



General Synod welcomes transgender people and backs ban on conversion therapy

**Motions Passed at the General Synod of the Church of England in York
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The General Synod of the Church of England has passed a motion on welcoming and affirming the gender identities of transgender people.
9 July 2017

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2017/07/welcoming-transgender-people.aspx>

That this Synod, recognising the need for transgender people to be welcomed and affirmed in their parish church, call on the House of Bishops to consider whether some nationally commended liturgical materials might be prepared to mark a person's gender transition.

The votes in the House of Bishops were 30 for two against, with two abstentions. In the House of Clergy 127 backed the motion with 28 against and 16 abstentions. In the House of Laity 127 supported the motion with 48 opposing and eight abstentions.

General Synod backs ban on conversion therapy.
8 July 2017

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2017/07/general-synod-backs-ban-on-conversion-therapy.aspx>

The full motion agreed was:

That this Synod: (a) endorse the Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK of November 2015, signed by The Royal College of Psychiatrists and others, that the practice of gay conversion therapy has no place in the modern world, is unethical, potentially harmful and not supported by evidence; and 3 (b) call upon the Church to be sensitive to, and to listen to, contemporary expressions of gender identity; (c) and call on the government to ban the practice of Conversion Therapy.

The votes in the House of Bishops were 36 for and one against, with no abstentions. In the House of Clergy 135 backed the motion with 25 against and 13 abstentions. In the House of Laity 127 supported the motion with 48 opposing and 13 abstentions.

ARTICLES

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/09/anglican-church-set-to-offer-special-services-for-transgender-people>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40546644>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-blessing-for-transgender-people-6v8th2c6r>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-of-england-synod-debate-calls-on-government-ban-gay-cure-therapies-conversion-therapy-a7834216.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/08/church-of-england-demands-ban-on-conversion-therapy>

COMMENTARY

Gilchrist, S. (2017): *“Condemning Sexual Abuse and Welcoming Gender and Sexually Variant People into the Christian Church”*:

<http://www.tqdr.co.uk/documents/237P-ChangesInChurch.pdf>