

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1072
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/01275/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

15 January 2021

Dear Janet,

Petition P-05-1072 Investigate what powers the Welsh Parliament has in relation to banning conversion therapy

Thank you for your letter of 21 December in relation to the steps Welsh Government would consider to ban conversion therapy.

I'd like to reassure the petitioners and the Committee that equality is at the core of what we do at Welsh Government, that diversity will always be celebrated, and discrimination has no place in Wales. It is our belief that any attempts to try to change or alter a person's sexual orientation or gender identity through conversion therapy are wrong and wholly unacceptable.

Welsh Government strongly advocates the rights of LGBT+ people and as such we are developing an ambitious LGBT+ Action Plan. The plan will strengthen protections for LGBT+ people across Wales, promote equality for all and help to coordinate ambitious actions across government and beyond.

We will use the LGBT+ Action Plan as a route to consider and develop an approach to banning conversion therapy in Wales. My officials are in contact with our colleagues in other devolved nations who are taking a similar approach to share learning on this issue.

As the lead body for the LGBT+ strand of our Equality and Inclusion programme, Stonewall Cymru supports the Welsh Government's equality agenda and acts as a

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

representative body for LGBT+ people in Wales. We are working closely with them to better understand the issue and how LGBT+ people in Wales are being impacted.

It is also important to set the development of the LGBT+ Action Plan in the context of our wider work to strengthen equality and human rights in Wales. Research to help us achieve this aim is nearing completion and I anticipate that the Welsh Government will consult on emerging options in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter 'J'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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