

Issued on behalf of Core Issues Trust

News Release

For Immediate Release

10 June 2014

Poll shows Health Minister 'out of step' with public opinion on same-sex therapy

- **Poll shows 2 to 1 opposition to ban on therapy to change unwanted same-sex attraction**
- **Opposition climbs to 5 to 1 in the case of man seeking help to 'hold his family together'**
- **Royal College of Psychiatrists backs down on 'born gay' claim**
- **Conference this week on same-sex attraction and 'change therapy'**

Opponents of a ban on therapy for a married man who wants to receive help to minimise homosexual feelings, in order to save his marriage, outnumber supporters of such a ban by more than five to one.

The findings from a poll by ComRes fly in the face of a demand by the Health Minister, Norman Lamb, that GPs should not refer people with unwanted same-sex feelings to professional counsellors or psychotherapists.

"When respondents were given a real-life example of a married man with a wife and children who would like access to talking therapy from a counsellor to help reduce homosexual feelings, there was overwhelming opposition to banning such help," says Dr. Mike Davidson, Director of Core Issues Trust who commissioned the survey.

The poll found that 64% - nearly two thirds - supported the right of people to seek therapeutic help to change, with 12% saying such help should be denied and 24% declining to offer a view.

Core Issues Trust represents men and women who wish to change unwanted same-sex feelings and Dr Davidson has been campaigning against an existing ban by professional bodies for psychotherapists which will not licence counsellors who offer help to clients who want to reject homosexual feelings.

"Our survey shows that when you give the public a real-life scenario involving a family, then opponents of such a ban outnumber those in favour by more than five to one and two-thirds of people recognise the right to such therapy," he said.

"The disturbing thing is that Mr. Lamb and bodies such as the Royal College of Psychiatrists

and UK Council for Psychotherapy, are opposed to offering help to people who have made a conscious choice to change, based on prejudice and ideology rather than scientific evidence that therapy is harmful. In fact there is no peer-reviewed science in existence conclusively showing harmful effects of this type of therapy.”

Royal College of Psychiatrists backs down on 'born gay' claim

Following a review of scientific evidence, the Royal College of Psychiatrists had to [climb-down](#) in April from its previous claim that people are 'born gay' and recognise that sexual orientation is not "immutable".

However, the College continues to oppose therapies that seek to reduce unwanted same-sex attraction, claiming that they are "potentially harmful".

Dr Davidson believes supporters of the ban are preaching an *“ideology over science which is influenced by a militant minority of gay lobbyists who fear that such treatment undermines their groundless propaganda that being homosexual is in-born”*.

“Opponents of the freedom to change misrepresent our talking therapies as ‘gay conversion’ which is a complete distortion. Our counselling works for those who genuinely want to change and no coercion, aversion therapy or judgemental approach is involved. Clearly being gay is not a genetic condition when people who have been helped by Core Issues Trust and other groups have successfully moved away from a homosexual lifestyle.”

Conference this week on same-sex attraction and 'change therapy'

Later this week, internationally recognised experts on same-sex attraction and change therapy will address delegates at the ['Debunking the Myths'](#) Conferences in London and Belfast.

ENDS.

For more information/interview

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Notes for editors

ComRes surveyed a representative sample of 2003 GB adults online on 9-10 April 2014. Data were weighted to be representative of all adults. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

Full data tables available at www.comres.co.uk.

Core Issues Trust (www.core-issues.org) is a non-profit Christian ministry supporting men and women with homosexual issues who voluntarily seek change in sexual preference and expression. It respects the rights of individuals who identify as 'gay' who do not seek change, and supports dignity for LGBT persons.

The impact of the Royal College's change in position will be discussed at the 'Debunking the

Myths' Conferences next week in London (13th June) and Belfast (14th June) - for more information: <http://www.debunkingthemyths.com>

Position Statement on Sexual Orientation from the Royal College of Psychiatrists is available here www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/PS02_2014.pdf

Response Statement from Core Issues Trust' is available [here](#) (or at www.core-issues.org)

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