

## **Institute of Group Analysis and UKCP Statement on Conversion Therapy (aka Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts: SOGICE)**

The Institute of Group Analysis stands by its regulatory and accrediting body, the UKCP, against the practice of conversion therapy in relation to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

The UKCP is a signatory of the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) on Conversion Therapy in the UK](#) along with 20 other organisations including NHS England, NHS Scotland, The British Psychological Society, Pink Therapy and the Royal College of GPs, and is an active member of the MoU Coalition Against Conversion Therapy.

All UKCP registrants are expected to comply with the MoU, which states that ***‘the practice of conversion therapy, whether in relation to sexual orientation or gender identity, is unethical and potentially harmful.’***

UKCP, alongside other MoU signatory bodies, is committed to working with the government to ensure its legislation will complement the MoU in this respect. MoU signatory bodies are also committed to enabling their members, where appropriate, to provide support for survivors of conversion therapy – the statutory provision for which must be included in the government’s forthcoming legislation.

In light of the recent circulation of misinformation, it is important to emphasise the MoU does not deny, discourage or exclude those with uncertain feelings around sexuality or gender identity from seeking qualified and appropriate help. The document explicitly supports therapists to provide appropriately informed and ethical practice when working with a client who wishes to explore, experiences conflict with, or is in distress regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity.

It states: ***"For people who are unhappy about their sexual orientation or their gender identity, there may be grounds for exploring therapeutic options to help them live more comfortably with it, reduce their distress and reach a greater degree of self-acceptance. Some people may benefit from the support of psychotherapy and counselling to help them manage unhappiness and to clarify their sense of themselves. Clients make healthy choices when they understand themselves better."***

This is entirely in keeping with the fundamental therapeutic principles already enshrined within the [UKCP Code of Ethics and Professional Practice](#) and is fully supported by the IGA.