

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003294/26
to the Commission
Emma Fourreau (The Left)
(18 August 2026)**

Subject: Protecting gender minorities in the face of increasingly repressive LGBTI-phobic laws

UK legislation now prohibits transgender people from accessing non-gender-mixed facilities, thereby excluding women from certain essential facilities, such as toilets or specialised shelters. In Senegal, the recent tightening of laws, modelled on Uganda's anti-LGBTI policies, has led to a crackdown on queer people, punishing them with prison sentences, forcing them into exile and placing them in danger.

In the face of this rise in LGBTI-phobia, the EU must be at the forefront of defending the rights of gender minorities. However, the Commission has refused to ban conversion therapy. At the same time, the EU is stepping up its support for Senegal to intercept people fleeing to Europe, notably through the second phase of the Joint Operational Partnership programme and Frontex's monitoring of Senegal's Search and Rescue (SAR) zone.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to adopt to encourage Member States to ban conversion therapy and to comply with the request made by the one million signatories to the European Citizens' Initiative?
2. What does it intend to do to protect the rights of LGBTI people in the face of threats from anti-gender movements?
3. Has the Commission or the European Union Agency for Asylum asked Member States to take into account the increasing levels of persecution in several third countries when assessing asylum applications?

Submitted: 18.8.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(14 October 2026)**

In its reply to the European Citizens' Initiative 'Ban on conversion practices in the European Union' ⁽¹⁾, the Commission announced that it will adopt a recommendation in 2027 calling on Member States to ban conversion practices on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

Through this recommendation, the Commission will underline the central role that Member States play in this area and will support them in extending legal bans across the EU, in full respect of their competences.

The Commission renewed its commitment to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people in its LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030 ⁽²⁾.

The strategy aims to protect them from hatred, harassment and violence, combat conversion practices, and enable LGBTIQ+ people to live free and equal lives in all aspects of life, while reinforcing joint efforts with EU institutions and agencies, Member States, equality bodies, social partners, businesses, civil society and individuals to achieve a Union of Equality.

Under EU asylum law, applications for international protection must be assessed individually in accordance with the Qualification Regulation ⁽³⁾, taking into account all relevant information on the country of origin, including the laws of the country concerned and how they are applied.

The EU Asylum Agency supports Member States by providing country-of-origin information, analysis and guidance in relation to risks of persecution or serious harm.

National asylum authorities are responsible for assessing individual applications in light of the applicable EU rules and up-to-date information.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AC_202602991.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 725 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0725>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, PE/70/2023/REV/1, OJ L, 2024/1347, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1347/oj>.