



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
ORDER OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
PRESIDENT



Tirana, on 15.05.2020

STATEMENT

An official request was submitted to the Order of Psychologists, No. 115 Prot, dated 11.05.2020, by the "PINK Embassy / LGBTI Pro Albania", represented by the Chairman of the Board Mr. Altin HAZIZAJ, in which the focus was the concern regarding application of Covertion Therapy by psychologists to LGBTI individuals in Albania.

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

Considering 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 statement of the World Health Organization (WHO), which on May 17, 1990 removed homosexuality from the classification of mental disorders.
- Referring to the studies made by the American Psychological Association, it turns out that Conversion Therapy has had extremely negative consequences on the people with whom it has been developed.
- Our professionals appreciate that Conversion Therapy is an archaic, unethical practice that categorically contradicts fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The Order of the Psychologists expresses the public position that:

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

Pursuant to the above, the Order of Psychologists of Albania requires the cooperation of all institutions and associations that protect the rights of the LGBTI community in the country, to identify and prevent any case of development of Conversion Therapy in the future. Any professional psychologist, who will apply the development of this therapy, will be subject to the initiation of professional disciplinary proceedings, to take measures by the Ethics Commission and Professional Judgment.

Dr. Valbona FRESKA
PRESIDENT

