

<b>Likely to cause harm and be a change or suppression practice</b>	<b>Ways to continue practicing your faith without causing harm</b>
<p>Prayer (with that person or with their knowledge) that indicates they are broken and need to be healed is likely to be a change or suppression practice because it is conducted for the purpose of changing or suppressing the person's sexual orientation, or convincing them to do so.</p> <p>Denying someone their total self – their sexuality – causes serious and ongoing harm.</p> <p>There is evidence that this can lead to long-term mental health issues and in serious cases, suicide.</p>	<p>Support to these members can include reassuring them that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their God loves them</li> <li>• everyone has a different path</li> <li>• the person belongs in the faith: they are respected and included as they are.</li> </ul> <p>Support in the form of prayer that does not cause harm include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• praying for inner peace</li> <li>• praying for guidance for that person</li> <li>• prayer to affirm that the person is made in their God's image, perfect as they are.</li> </ul> <p>Your support can acknowledge and support that person's choice in how they live their life and the struggle they are in.</p> <p>Your support can include referral to affirming peer support (i.e., affirming LGBT members of your faith, or see further below for services).</p>

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<p>Prayers that are directed at a person to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity cause harm and are prohibited.</p> <p>These could include prayers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask for healing</li> <li>• ask for a person to change</li> <li>• ask for a person to not act on their attractions</li> <li>• talk about a person's brokenness or need to repent</li> <li>• ask for long-term celibacy.</li> </ul>	<p>There is a broad range of prayers that would be acceptable and supportive.</p> <p>These include prayers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for guidance</li> <li>• that are supporting and reassuring that the person is created in their God's image and perfect the way they are</li> <li>• that acknowledge their God loves the individual.</li> </ul>

**Likely to cause harm and be a change or suppression practice**

Your response to this person should consider any harm caused by your advice or potential for harm.

Conversations risk causing deep harm and being a change and suppression practice when they are conducted for the purpose of changing or suppressing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, for example by telling people:

- how they should feel about themselves
- who they should have sexual relations with
- that their gender identity is not real or acceptable.

You should consider the power you hold within your position and the impact of this in your discussion.

The individual may feel tension and fear rejection if they are asked to choose between their faith and their sexual orientation or gender identity.

There is evidence that this ultimatum leads to harm.

**Ways to continue practicing your faith without causing harm**

Your support for this person can look like the ways above to continue practising your faith without causing harm.

If you are not comfortable affirming someone's sexuality or gender identity, refer them to a person – or service (see further below for resources) – who can do this and have conversations with them safely.