

# SAVAGE

by Claudio Macor

**A tale of love  
amidst the brutal  
true story of a  
Nazi War Criminal**



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# SAVAGE

## FOREWORD

THIS IMPORTANT, VALUABLE PLAY sheds a light on the Danish doctor, Carl Peter Vaernet, who believed that he had found the 'cure' for homosexuality and who experimented on gay concentration camp prisoners. His fervent belief tallied with the homophobic persecution policies of the Nazis, who sought to eradicate what they called 'abnormal existence' (homosexuality).

My 1998-99 campaign to expose Vaernet triggered a public outcry in Denmark, where most people had been unaware of his crimes and the high-level measures taken to shield him from prosecution.

The Danish government passed the buck, referring me to their National Archives. They suggested that I conduct my own investigation and initiate a private prosecution. I was told the archive papers on Vaernet were classified until 2025.

But faced with mounting public, media and parliament pressure, the Danish government eventually relented. Access was given to the previously top-secret files. They revealed Vaernet's medical Nazism, his protection by postwar Danish state and inaction by Allied war crime prosecutors.

The Danish authorities have yet to explain why they shielded him, nor have the Danish and British Governments apologized for allowing a Nazi war criminal to get off scot-free.

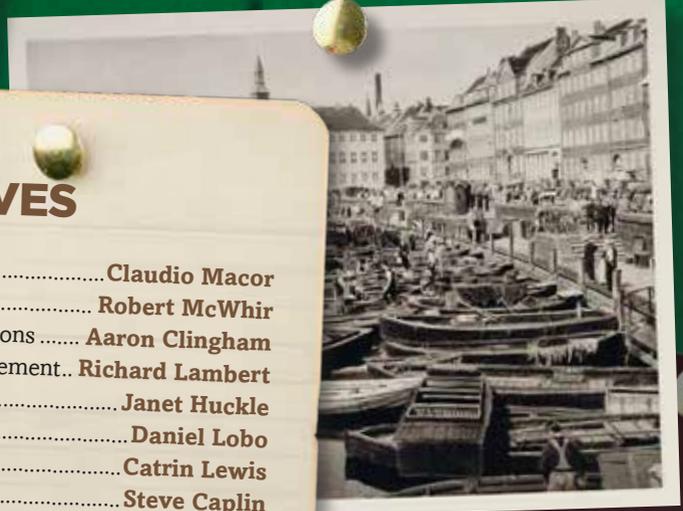
**Peter Tatchell**

Human rights campaigner



## CREATIVES

Writer ..... **Claudio Macor**  
 Director ..... **Robert McWhir**  
 Musical Compositions ..... **Aaron Clingham**  
 Production Management.. **Richard Lambert**  
 Costumes ..... **Janet Huckle**  
 Casting ..... **Daniel Lobo**  
 Audition host ..... **Catrin Lewis**  
 Graphic design ..... **Steve Caplin**  
 Photography ..... **Peter Davies**  
 Set Build..... **Andrew Tottle**  
 Crew ..... **Tobias Dracup**  
 Producer ..... **LAMBCO Productions**  
 Producer ..... **Josephine Buchan**  
 Executive Producers/Underwriters.....  
 ..... **Robert Zampetti and Roy Matlofsky**  
 Acknowledgements.....**Michael Kingsbury**  
 and the **White Bear Theatre**

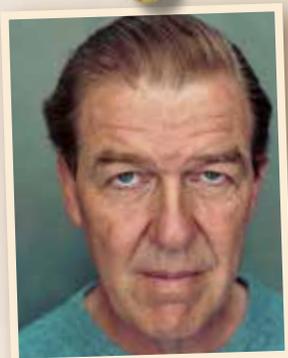


## CAST

Dr Carl Peter Vaernet.....**Mark Kitto**  
 Nikolai Bergsen.....**Kerill Kelly**  
 Zack Travis..... **Matthew Hartley**  
 Ilse Paulsen/Maria Fruede...**Claire-Monique Martin**  
 Obergruppenführer General Heinrich von Aeschelman  
 ..... **Tom Everatt**  
 Georg Jensen ..... **Jonathon Nielsen-Keen**  
 Major Ronald F Hemingway..... **Simon Chappell**



