



BAN ON CONVERSION PRACTICES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

As one of the European Union's key participatory democracy instruments, the European citizens' initiative (ECI) enables citizens to invite the European Commission to propose legislative measures in areas within EU competence. Since its introduction, the ECI has strengthened citizens' direct involvement in shaping Union policies, including in areas such as fundamental rights, equality, and public health.

The **Ban on conversion practices in the EU** initiative forms part of this democratic process, reflecting citizens' demand for stronger EU action to protect LGBTIQ+ individuals from such practices.



WHAT ARE THE INITIATIVE'S GOALS?

Conversion practices are defined by the initiative organisers as interventions aimed at changing, repressing, or suppressing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These practices, which can include verbal abuse, coercion, isolation, forced medication, electric shocks, physical and sexual abuse, have in fact no therapeutic value, since there is nothing to 'cure' or 'suppress'.

This initiative calls on the European Commission to:

- Propose a **directive adding conversion practices to the list of euro-crimes** and/or amend the ongoing directive on equality to include a ban on these practices;
- Amend the **Victims' Rights Directive** to establish minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of conversion practices;
- Enforce a **non-binding resolution calling for a widespread ban of conversion practices** in the EU.

Ultimately, the ECI is clear in indicating that all Member States should introduce a ban on conversion practices.



ENGAGEMENT

The initiative gathered **1,128,063 verified statements of support**, exceeding the required threshold of one million signatures.

Signatures were collected across the EU, with national thresholds reached in 11 Member States, demonstrating broad public support for EU-level action.



COMMISSION'S REPLY AND NEXT STEPS

In its reply, the Commission announced its intention to adopt a Commission Recommendation, calling on EU Member States to ban conversion practices.

The Commission will adopt its **Recommendation in 2027**, committing to support countries in their efforts to ban these harmful practices. The Commission will also propose complementary measures.

The Recommendation will be informed by:

- a **structured dialogue with Member States** through the Expert Group on LGBTIQ+ equality and good practices from those Member States who have bans already in place.
- the new **LGBTIQ+ Policy Forum** and engagement with **civil society** organisations
- the ongoing **in-depth study** on conversion practices

KEY DATES

27 November 2023 Request for registration submitted



24 January 2024



Initiative registered by the European Commission



12 December 2025

Initiative organisers meet with Commissioner Hadja Lahbib and Commission officials



25 March 2026

Plenary debate in the European Parliament



2 March 2026

Public hearing is held in the European Parliament



17 November 2025

Initiative submitted to the European Commission



17 May 2024 to 17 May 2025

Signature collection



13 May 2026 The Commission provides its reply

Follow up of Commission reply

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