

Position Statements of Major Organizations Against Conversion Therapy

International	
Organization	Position Statement
Pan American Health Organization: Regional Office of World Health Organization	“Reparative” or “conversion therapies” have no medical indication and represent a severe threat to the health and human rights of the affected persons. They constitute unjustifiable practices that should be denounced and subject to adequate sanctions and penalties
World Psychiatric Association	There is no sound scientific evidence that innate sexual orientation can be changed. Furthermore, so-called treatments of homosexuality can create a setting in which prejudice and discrimination flourish, and they can be potentially harmful (Rao and Jacob, 2012). The provision of any intervention purporting to “treat” something that is not a disorder is wholly unethical. [...] WPA considers same-sex attraction, orientation, and behaviour as normal variants of human sexuality. It recognizes the multi-factorial causation of human sexuality, orientation, behaviour, and lifestyle. It acknowledges the lack of scientific efficacy of treatments that attempt to change sexual orientation and highlights the harm and adverse effects of such “therapies”
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses	There have been sound arguments against the practice of reparative or conversion therapies. It is clear that these treatment modalities raise numerous ethical concerns and challenge the code of ethics of medical, psychological, nursing, and social work disciplines. Therefore, ISPN strongly opposes reparative therapy [...].
World Medical Association	“[C]onversion” or “reparative” procedures, which claim to be able to convert homosexuality into asexual or heterosexual behaviour and give the impression that homosexuality is a disease. These methods have been rejected by many professional organisations due to a lack of evidence of their effectiveness. They have no medical indication and represent a serious threat to the health and human rights of those so treated. [...] The WMA strongly asserts that homosexuality does not represent a disease, but rather a natural variation within the range of human sexuality. [...] The WMA condemns so-called “conversion” or “reparative” methods. These constitute violations of human rights and are unjustifiable practices that should be denounced and subject to sanctions and penalties. It is unethical for physicians to participate during any step of such procedures.
Amnesty International	Prohibit forced medical ‘treatment’ Medical “treatment” of LGBT people against their will and aimed at changing their sexual orientation or gender identity is cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment which could amount to torture. It should be prohibited in all circumstances. The involvement of health professionals in such “treatment” violates international codes of medical ethics prohibiting their involvement in torture or ill-treatment. 100 National medical associations that have not yet done so should affirm that homosexuality is not a medical disorder and should condemn, and prohibit their members from participating in, any treatment aimed at “curing” or “treating” it.
American Medical Association	AMA [...] opposes, the use of “reparative” or “conversion” therapy that is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that the patient should change his/her homosexual orientation. AMA will develop model state legislation and advocate for federal legislation to ban so-called reparative or conversion therapy for sexual orientation or gender identity.

	The support for legislative bans strengthens AMA’s long-standing opposition to this unscientific practice.
American Psychiatric Association	<p>“The American Psychiatric Association does not believe that same-sex orientation should or needs to be changed, and efforts to do so represent a significant risk of harm by subjecting individuals to forms of treatment which have not been scientifically validated and by undermining self-esteem when sexual orientation fails to change. No credible evidence exists that any mental health intervention can reliably and safely change sexual orientation; nor, from a mental health perspective does sexual orientation need to be changed.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APA reaffirms its recommendation that ethical practitioners refrain from attempts to change individuals’ sexual orientation. 2. APA recommends that ethical practitioners respect the identities for those with diverse gender expressions. 3. APA encourages psychotherapies which affirm individuals’ sexual orientations and gender identities. 4. APA encourages legislation which would prohibit the practice of “reparative” or conversion therapies that are based on the a priori assumption that diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are mentally ill.
American Psychological Association	<p>Therefore, be it resolved, that the American Psychological Association affirms that same-sex sexual and romantic attractions, feelings, and behaviors are normal and positive variations of human sexuality regardless of sexual orientation identity; Be it further resolved, that the American Psychological Association reaffirms its position that homosexuality per se is not a mental disorder and opposes portrayals of sexual minority youths and adults as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation; Be it further resolved, that the American Psychological Association concludes that there is insufficient evidence to support the use of psychological interventions to change sexual orientation; Be it further resolved, that the American Psychological Association encourages mental health professionals to avoid misrepresenting the efficacy of sexual orientation change efforts by promoting or promising change in sexual orientation when providing assistance to individuals distressed by their own or others’ sexual orientation.</p>
Canada	
Canadian Psychological Association	<p>“The Canadian Psychological Association opposes any therapy with the goal of repairing or converting an individual’s sexual orientation, regardless of age. Conversion therapy, or reparative therapy, refers to any formal therapeutic attempt to change the sexual orientation of bisexual, gay and lesbian individuals to heterosexual (e.g., Nicolosi, 1991; Socarides & Kaufman, 1994). It can include prayer or religious rites, modification of behaviours, and individual or group counselling (Bright, 2004; Nicolosi, 1991).”</p>
Canadian Psychiatric Association	The CPA opposes the use of reparative or conversion therapy, given that such therapy is based on the assumption that LGBTQ identities indicate a mental disorder and (or) the assumption that the person could and should change their sexual orientation and (or) their gender identity and gender expression.
Canadian Pediatric Society	<p>“Conversion or reparative therapy, where attempts are made to turn gay males or lesbians into heterosexuals, are clearly unethical and should not be provided by physicians, nor should physicians refer patients for such therapy”</p> <p>“Conversion and reparative therapies should not be provided because they do not work, and have the potential to heighten guilt and anxiety.”</p>

Canadian Association of Social Workers	The Canadian Association of Social Workers unreservedly endorses and accepts the position of the Canadian Psychological Association and uses the same statements.
Professional Order of Sexologists of Quebec	<p>The Professional Order of Sexologists of Quebec wishes to inform those who wish to obtain such services [as conversion or restorative therapies], for themselves or for their child, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the effectiveness of these therapies has not been demonstrated; • harmful psychological effects have been demonstrated on the people who followed them; • that they are banned in several regions of the world; <p>and by most professional associations of psychology, psychiatry and medicine as well as professional orders, including the Professional Order of Sexologists of Quebec as evidenced by this opinion</p>
Alberta	
College of Alberta Psychologists	<p>A psychologist shall not, in the course of providing a professional service, provide any treatment, counselling, or behaviour modification technique with the objective of changing or modifying the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of an individual who:</p> <p>6.3.1 is under 18 years of age, or</p> <p>6.3.2 is 18 years of age or older and lacks the ability to:</p> <p>6.3.2.1 understand the information that is relevant to a decision respecting consent to treatment, counselling, or a behaviour modification technique, and 6.3.2.2 appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of the decision.</p> <p>6.3.3 Despite any other law, no person is permitted to give consent on behalf of an individual described in sections 6.3.1 or 6.3.2 to the provision of any treatment, counselling, or behaviour modification technique referred to in section 6.3.</p>
Alberta Teachers Association	6.2.15.7 The Government of Alberta should prohibit reparative therapies that purport to “change,” “cure,” “fix” or “repair” a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression [2017].

Additional Worldwide Organizations with Position Statements Against Conversion Therapy

1. Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
2. Australian Medical Association
3. Australian Psychological Society
4. Queensland Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association
5. Royal Australasian College of Physicians
6. Royal Australian and New Zealand
7. College of Psychiatrists (regional) Australia
8. Austrian Public Health Association
9. Austrian Society for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics
10. Federal Council of Psychology
11. College of Psychologists of Quebec (regional)
12. Chilean College of Psychologists
13. Costa Rica Professional Association of Psychologists
14. German Medical Association
15. Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists
16. Hong Kong Psychological Society
17. Indian Psychiatric Society
18. Psychological Society of Ireland
19. Israel Medical Association
20. Israel Psychiatric Association
21. Israeli Adolescent Medicine Society
22. Israel Pediatric Association
23. Israel Association of Family Physicians
24. Israel Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Association
25. Lebanese Psychiatric Society
26. Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers
27. Norwegian Psychiatric Association
28. Paraguayan Society of Studies on Human Sexuality
29. Psychological Association of the Philippines
30. Polish Sexology Society
31. Psychological Society of South Africa
32. South African Society of Psychiatrists
33. Spain General Council of Psychology
34. Turkish Psychological Association
35. British Psychological Society
36. National Counselling Society (United Kingdom)
37. Royal College of Psychiatrists (United Kingdom)
38. Association for Family Therapy (United Kingdom)
39. Association of Christian Counsellors (United Kingdom)
40. British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies
41. British Association of Drama Therapists
42. College of Sex and Relationship Therapists (United Kingdom)
43. Psychotherapy and Counselling Union (United Kingdom)
44. Royal College of General Practitioners (United Kingdom)
45. UK Council for Psychotherapy
46. National Association of School Psychologists (United Kingdom)
47. American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry
48. American Academy of Nursing
49. American Academy of Pediatrics
50. American Academy of Physician Assistants
51. American Counseling Association
52. American Federation of Teachers
53. American Medical Women's Association
54. Child Welfare League of America
55. National Association of School Nurses USA
56. National Association of Secondary School Principals USA
57. National Education Association USA
58. School Social Work Association of America
59. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
60. American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists
61. American College of Physicians
62. American Counseling Association
63. American Osteopathic Association
64. American Psychoanalytic Association
65. American School Counselor Association
66. American School Health Association
67. National Association of Secondary School Principals USA
68. National Association of Social Workers USA