

## UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

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Tirana, 15.05.2020

### STATEMENT

An official request has been submitted to the Order of Psychologists, with protocol number 115, dated 11.05.2020, by the Pink Embassy / LGBT Pro Albania, represented by the President of the Board, Mr. Altin Hazizaj, in which the concern has been raised regarding the application of Conversion Therapy to individuals of the LGBT community in Albania.

The Order of Psychologist, after discussions in the National Council and specifically with its members, who are specialists in the field of therapies, appreciating the concern raised, expresses the official position of the institution as follows:

Taking under consideration that:

- There is still no scientific, methodological or professional study that shows that Conversion Therapy is a functional method;
- The development of this method by Psychologists directly violates the decision of the World Health Organization (WHO), which on May 17, 1990 removed homosexuality from the classification of mental disorders;
- Referring to studies conducted by the American Psychological Association, it turns out that Conversion Therapy has had extremely negative consequences on the people with whom it has developed;
- Our professionals appreciate that Conversion Therapy is an archaic, unethical practice that falls categorically against fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The Order of the Psychologist of Albania expresses, through this public statement, that:

The application of Conversion Therapy by Psychologists is strictly prohibited, as it violates the rights, freedoms, integrity of each individual, and causes great psychological damage to the individuals of the LGBT community to whom it is applied.

In this regard, the Order of Psychologists requires the cooperation of all institutions and associations that protect the rights of the LGBT community in the country to identify and prevent any case of development of Conversion Therapy in the future.

Any psychologist, who will apply this therapy, will be subject to the initiation of a professional disciplinary proceedings, to take measures by the Ethics Commission and Professional Judgment.