

Conversion Therapy Prohibition (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Bill [HL]

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 1

LORD STRATHCARRON

Clause 1, page 1, line 9, at end insert –

“(2A) The use of mainstream religious prayers, such as the Lord’s Prayer, constitutes “conversion therapy” should the conditions in subsection (2) be met.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to make explicit that using standard liturgical prayers of repentance would constitute ‘conversion therapy’ as defined by the Act (assuming the other conditions are met).

LORD STRATHCARRON

Clause 1, page 1, line 9, at end insert –

“(2A) The person at whom any practice is aimed does not need to be present for an offence to be committed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify that the person upon whom ‘conversion therapy’ is being performed does not have to be present for an offence to be committed.

After Clause 1

LORD STRATHCARRON

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Application of this Act to organisations relating to religion or belief

- (1) This section applies to an organisation the purpose of which is –
- (a) to practise a religion or belief,
 - (b) to advance a religion or belief,
 - (c) to teach the practice or principles of a religion or belief, or

- (d) to enable persons of a religion or belief to receive any benefit, or to engage in any activity, within the framework of that religion or belief.
- (2) This section does not apply to an organisation whose sole or main purpose is commercial.
- (3) The organisation does not contravene any part of this Act only by acting for purposes related to restricting –
 - (a) membership of the organisation;
 - (b) participation in activities undertaken by the organisation or on its behalf or under its auspices;
 - (c) the provision of goods, facilities or services in the course of activities undertaken by the organisation or on its behalf or under its auspices.
- (4) A person does not contravene any part of this Act only by doing anything mentioned in subsection (3) on behalf of or under the auspices of the organisation.
- (5) A minister does not contravene any part of this Act only by acting for purposes related to restricting –
 - (a) participation in activities carried on in the performance of the minister's functions in connection with or in respect of the organisation;
 - (b) the provision of goods, facilities or services in the course of activities carried on in the performance of the minister's functions in connection with or in respect of the organisation.
- (6) Conduct only falls within subsection (3) to (5) if it is –
 - (a) necessary to comply with the doctrine of the organisation, or
 - (b) to avoid conflict with the strongly held convictions of a significant number of the religion's followers.
- (7) In subsection (5), the reference to a minister is a reference to a minister of religion, or other person, who –
 - (a) performs functions in connection with a religion or belief to which the organisation relates, and
 - (b) holds an office or appointment in, or is accredited, approved or recognised for the purposes of the organisation.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause seeks to provide protection for organisations relating to religion or belief, similar to Paragraph 2 of Schedule 23 of the Equality Act 2010, and seeks to safeguard rights under Article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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