# CAST



## Mark Kitto

### Dr Vaernet

**Training:** Shanghai People's Arts Theatre.

**Theatre:** *Small Hotel* (Bath Theatre Royal), *Hedda* (Bath Theatre Royal), *1984* (Hackney Town Hall), *Stock Luck* (Shanghai People's Arts Theatre), *Anna Weiss* (Giles Foreman Centre), *Pressure* (Ambassadors Theatre), *Soldier On* (Playground Theatre and tour), *Journey's End* (MESH Theatre), *Existential Fish and Dread* (Bread and Roses Theatre), *The Witching Hour* (Blue Orange Theatre and UK tour), *Chinese Boxing* (Playground Theatre and UK, SE Asia and European tours).

**TV:** *Ghosts* (BBC), *Random Acts* (C4)

**Film:** *Bao Bao* (Taiwan), *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy* (India), *The War Below*, *Chicklit*, *Do Something Jake*, *The People We Hate at the Wedding*, *Rich Flu*, *Shamrock Spitfire*, *Red Poppies* (Poland).



## Kerill Kelly

### Nikolai Bergsen

**Training:** Trinity College Dublin, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

**Stage Credits:** Terrence in *Youth's the Season* at the Abbey Theatre (Irish National Theatre), Executioner and Understudy Antonio/Ferdinand in *The Duchess* at Trafalgar Theatre, Laertes in *Hamlet* at the Mill Theatre Dublin, Borrachio in *Much Ado about Nothing* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Eugene in *Grease* at Gaiety Theatre Dublin, *Half Light* with Bombinate Theatre at Dublin Fringe Festival.

**Screen:** Harry Wild for Acorn Productions, *Dunki* by Rajkumar Hirani (Bollywood).

**Credits while Training at RADA:** Cyprus Avenue, Sweeny Todd, NSFW, Vincent in Brixton



## Matthew Hartley

### Zack Travis

**Training:** Laine Theatre Arts

**Theatre credits include:** Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* (International); Jeremy Warrender in Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web* (UK Tour); Mathews in *Elf The Musical* (International); Mole in *The Wind In The Willows* (International); Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing* (International); Alain in *God Of Carnage* (SSPF); Salty in *Teechers* (The Reading Room

Theatre); Hugh Spencer in *Beard* (The Arcola Theatre), Tom in *The House That Looks Like Hitler* (The Courtyard Theatre); *A Foot In The Door*, *Time And Time Again*, *Not Dead Enough*, *Sailor Beware*, *Run For Your Wife* and *The Ghost Train* (Sidmouth Rep).

**Screen credits include:** Danny Boyle's *Pistols* (FX/Disney); *People in Landscape*, *Adonis* (Troika Film Collective), *Why?*, *Silver Linings*, *Electric Angel*, *Our Little Haven* and *Forever Tomorrow*.

**Commercial credits include:** *Sprite*, *Skept*a, *Sammy Virji*, *Elthorne Bridge*, *GQ*, *YSS*, *Yanggoufu*, *Studio B*, *Lord of the Rings*, *MODE*, *Tresemme*, *Channel 4*, *Discovery Networks* and *Eurosport*.

**Creative credits include:** Assistant director to Arlene Phillips for *Hair* (The London Palladium/Norwich Theatre Royal); Choreographer for *Squiffy Journals* (Edinburgh Fringe).

**Instagram:** @matthartleyuk

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ZOO WERD HET MISDRA...  
Hoofdartikel

