



Statement Upholding the American Psychoanalytic Association's Opposition to Conversion Therapy

The United States Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in *Chiles v. Salazar*, a case that challenges the constitutionality of Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors. If the Court strikes down the law, it endangers similar laws in twenty other states, as well as the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQIA+ youth who will be subjected to conversion therapy efforts.

In light of this, the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsA) upholds its opposition to conversion therapy, a widely discredited and harmful practice known to cause significant psychological trauma, profound emotional distress, and increased suicidality (Green et al., 2020; Goodyear et al., 2021; Glassgold et al., 2022). As stated in its *Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression*, APsA continues to “affirm the right of all people to their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression without interference or coercive interventions attempting to change sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression” (2012). The list of professional organizations that oppose conversion or reparative therapy is extensive and has only grown since APsA released this position statement (Ashley, 2018). APsA recognizes that conversion therapy practices are based in prejudicial attitudes toward LGBTQIA+ people and reinforces its commitment to remove “the stigma of mental illness long associated with homosexual, bisexual and transgender identities and gender non-conformance” (2012).

In a climate of increasing political hostility towards and attacks on the rights of sexual and gender minorities, and rising rates of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, with Black LGBTQIA+ people experiencing the highest rates of victimization (Meyer & Flores, 2025), our organization expresses its unwavering support to the LGBTQIA+ community and reiterates the importance of directly confronting misinformation and discrimination (APsA, 2025), including that which is at the root of harmful conversion therapy practices.

Statement Upholding the American Psychoanalytic Association's Opposition to Conversion Therapy

September 2025

Page 1 of 2

References

American Psychoanalytic Association (2012, June). *Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression*. <https://apsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2012-Position-Statement-on-Attempts-to-Change-Sexual-Orientation-Gender-Identity-or-Gender-Expression.pdf>

American Psychoanalytic Association (2025, March). *APsA Opposes Online Policies That Promote LGBTQ Misinformation and Harm*. <https://apsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/APsA-Statement-on-Online-Policies-3.25.pdf>

Ashley, F. (2018, October 4). *List of professional organizations opposing conversion or reparative therapy targeting transgender and gender non-conforming individuals*. Medium. <https://medium.com/@florence.ashley/list-of-professional-organisations-opposing-conversion-or-reparative-therapy-targeting-transgender-f700b4e02c4e>

Glassgold, J. M., & Ryan, C. (2022). The role of families in efforts to change, support, and affirm sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression in children and youth. In D. C. Haldman (Ed.), *The Case Against Conversion “Therapy”: Evidence, Ethics, and Alternatives* (pp. 89-107). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000266-005>

Goodyear, T., Kinitz, D. J., Dromer, E., Gesink, D., Ferlatte, O., Knight, R., & Salway, T. (2022). “They want you to kill your inner queer but somehow leave the human alive”: Delineating the impacts of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression change efforts. *Journal of Sex Research*, 59(5), 599- 609. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.1910616>

Green, A. E., Price-Feeney, M., Dorison, S. H., & Pick, C. J. (2020). Self-reported conversion efforts and suicidality among US LGBTQ youths and young adults, 2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, 11(8), 1221–1227. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305701>

Meyer, I. H., & Flores, A. R. (2025, February 19). *Anti-LGBT victimization in the United States*. Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/anti-lgbt-victimization-us/>