



To: United Nations Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity

From: Clinton W. Anderson, PhD, Secretariat for the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues

Date: December 20, 2019

Subject: Call for Inputs dated 21 November 2019

I write on behalf of the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Issues ([IPsyNet](#)) in response to the November 21, 2019 Call for Inputs by the Independent Expert on the topic of “conversion therapy.” The membership of IPsyNet currently includes 23 national psychology organizations that collectively work to promote knowledge about and the human rights and well-being of sexual and gender minority people around the world.

In June 2018, at the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Montreal, Canada, IPsyNet released a [seven-paragraph position statement](#) advocating for the human rights of and affirmative health care for sexual and gender minority people (attached). The statement has been endorsed so far by 32 national psychology organizations representing all regions of the world and is available so far in 10 languages (the PDFs of the statement in all languages are being updated with the names and logos of recent endorsees, three psychology organizations in the Taiwan and one in Puerto Rico). Its purpose was to articulate shared transnational values of organized psychology and a growing global consensus of professional authority grounded in psychological science concerning sexual and gender minority people to inform practice and policy.

The third paragraph of the document speaks to subject of the Call for Inputs:

As LGBTIQ+ identities and orientations are normative variations of human experience and are not diagnosable mental disorders per se, they do not require therapeutic interventions to change them. Given that conversion therapies actively stigmatize same-sex orientations and transgender identities, as well as have the potential for harm, we support affirmative approaches to therapy for LGBTIQ+ people and reject therapies that aim to cause harm to LGBTIQ+ people.

The Representatives of member organizations of IPsyNet were pleased to see the Independent Expert’s Call for Inputs on this important issue. They were enthusiastic in support of sharing the IPsyNet position statement with the hope that the growing global consensus of organized psychology it represents could help inform the report for the 44th session of the Human Rights Council.