

## **MAYOR OF GREATER MANCHESTER AND LEADING ORGANISATIONS PLEDGE TO END CONVERSION THERAPY IN THE CITY-REGION**

Greater Manchester should be a safe city-region for everyone and we are committed to ending conversion therapy for all members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Conversion therapy is a practice where an individual or organisation seeks an intervention with a predetermined outcome to change, cure or suppress the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person. Just as we won't do business with those who promote discrimination or division, we believe that organisations that support, promote or facilitate conversion therapy for any member of the LGBTQ+ community should not be receiving public funding.

Organisations that support, promote, or facilitate conversion therapy or which campaign against the ending of conversion therapy should not be able to provide services on behalf of Greater Manchester Combined Authority, or to receive support from the GMCA or its affiliated community funding streams.

I urge all public bodies, organisations and businesses in Greater Manchester to sign up to this commitment.

### **Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester**

The Greater Manchester LGBTQ+ Equality Panel believe that **our people and communities** are our strongest voice for change; we believe through **policy and research** we can change lives and through **practice and action**, we will make Greater Manchester a global example of a respectful and safe place to live, learn, work and play.

### **Signed and supported by:**

Bev Craig, Leader, Manchester City Council

Dr. Paul Martin, OBE, LGBT Foundation

Carl Austin-Behan OBE DL, LGBTQ+ Advisor to the Mayor of Greater Manchester

Paul Dennett, City Mayor, Salford City Council

Mark Fletcher, CEO, Manchester Pride

Lisa Harvey-Nebil - Chief Executive Officer, The Proud Trust

Tim Sigsworth MBE, Chief Executive, AKT

Darren Knight, Chief Executive, George House Trust

**Notes to Editors:**

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Interviews with the Greater Manchester LGBTQ Equality Panel's Co-Chair Brian Boag are available upon request.

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**About the Greater Manchester LGBTQ Equality Panel:**

The Greater Manchester LGBTQ+ Equality Panel is one of seven panels established by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to tackle inequality and injustice in the region. Its aim is to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people across the city region by championing LGBTQ+ inclusion, and ensuring that the interests of our diverse LGBTQ+ communities drive all aspects of running and planning for the future of Greater Manchester.

The panel is made up of LGBTQ+ volunteers from across Greater Manchester, all of whom represent the rich diversity of the city-regions LGBTQ+ community.

**About the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia:**

The International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia was created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

The date of May 17 was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organisation's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

The Day represents a major global annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, corporations, opinion leaders, local authorities, etc. to the alarming situation faced by people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

May 17 is now celebrated in more than 130 countries, including 37 where same-sex acts are illegal. Thousands of initiatives, big and small, are reported throughout the planet.