

Open Letter

Dear Premier,

Everyone should be able to live free from discrimination and harm and equal under the law.

But right now, **NSW has some of the worst laws in the country for LGBTIQ+ people.**

The recent passage of the historic bill banning conversion practices shows us progress is possible, particularly when our parliament works together.

Now, reforms that represent the closest we have ever come to **ensuring all LGBTIQ+ people can live safe and free and truly included** in this state are currently being considered by parliament.

It's time to work together again.

We write to you as organisations working with LGBTIQ+ communities across a range of sectors from health and legal, to women, workers, families, faith and youth.

Every day we face the impact of **discrimination and exclusion** in our laws and see the real-world impacts this has on people.

The Equality Bill would make history in closing gaps and modernising NSW laws that have for too long stigmatised, excluded and failed to protect equally LGBTIQ+ people in our state.

It will close carve-outs that allow religious schools and organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people. It will give trans and gender diverse people the dignity of a simple piece of paper that recognises who they are. It will better protect people from violence and harm, and it will recognise more of our families.

Our communities have been waiting decades for reforms that will **bring NSW closer into line with** other jurisdictions.

The Bill before parliament will take us a huge step forward and has our support.

We ask you to change our laws to make sure that all people and families are equal in NSW.

Signatories (as at 16 April 2024):

1. ACON
2. Ambassadors & Bridge Builders International (ABBI)
3. Amnesty International Australia
4. Anglican Church Diocese of Perth
5. ASHM
6. Asian Australian Alliance
7. Athletes for Life

8. Australian Association of Buddhist Counsellors and Psychotherapists
9. Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (AHLR)
10. Australian Services Union, NSW/ACT (Services) Branch
11. Black Dog Institute
12. BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation
13. Blue Gum Sangha
14. Bobby Goldsmith Foundation
15. Buddhist Society of Western Australia
16. Catholics For Renewal
17. Community Legal Centres NSW
18. Dykes on Bikes Melbourne Inc
19. Emerald City Kickball Australia
20. Equal Voices
21. Fair Agenda
22. Family Planning Australia
23. Growing Families
24. Health Equity Matters
25. HIV/AIDS Legal Centre
26. Human Rights Law Centre
27. Hunter Gender Alliance
28. Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC)
29. International Women's Development Agency
30. Kingsford Legal Centre
31. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
32. NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS)
33. NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)
34. Pitt Street Uniting Church
35. Public Interest Advocacy Centre
36. Qtopia
37. Rainbodhi LGBTQIA+ Buddhist Community
38. Rainbow Catholics Interagency Australia
39. Rainbow families
40. ReachOut
41. Redfern Legal Centre
42. Sakyadhita
43. Scarlet Alliance
44. Stephen Page, Page Provan
45. Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
46. Sydney Queer Muslims
47. SWOP NSW
48. The Aurora Group
49. Transcend Australia
50. Trans Justice Project
51. Trans Pride Australia
52. Trikone

53. Twenty10
54. Voices of Influence Australia
55. Women's Electoral Lobby
56. Women's Legal Service NSW