

From: EK-postbus <postbus@eerstekamer.nl>
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 2:21 PM
To: EK-postbus <postbus@eerstekamer.nl>
Subject: FW: Submission of a European citizens' initiative to the Commission

Attachments:

Ban on conversion practices.docx

Van: SG-NATIONAL-PARLIAMENTS@ec.europa.eu <SG-NATIONAL-PARLIAMENTS@ec.europa.eu>

Verzonden: dinsdag 18 november 2025 08:13

Onderwerp: Submission of a European citizens' initiative to the Commission

Dear colleagues,

In accordance with Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative, we would like to inform you that the European citizens' initiative '[Ban on conversion practices in the European Union](#)', was submitted to the Commission on **17 November 2025**. We have performed the necessary checks in relation to the submission, which have established that the initiative can be confirmed as valid. The initiative obtained **1,128,063 valid statements of support** with the minimum **thresholds** reached in **eleven Member States**.

The initiative calls on the Commission 'to propose a binding legal ban on conversion practices targeting LGBTQ+ citizens in the European Union'. The initiative defines these practices as 'interventions aimed at changing, repressing or suppressing the sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression of LGTBQ+ persons'.

More information about this initiative is available on the European citizens' initiative public register: https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2024/000001_en

A meeting between the Commission and the organisers will be held within one month, to allow the organisers to explain in detail the matters raised by their citizens' initiative.

The organisers will also be given the opportunity to present the citizens' initiative at a public hearing organised by the European Parliament.

The Commission has until 18 May 2026 to adopt its answer to the initiative in the form of a communication, setting out its legal and political conclusions, the action(s) it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action.

The Commission will inform you about the outcome of this examination procedure.

Yours sincerely,
European citizens' initiative team



European Commission
Secretariat General
Unit C.1 – Work Programme & Foresight

5.1.2.e @ec.europa.eu

European Citizens' Initiative

Ban on conversion practices in the European Union

1. Registered

24/01/2024

2. Collection start date

17/05/2024

3. Collection closed

17/05/2025

4. Verification

16/06/2025

5. Valid initiative

17/11/2025

Information from the European Commission

24/01/2024

[Commission Decision on the registration of the citizens' initiative](#)

Examination by the European Commission

[Steps towards the Commission's answer](#)

Information from the organisers

Disclaimer

The texts below are the sole responsibility of the organisers of the initiative. They reflect solely the views of their authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

Objectives

We call on the European Commission to propose a binding legal ban on conversion practices targeting LGBTQ+ citizens in the European Union:

Conversion Practices are interventions aimed at changing, repressing or suppressing the sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression of LGBTQ+ persons.

Such practices, due to their discriminatory, degrading, harmful and fraudulent nature have been qualified as torture by the United Nations, and are currently being banned in a growing number of States.

The EU plays a key role in the protection of fundamental rights and should take actions to fight against all inhuman practices. The Commission should propose a directive adding conversion practices to the list of euro-crimes and/or amend the ongoing directive on equality (2008) to include a ban on these practices.

Furthermore, to fight against the legislative moratorium, the Commission should also enforce a non-binding resolution calling for a widespread ban of conversion practices in the EU.

Finally, we call on the Commission to amend the Victims' Rights Directive to establish minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of conversion practices.

All member states should introduce a ban on conversion practices or review their current ones.

Annex

I - Definition of conversion practices

Conversion practices on LGBTQ+ people are comprised of a diverse group of mental and physical manipulations, psycho-hypnotic indoctrinations (usually presented to public as “therapies”), medical and homoeopathic interventions, exorcism and other treatments enacted with the aim of altering Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression. Such practices are based on two erroneous premises: first, that sexual orientation and gender identity is necessarily a choice, the result of some esoteric evil power, or an outright disease, and second, that it can be suppressed, changed or cured.

Both academic literature and policy documents of international organisations often refer to such conversion practices as “conversion therapies” or “reparative therapies”, especially when under the guise of seemingly professional counselling by psychologists or psychiatrists.

According to the “Report on conversion therapy by the United Nations independent expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” (2020), conversion practices are “deeply harmful interventions that rely on the medically false idea that LGBTQ+ people are sick, inflicting severe pain and suffering, and resulting in long-lasting psychological and physical damage”.

II - Facts and figures

Though there is little available data on conversion practices, we can still rely on a number of reports

The “National LGBT Survey” in the UK (2017) reveals that 5% of respondents have been offered conversion in an attempt to “cure” them of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) during their lifetime; 2% reported that they had undergone conversion therapy; 4% of transgender respondents have undergone conversion therapy, and 8% reported having been offered it.

