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*"And such were some of you..."*

Aug. 23, 2019

## **Restored Hope Network Decries Newsweek Over 'Sensationalist' Piece Lambasting 'Conversion Therapy' – Which is Not an Actual Practice**

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.: Restored Hope Network Executive Director Anne Paulk submitted the letter below to *Newsweek* in response to the magazine's Aug. 7, 2019 story, "20,000 LGBTQ Teens Will Undergo Conversion Therapy by the Age of 18: 'These Practices Need to End'". **The magazine did not publish the letter, but RHN thinks its truths need to be heard and discussed.**

To the editor:

Kashmira Gander's recent (Aug. 7) piece on "conversion therapy" was quite a feat: It painted a one-sided, misleading and sensationalist picture of a practice that doesn't even exist. There is, flatly, no such recognized mental-health procedure; "conversion therapy" is a political label hung on any effort to help individuals overcome unwanted same-sex attractions. Using the inflammatory name, and spotlighting truly heinous practices like electroshock as if they were common today rather than treatments of the 1950's, gay activists are winning battles in state legislatures.

Restored Hope Network does not force its message of hope on anyone. Rather, we provide support for people who are not satisfied with their sexuality and are seeking prayer support and conventional talk therapy to overcome their attractions. Shouldn't such individuals be allowed to pursue happiness as they define it in a free country that celebrates individuality and the sanctity of choice? We and our member ministries think so, and we will continue to stand for our clients' rights to pursue and receive the same kind of freedom so many of us enjoy.

Anne Paulk,  
Executive Director

*Anne Paulk is available for interviews about the ongoing efforts by LGBTQ activists to prevent organizations like those affiliated with Restored Hope Network to help men and women seeking to overcome same-sex attractions. A key weapon in their misleading arsenal is citing the dangers of "conversion therapy," which is not a recognized therapeutic practice.*

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