



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

27 March 2021

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr Lynas,

Thank you for your letter of the 15 March, regarding gay conversion therapy, on behalf of your 3,500 member churches.

I understand the points you make and, like you, I absolutely want to end the scourge of gay conversion therapy which has no place in our society. The Government is firmly committed to this and will shortly bring forward proposals detailing exactly how we will do this.

I do, however, want to reassure you that I take freedom of speech and freedom of religion very seriously. As the Government made clear in 2018, when we first made our commitment to end conversion therapy, we will continue to allow adults to receive appropriate pastoral support (including prayer), in churches and other religious settings, in the exploration of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Like you, I do not want to see clergy and church members criminalised for normal non-coercive activity.

Could I also take this opportunity to thank your member churches for all that they have contributed to our country during the pandemic in so many ways. I visited one of the Redeemed Christian Church of God churches – Jesus House – in Brent recently, to see the pop-up vaccination centre there, which was doing excellent work in encouraging ethnic minorities to become vaccinated.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me on this important issue.

As always
Yours
Boris

Mr Peter Lynas