The report “Unga hbtq-personers utsatthet för omvändelseförsök i Sverige” (Sweden, 2022), estimates that 16% of LGBTQ+ Youth have felt pressured to change their identity and 5% have been exposed to other forms of threats or harm.

In 2019, the William Institute estimated that around 700 000 US citizens have undergone conversion practices.

These figures show that the situation varies from one country to another, and therefore any general estimate has to be taken into account with caution. Nevertheless, based on the available data we can roughly calculate that 5% of LGBTQ+ EU citizens have been pressured to undergo conversion practices.

III - Recommendations for a ban on conversion practices

The report on “*Conversion Practices on LGBTQ+ People*” requested by the LIBE committee, published in July 2023 makes the following recommendations for lawmakers on what a ban on conversion practices should include:

- Provide a **clear, precise and comprehensive definition** of conversion practices, which shall cover all practices that seek to **change, repress or suppress** a person's **sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression**;
- Prohibit the **offering, advertising, and performance** of conversion practices in all settings, irrespective of the settings in which conversion practices are carried out or of the perpetrator or the promoter, so to cover **health-care, religious, educational, community, commercial or any other setting, public or private**;
- The prohibition shall be implemented and enforced through **criminal and/or civil or administrative law**;
- Laws should provide for appropriate, proportionate and dissuasive **penalties and sanctions**, based on the acts of torture and inhumane treatment and their gravity, the victims involved and the harm caused
- The ban should particularly protect **children, young people and vulnerable adults** from conversion practices, by taking special prevention and protection measures;
- **Consent** should be deemed irrelevant in relation to the ban on conversion practices, due to its dubious nature in this context, both for children and for adults;
- The offering or provision of conversion practices by health professionals, the involvement of minors or vulnerable adults and any financial remuneration should be considered as **aggravating circumstances**. This should result in severe consequences, such as the withdrawal of licences, termination of public funding, and the closure of establishments offering such ‘practices’. In cases involving minors, parental responsibility and authority should be examined closely to ensure their well-being and protection;
- **Claims** related to conversion practices should be promptly investigated, leading to prosecution and appropriate punishment for offenders. **Victims** of conversion practices should be provided with legal, medical, and psychological assistance as well as support. They should have access to justice, including avenues for redress, reparations and rehabilitation; public **funds** shall not be used, to support conversion practices;
- **National human rights institutions, ombudsmen and equality bodies** shall be competent in countering conversion practices, while media and education **campaigns** shall be launched. **Data** shall be collected on the magnitude of conversion practices in the national territory;
- **Laws and regulations** that enable, promote or fuel conversion practices shall be repealed, particularly those that criminalise LGBTQ+ persons. Anti-discrimination measures and

campaigns shall take their place to promote equality and ensure protection from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

- Member States, should implement the above recommendations and **introduce bans on conversion practices**. If they have already enacted such **bans**, they should review them to ensure that they are in conformity with the above recommendations, stemming from recommendations made by the UN and the CoE.

Number of valid statements of support

Country	Statements of support	Threshold	Percentage
Austria	10,724	13,395	80.06%
Belgium	47,459	14,805	320.56%
Bulgaria	2,386	11,985	19.91%
Croatia	8,574	8,460	101.35%
Cyprus	696	4,230	16.45%
Czechia	3,774	14,805	25.49%
Denmark	8,587	9,870	87.00%
Estonia	1,519	4,935	30.78%
Finland	23,618	9,870	239.29%
France	580,568	55,695	1,042.41%
Germany	92,739	67,680	137.03%
Greece	4,127	14,805	27.88%
Hungary	3,195	14,805	21.58%

Country	Statements of support	Threshold	Percentage
Ireland	18,503	9,165	201.89%
Italy	60,701	53,580	113.29%
Latvia	1,103	5,640	19.56%
Lithuania	1,973	7,755	25.44%
Luxembourg	2,091	4,230	49.43%
Malta	861	4,230	20.35%
Netherlands	38,112	20,445	186.41%
Poland	9,039	36,660	24.66%
Portugal	9,025	14,805	60.96%
Romania	9,932	23,265	42.69%
Slovakia	2,671	9,870	27.06%
Slovenia	6,400	5,640	113.48%
Spain	162,018	41,595	389.51%
Sweden	17,668	14,805	119.34%
Total number of signatories	1,128,063		