# CAST



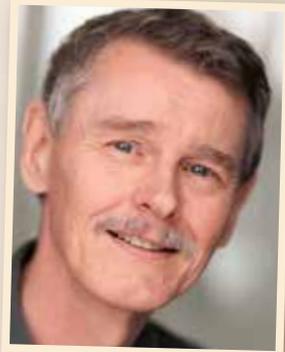
## Tom Everatt

**Obergruppenführer General Heinrich von Aeschelman**

**Training:** East 15 Acting School

**Theatre credits include:** Cash Powerstone in *Fame Factory* (Immerse LDN); The Maniac in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Putney Arts Theatre); Napoleon in *Animal Farm* (EU tour); Blake Collins in *Stranger Things: The Experience*; Olaf Skaktavl in *Lady Inger* (The Space); King Henry in *Henry V* (UK/ EU tour), Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (UK/ EU tour), Florizel in *The Winters Tale* (UK/ EU tour); Josh in *Letters* (The Vaults); Count Vronsky in *Anna Karenina* (Theatro Technis)

**Instagram:** @taeveratt



## Simon Chappell

**Major Ronald F Hemingway**

**Training:** Morley College, The Actors' Centre and City Lit.

**Theatre credits include:** W. Harrison Brent in *Perfect Crime* (Theatre Royal Windsor); Stewart in *Pack of Lies*, Hallett in *The Business of Murder*, Dilly Knox in *Breaking the Code* (Manor Pavilion Theatre, Sidmouth); Mr Rothwell in *A Kind of Loving* (Jack Studio Theatre); Jaumes Sabartes in *Dora Versus Picasso* (Drayton Arms Theatre); Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Albany in *King Lear*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Antonio in *Twelfth Night* (Malachite Theatre); Dr Chasuble in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (tour); Jack Stapleton in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (tour).

**Television credits include:** *Call the Midwife*, *Mammoth*, *Coconut* (BBC); *The B@it* (Channel 4); *The Crown* (Netflix); King George VI in *The Windsors* (CNN/ Raw TV).



## Claire-Monique Martin

**Ilse Paulsen/Maria Fruede**

**Training:** American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NY)

**Theatre credits include:** Clytemnestra in *Electra Untitled* (Barcelona Fringe & Arcola Theatre); King of France/Mariana in *All's Well That Ends Well* (Outdoor Tour); Mrs Pearce in *Pygmalion* (European Tour); Ensemble in *No For An Answer* (Arcola Theatre); Clover in *Animal Farm* (Italian Tour); Alisha Harper-Gill in *Rumble!* (Drayton Arms Theatre), Dora Maar in *Dora Versus Picasso* (Drayton Arms Theatre); Banquo in *Macbeth* (Tabard Theatre); Mimi Smith in *Long Lost John* (Y Theater, NY); Snuggles in *Love Me Tender* (The Wild Project, NY); Margaret in *A New Way To Pay Old Debts* (Rose Playhouse, Bankside); The Chorus Singer in *Antigone* (Southwark Playhouse).

**Theatre credits while training include:** *Blue Stockings* (AADA), *Julius Caesar* (AADA), *The Seagull* (AADA), *Balm in Gilead* (AADA)

**Instagram:** @Clairemonique10



## Jonathon Nielsen Keen

**Georg Jensen**

**Training:** The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

**Theatre credits include:** Malvolio/ Antonio in *Twelfth Night* (UK Tour, Changeling Theatre); Aumerle in *Richard II* (Shakespeare Unstaged); Algernon Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Erasmus Theatre); Robert in *Transgression* (Fishbowl Theatre)

**Theatre credits while training include:** Valentine in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (RCSSD), Scalato/ George/Maria/David/Rodney/Ben in *Lion in the Streets* (RCSSD), Morderchai Thurrock in *The Frontline* (RCSSD), Richard II in *Richard II* (RCSSD)

**Instagram:** @jnielsenkeen

## Claudio Macor

### Writer

Claudio Macor was born in South Africa to Italian parents. He's fluent in Italian. After abandoning his acting career he moved to London in 1983 where he began writing plays. For the stage his credits include *Savage*, *Zanetto*, *In The Dead Of Night* (London 1989, 1998, 2015) *The End Of Innocence*, *Santa Cruz*, *The Other Man*, first stage adaptation of Gabriele D'Annunzio's classic Italian novel *L'innocente*, *The Man Inside*, *The Love Of An Angel*, *Casanova* (London 1991, 1996), *Venetian Heat* (London, 1988, 1994, 1999) *The Tailor-Made Man* (London 1992 1993, 1996, 2017, 2024, San Diego, Los Angeles, and off-Broadway New York, it has also been adapted for the radio, Freedom Radio produced by Rob Falconer, directed by Chris Bould starring two time Oscar Nominee Judd Hirsch as Louis B Mayer, Thames Television Showcase and a musical). *Margot – Dame*, *the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* and *Different from the Others* (LPT Best New Play) Off-West Award End Best New Play nomination.

