

Christian Concern

Book now: World leaders in psychotherapy and theology join Core and Christian Concern to challenge myths about same-sex attraction

An important national conference addressed by world-renowned practitioners in therapy for 'ex-gay and post-gay' people, will be held in London and Belfast in June.

The aim of the conferences is to expose and overcome "unscientific prejudice" against therapeutic help for men and women who want to move away from homosexual practices and feelings.

The conference speakers will be American Psychological Association (APA) Member, clinical psychologist and President of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), Dr Christopher Rosik; the CEO of Restored Hope Network, Anne Paulk, herself a former lesbian; Associate Professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Professor Robert Gagnon; and Andrea Williams, CEO of the Christian Legal Centre which supports Core Issues Trust.

The conference organiser – Core Issues Trust, a Christian charity - is campaigning against what it calls the “unproven claims that therapeutic help for people with unwanted same-sex attraction are necessarily harmful.”

Dr Mike Davidson, Director of the Trust, says the conferences, entitled '*Debunking the myths: Same-sex Attraction, Science and the Gospel*', will “highlight the loss of freedom” for UK citizens to seek professional help to move away from a homosexual lifestyle and, where possible, feelings.

“An ideological view based on misrepresenting as coercive ‘conversion’ therapy, psychotherapy for people who voluntarily want to be free from feelings of same-sex attraction, has led to counsellors being banned by professional bodies without any science to back the claim that such help is intrinsically harmful.

“The truth is that professional bodies are intimidated by a militant gay activist minority which sees such therapy as an attack on their unscientific claim that people are born gay and should not change. But I am concerned about individuals such as men who want to preserve marriages and relationships with children by seeking professional help to reduce or lose unwanted same-sex feelings.”

A ban on practitioners offering help to people who want to move



*Dr Christopher Rosik
President of NARTH*



*Robert A.J. Gagnon
Associate Professor
of New Testament, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary*



*Ann Paulk
CEO, Restored Hope Network
and Author*

away from a homosexual lifestyle has been imposed by the UK Council for Psychotherapy, as well as the Association of Christian Counsellors, under pressure from the Government's Professional Standards Authority which provides official registration to professional bodies.



*Dr Mike Davidson
Director, Core Issues Trust*

"There are no known registered and practising Reparative Therapists in the UK, and 'conversion' therapy is a pejorative term which tends to discredit serious and scientifically supported Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE). Core Issues Trust offers neither of these therapies, often disparagingly called 'Voodoo Therapies', but offers support to individuals who voluntarily seek help to manage, reduce or eliminate unwanted same-sex feelings," says Dr Davidson.

He argues that under the Equalities Act (2010) discrimination against a person because of their past, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or because their sexual orientation has changed, is unlawful as established in a recent High Court ruling. He believes the professional bodies which govern therapists misunderstand the provisions of the Act as only protecting Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transsexual people (LGBT).

Andrea Williams of Christian Concern who will make a keynote speech at the three national conferences, says:

"This is a critical time when we have to stand against the denial of freedom for a man or woman to move away from unwanted same-sex attraction. It is concerning that professional bodies have been unable to provide peer-reviewed scientific evidence to show that helping people to overcome unwanted same-sex feelings is harmful. It is a restriction on the civil liberties of those people to be denied access to professional counselling in order to change same-sex feelings."

For the programme & booking details please visit: www.debunkingthemyths.com

London Conference:

Friday 13th June, 10.30am - 5pm

The Emmanuel Centre in Marsham St, London, Westminster SW1P 3DW

Northern Ireland Conference:

Saturday 14th June, 10am - 5pm

Venue: Ballynahinch Baptist Church, near Belfast

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