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Dear Karen.

I am writing to provide a further update to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee on the Scottish Government's public consultation on ending conversion practices in Scotland.

The Scottish Government launched a consultation on the 9 January 2024 which ran until the 4 April 2024 and received over 5,800 responses.

The consultation analysis has been published today and can be accessed alongside the supporting documents here: https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836910404. We have also published a Scottish Government response to the consultation analysis and all responses to the consultation have been published where permission has been given to do so.

I also wish to reiterate the Scottish Government's commitment to ending harmful and abusive conversion practices in Scotland. We are continuing to engage with the UK Government to explore legislation that would apply to England, Wales and Scotland but have committed to publishing Scottish legislation in the next parliamentary session should this not be achievable. Work is underway to consider responses to the consultation as part of this process.

To ensure there is sufficient support available for victims and survivors of conversion practices, we have provided funding to support the delivery of a helpline service in Scotland. The details of this helpline service can be found here, and we welcome the support of all Members in sharing the details.

Yours sincerely,

KAUKAB STEWART, Minister for Equalities

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