**Screenplays:** *The Tailor-Made Man*, *Savage*, *In The Dead Of Night* and *Out Of The Night*. *The Tailor-Made Man* and *Savage* are published by Oberon Books/Bloomsbury Publishing. Claudio is a Goodwill Ambassador to the Canadian gay rescue charity Rainbow Railroad.



## Robert McWhir

### Director

*Marry Me A Little* (Stage Door Theatre), *Dreamcoat Stars* (National Tour), *The Small Hours*, *Boeing Boeing* (Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *Tinderella* (Union Theatre), *Sleeping Beauty* (Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple), *How The Other Half Loves* (Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *Jack & The Beanstalk* (Queen's Theatre), *Sailor Beware!* (Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *Change Of Heart* (St James' Theatre), *Next Thing You Know*, *Frostbite (Who Pinched My Muff!)* (Garden Theatre, Vauxhall), *Beauty & The Beast* (Ferneham Hall, Fareham), *Tickle, the Musical* (Kings Head), *Double Death* and *The Kingfisher* (Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *The King's Speech* (Theatre Royal, Windsor & Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *Queereteira TV*, *Goodbye Norma Jean, [title of show]* (Above The Stag), *Cinderella* (Ferneham Hall, Fareham), *The Crumple Zone* (Kings Head), *The Musical of Musicals, the Musical* (Above The Stag), *Strictly Murder* (Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *The Dresser* and *Lloyd George Knew My Father* (Theatre Royal, Windsor & Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *Mousetrap Projects 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Gala* (Prince of Wales), *Beauty & The Beast* (Watersmeet, Rickmansworth), *House Guest* (Theatre Royal, Windsor & Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth), *He Shoots! He Scores!* (Above The Stag), *The Crumple Zone* (Pleasance), *Jonathan D. Ellis & The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Foxes* (Brasserie Zedel), *Sleeping Beauty* (Ferneham Hall, Fareham), *An Evening With Webborn & Finn* (St James'), *The Ladykillers* (Theatre Royal, Windsor & Manor Pavilion), *Grand Central* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Get 'Em Off!* *the musical* and *Torsten*, *The Beautiful Libertine* (Above The Stag), *Dick Whittington* (Ferneham Hall, Fareham), *The Rhythm Of Life* (St James' Theatre), *Personals*, *Romance Romance* and *The Clockmaker's Daughter*



(Landor Theatre), *The World According To Nancy Dell'Olio* (Hippodrome Casino), *Rent Boy, the Musical* and *The Bus* (Above The Stag).

Before going freelance, Robert was Artistic Director of the Landor Theatre for 16 years where productions were too numerous (and brief) to mention, but notably included *She Loves Me*, *The Man Inside*, *Meet Me In St Louis*, *A Class Act*, *Curtains*, *Ragtime*, *Tomorrow Morning*, *Into The Woods*, *I Love You Because* and *Follies*.

## Lambco Productions

### Producer

LAMBCO is an independent live entertainment production company based in London.

**Theatre credits include:** *Boys in the Buff* (Golden Goose Theatre), *Supersonic Man* (Southwark Playhouse Borough); *The Crumple Zone* (Waterloo East Theatre); *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); *Do You Have A Secret Crush?* (Lost Theatre); *Bluebirds* (Above The Stag Theatre); *Sincerely Yours* and (Associate Producer for) *Bewitchment on Black Ice* (Landor Theatre); *Skin Deep* (National Tour, 5 star reviews and Fringe Award from Scots Gay); *The Crumple Zone* and *Margot, Dame, the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* (King's

Head Theatre); *Boys in the Buff*, *Tickle*, *Soho Boy*, *Bette Midler and Me*, *Twinkle and Love is Blue* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Ed Fest). Playbill chose *Boys in the Buff* as their "Pick of the Fringe" and the Scotsman declared *Tickle* and *Boys in the Buff*, two of the Fringe's four sexiest musicals.

