

TO: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
FROM: The Rev. Mario Bergner, Redeemed Lives, Inc.
REGARDING: Safeguarding the Rights of All People with Unwanted Sexual Attractions
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Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2011
Tuesday, 27 September 2011
Working Session 2: Fundamental Freedoms
Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

Central Recommendation: That participating states of the OSCE region safeguard the rights of all people with unwanted sexual attractions to seek out their treatment of choice and not be labeled as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ).

Hate speech laws, that rightly protect people with LGBTQ self-identifications, are being over broadly applied causing discrimination against people with unwanted sexual attractions. Not everyone who experiences sexual attractions to members of the same-sex, concurrent attractions to members of both sexes, or even attractions to children *want* these attractions. Additionally, not everyone who experiences sexual affections in various expressions of transgenderism (transvestitism, heterosexual cross dressing and transexuality) want these.

Yet resources for people with the above mentioned *unwanted* sexual attractions are now threatened. In recent years there have been at least two professional psychologists and one graduate student who were wrongly accused of discrimination due to the overbroad application of hate speech laws protecting people who self identify as LGBTQ. Paul Miller (Northern Ireland) and Leslie Pilkington (England) were both suspended from practicing therapy after they were entrapped by the same gay activist who falsely claimed he was seeking help for unwanted same-sex attractions. This activist secretly taped his faux therapy sessions with Miller and Pilkington, and then used these recordings to bring a lawsuit against them arguing they violated LGBTQ rights in the United Kingdom. Yet neither Miller nor Pilkington would have offered therapy to change this 'client's' sexual attractions had they been informed he *wanted* to retain them. Paul Miller's case lingered for over two years before it resolved in a reinstatement of his license. Leslie Pilkington's case continues, while her license to practice is suspended. In the USA, Julea Ward was expelled from the graduate program at Eastern Michigan University because she could not in good conscience establish a rapport with a gay man who wanted counseling regarding his relationship to his same-sex partner. Although she followed institutional policies addressing such a values conflict she was first disciplined, then expelled from the program. Her case was tried in a US court, and she lost. These actions against Miller, Pilkington and Ward indicate a deleterious direction endangering the freedom of conscience for people with unwanted sexual attractions to receive professional care. If such intolerance and discrimination against professional therapists persists, there will one day be no resources available for people with unwanted sexual attractions.

Moreover, overbroad application of hate speech laws, that rightly protect people with LGBTQ self-identifications, are interpreted as having an anthropologic *a priori* essentialist assumption that people *are* lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer. The result is that men and women who experience similar sexual affections and attractions as unwanted are labeled as LGBTQ or accused of living a lie. This is discrimination and hate speech of another sort, the type that labels a human being against the convictions of his or her conscience and negates the beliefs that guide their lives. This is exemplified by the title (and content) of an article published in the New York Times Magazine, June 16, 2011, *Living the Good Lie: Should therapists help God-fearing people stay in the closet?* At no time does the journalist imply that a person with unwanted same-sex attractions might prefer struggling against such attractions because of love for his or her spouse, love for the children of that marriage or the family life they cherish.

Therefore, I suggest that participating states of the OSCE region safeguard the rights of all people with unwanted sexual attractions to seek out their treatment of choice to protect them from being labeled lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ).