

Ban on Conversion Therapy in Cyprus



May, 2020

Cyprus banned conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ people in May 2020 making it illegal to try changing someone's sexual orientation or gender identity, with up to 5 years in prison for violators.

In May 2020, Cyprus enacted a groundbreaking ban on conversion therapy through amendments to the Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Law (specifically under Law 112(I)/2021), criminalizing any psychological, medical, religious, or other practices aimed at changing or suppressing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, with penalties of up to five years' imprisonment and fines to safeguard LGBTQ+ mental health rights.

This legislation, championed by Accept-LGBT Cyprus and aligned with European Union recommendations, targets harmful interventions often promoted by conservative religious groups, recognizing their links to severe psychological trauma, depression, and suicide risk, and builds on prior LGBT milestones like decriminalization and civil unions. By framing such practices as a form of domestic violence, the law empowers victims to seek justice through reporting mechanisms and judicial enforcement, positioning Cyprus as a leader in the region for protective reforms despite ongoing societal resistance.

For more information click here!