Emerging from the pandemic, LAMBCO created an outdoor theatre, opening a musical ahead of Broadway and the West End and produced *Fanny and Stella*, *Pippin*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Naked Boys Singing* and *Frostbite* (Garden Theatre, Vauxhall).

In 2024, LAMBCO set up the first pub theatre in the West End and produced *Marry Me A Little*, *The Tailor-Made Man*, *Slices of Life* and the UK Premiere of the Broadway musical *The Story of my Life* (the award-winning Stage Door Theatre).

**BlueSky:** @lambco.bsky.social

**Facebook:** @lambcoprods

**Instagram:** @lambcoproductions

**Website:** www.lambcoproductions.co.uk

## Josephine Buchan

### Producer

Starting out in advertising, after leaving university, led to working in the PR department of Cannon Films, the company which so successfully tapped into the ravenous market for B movies in the 1980s.

A chance encounter at the BBC resulted in a presenting career across the BBC, ITV and Sky. The exposure to such a wide range of experiences, together with a keen eye for detail, and the ability to identify talent, led naturally to producing, both in London and New York.

When asked to harness these skills as a contributor within the education system, her success engaging disconnected teenagers led to Josephine being honoured in the Queen's 2016 Birthday Honours List for 'Services to Young People Through the Arts'.

## Richard Lambert

### Lighting Designer

*Boys in the Buff* (Golden Goose Theatre), *Supersonic Man* (Southwark Playhouse), *Boys in the Buff* (Best lighting design OFFIE and Fringe Theatre Awards nomination); *Twinkle, Tickle, Boys in the Buff*, *Love is Blue* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Ed Fringe 2023); *Soho Boy* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Ed Fest 2022); *Bette Midler & Me* (Garden Theatre, Ed Fest 2022, Town and Gown, Drayton Arms); *Frostbite, Next Thing You Know, Pippin, Fanny & Stella* (Garden Theatre); *Undetectable* (Best lighting design OFFIE Nomination); *The Crumple Zone* (King's Head); *Skin Deep* (Ed Fest 2018, UK Tour); *Marry Me A Little, Muscles the Musical, Alvaro's Balcony, Discotivity, Stand Tall, Vincent River, The Hot Mikado, Get Aladdin, A Class Act, Next Thing You Know, Nunsense, Bakewell Bakeoff, Meet Me in St. Louis, No Way to Treat a Lady, The Man Inside, Damn Yankees* (OFFIE award nomination), *She Loves Me, In the Dead of Night, The Clockmaker's Daughter, Sincerely Yours, Personals, Romance Romance, Devilish the musical* (Landor Theatre); *Margot, Dame, the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* and *Boys in the Buff*, at the King's Head.

**Other credits:** Luseil Stadium (FIFA World Cup 2022); Erasmus Bridge (Rotterdam); *Disney on Ice* (7 continents, Tokyo Budokan, New Orleans Super Dome, Toronto Sky Dome, NYC Radio City Music Hall), Royal Wedding Dress Exhibition (Kensington Palace), *#Hashtag Lightie* (Arcola Theatre), *Cirque Enchantment* (UK Tour) and Jazz Dance Company UK Tour (ninth year). *Do you Have a Secret Crush (Sleeping with Straight Men)?* (LOST Theatre).

Website: [lambcolighting.co.uk](http://lambcolighting.co.uk)

## Aaron Clingham

### Musical Compositions

Aaron is a Multi Award-Nominated Musical Director, Orchestrator, Composer and Pianist, having received twelve Off-West End Award Nominations, a Broadway World Award Nomination and a Fringe Theatre Award Nomination. He is the winner of a Standing Ovation Award for his work as a Musical Director.

