Lords
London
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Core Issues Trust
Anahilt
Hillsborough
BT266DH
18th November, 2013

Dear Malcolm

Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Bill 2013-14

The above Bill, sponsored by Mr Geraint Davies (Lab, Swansea West), aims to "stop [the] awful practice" of "discredited" therapies that are intended to help people who voluntarily wish to reduce unwanted same-sex attractions. His Bill would "make regulation compulsory and ... strike off" any therapist who sought to offer such assistance to a client.

What evidence is offered to support the theory that such therapies are harmful? None.

As you consider such a controversial measure, we would urge you to read the enclosed booklet *Out of Harm's Way: Questions of harm, evidence and practice* (summary of main points attached).

Former Bishop of Rochester, Michael NazirAli has said of the booklet:

"This is a moderate, sensible and open review of the evidence on therapy for those who experience unwanted same-sex attraction. It finds that people may wish to contain or change their orientation for a variety of personal, family, social and religious reasons. Some such people can be helped by properly informed and regulated therapy. Claims that this is always harmful are shown to be based on ideological bias rather than strict science."

We would ask you please not to support the Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Bill 2013-14. We believe in proper regulation, but not the kind that this Bill has in mind. It will result in good therapists being struck off without any valid scientific reason; worse still, clients will be driven to seek help from 'back street' therapists.

It is vital that regulation should be based on a proper scientific foundation, not on ideologies that are 'regardless of the scientific findings'.

Michael R Davidson, PhD., FHEA

Co-Director

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