



Statement on action against Director of Core Issues Trust

26 March 2012

Following his participation in the recent BBC Radio Ulster programme 'Sunday Sequence', the British Psychodrama Association (BPA) has revoked the membership and trainee status of Dr Mike Davidson, co-director of Core Issues Trust. This was done without hearing, and without any complaint from a client.

On 22nd January 2012, in the second of the two programmes Professor Andrew Samuels, Chair of the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP), offered his views and judgements on the matter, publicly. These were based on the UKCP's (2011) ["Guidance on the Practice of Psychological Therapies that Pathologise and/or Seek to Eliminate or Reduce Same Sex Attraction"](#). This document asserts that it is an ethical offence, under any circumstances, for a UKCP -accredited or -associated therapist, to assist a client in reducing same sex attractions.

Following Professor Samuel's comments, in a letter to Dr Davidson from the BPA (22nd March 2012) the organisation states that, in dealing with this matter, "our usual complaints procedure as laid out in the BPA Professional Handbook has had to be adjusted". Presumably this is because the procedure was designed to address situations where a client has made a complaint against a therapist, but no such complaint has been made in this case. The complaint arises because of the recently imposed views of the UKCP supported by the BPA, which can tolerate no other perspective even though their views cannot be scientifically substantiated without question.

In the same letter, the BPA sets out its understanding of Dr Davidson's views and asserts "If this is indeed representative of your position today, we wonder if there is any value in pursuing this matter further".

Neither the UKCP nor the BPA have been willing to engage in any discussion about what appears to be an uncritical acceptance of the views imposed through the UKCP guidelines in this area. Our attempts to engage in critical debate with both have been on-going since June 2011, but have not been allowed. Instead, the BPA has instigated the current complaint, on the grounds of "public safety". As noted above, no complaint has been made by any client.

In 2010 the UKCP produced a [statement banning 'reparative' therapies](#), and introduced the above guidelines in late 2011. Both statements exceed the [American Psychological Association's](#) and [Royal College of Psychiatrists' \(RCP\) position statement](#) on the area by refusing SOCE (sexual orientation change efforts) under any circumstances.

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Mike Davidson has been registered at the Birmingham Institute for Psychodrama since early 2009. This UKCP registered training institution has been aware of his work with Core Issues Trust since that time. Mike was helped in his journey out of homosexuality through psychotherapy and says having his goals supported by professionals was key to the help he received. Opportunities for others to receive similar help are being systematically denied to them by the UKCP and similar organisations.

He said “the BPA’s action is an example of the ‘intolerance of the tolerant’ which denies individuals their human right to define their own sexual identity and to seek professional help to achieve personal therapeutic goals. There is no quality scientific literature to substantiate the claim that sexual orientation change efforts are of necessity harmful”.

The investigation continues.

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Further information:

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