#### **Favourite Musical Directing credits**

**include:** *Into the Woods* (The Cockpit); *Marry Me a Little* and *The Story Of My Life* (Stage Door Theatre); *Supersonic Man* (Southwark Playhouse) *Betty Blue Eyes* (Union Theatre); *Romance Romance*, [title of show] and *Grindr The Opera* (Above The Stag Theatre); *Metropolis, The Kissing Dance, Wonderful Town* and *A Little Night Music* (Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre); *Faking Bad* and *Closer To Heaven* (Turbine Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* and *Jack and The Beanstalk* (Charing Cross Theatre); *The Addams Family* (Theatre Royal Windsor and White Rock Theatre); *My Land's Shore* (Theatr Soar); *It's a Bird... It's A Plane...It's Superman* (Leicester Square Theatre); *The Ripper's Five* (Theatro Technis); *Naked Boys Singing* (King's Head Theatre and Garden Theatre); *Sondheim by Sondheim* (Roundhouse); *Next Thing You Know* (Garden Theatre); *Dorian the Musical* (Southwark Playhouse and The Other Palace) and *Soho Boy* (Drayton Arms Theatre).

#### **X, Instagram and Threads:**

@aaronclingham

## Janet Huckle

### Costume Supervisor

Janet is a graduate of Reading University and Goldsmith's College, University of London. She has designed and costumed for many years for shows including *Grease, The Beggars Opera, Bugsy Malone, Into the Woods, A Midsummer's Night's Dream, Die Fledermaus, Honk, High Society, Dad's Army, Jack the Ripper, Top Hat, Copacabana* and *Wizard of Oz. Living Together, Absent Friends* and *Taking Steps* at OSO Barnes; *Boeing Boeing, Handbagged* and *Wife Begins at Forty* at Theatre Royal Windsor. *But I'm a Cheerleader, Faking Bad* and *Nutcracker* at The Turbine Theatre; *Made in Dagenham* (staged concert) at The London Palladium; *Elf* and *Romeo & Juliet* (the Musical) at Cultural Hall Bahrain; *Gringe* and *Annie* (Bahrain and Dubai), *The Liar, The Bitch* and *The Wardrobe* (Turbine and Norwich Theatres).

**Directing credits include:** *Crazy for You, Twelfth Night, Kiss me Kate, Our Country's Good* and *The Addams Family. Oliver, Me and My Girl, Guys and Dolls* and *Anything Goes* at Wimbledon Theatre. Costuming The Paul Taylor-Mills Sidmouth Summer Play Festival from 2018 to present.

## Daniel Lobo

### Casting Director

Daniel is a London-based freelance casting director and performer. This is his second time casting for LAMBCO Productions and he's grateful for the opportunity to be involved with such an important story.

**Training:** Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts

**Casting credits include:** *Boys in the Buff* (Golden Goose Theatre), and additional casting for *An Evening of Joy: The Joy of You* (The Actor's Church, Covent Garden).

**Performing credits include:** *Barista – The Musical* (Capitol Theatre, Horsham); *Seize the Cheese! A New Musical* (New Wimbledon Theatre); *Richard II* and *One Giant Leap* (Jack Studio Theatre, Brockley); *Sondheim: Not a Birthday Goes By* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); *Naked Boys Singing!* (King's Head Theatre) and *Evita, Kinky Boots* and *Chess* (Concerts with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra, Theatre Royal Drury Lane).

**Future casting credits include:** *Grindr the Opera* (London and UK Tour), *Fringe Theatre Awards 2026* (Clapham Grand).  
Instagram: @daniellobocasting

## GAY CONVERSION THERAPY

Conversion practices violate fundamental human rights, perpetuate discrimination, and cause significant long-term harm to people and communities. LGBTQ+ people deserve to be safe and be protected from this abuse.

Conversion practices are when an LGBTQ+ person is specifically being told they need curing or fixing. They include any medical, psychiatric, psychological, religious, cultural or any other interventions that seek to 'change',

'cure', or suppress the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of a person. For example, pseudo-scientific counselling sessions which are focussed on trying to suppress a person's sexuality or being prayed over as a form of 'healing' a person's identity.

Conversion practices explicitly mark out LGBTQ+ identities as something in need of 'fixing'. More information at: [banconversionpractices.com](http://banconversionpractices.com)







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