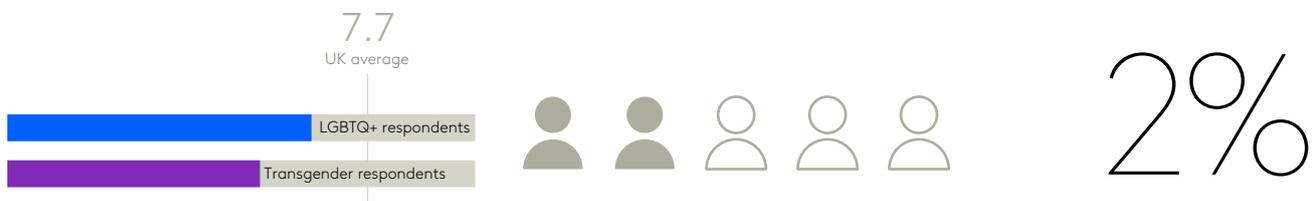




UK society's attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community

Legally, LGBTQ+ people in the UK are as close as they've ever been to achieving equality with their straight counterparts. In 2013, the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act that allowed same-sex couples to marry was introduced, and this year, schools in England and Wales are required to teach relationship and sex education lessons that are inclusive of sexual minorities.

Despite this progress, studies show that the LGBTQ+ community continues to face discrimination at work, at schools, in the community and even at home. Indeed, in July 2017, the UK Government published their study¹ of over 100,000 people which aimed to better understand the experiences of LGBTQ+ people in the UK. It revealed that:



LGBTQ+ respondents are less satisfied with their lives than the general UK population (average rating satisfaction of **6.5** out of 10 compared with **7.7** for the UK in general). Transgender respondents had particularly low scores (**5.4** out of 10).

At least **2 in 5** respondents had experienced an incident, such as verbal harassment or physical evidence, in the previous 12 months, because they were LGBTQ+.

Two percent of respondents had undergone conversion or reparative therapy in an attempt to 'cure' them of being LGBTQ+, and a further 5% had been offered it.

¹ National LGBT Survey: Summary report

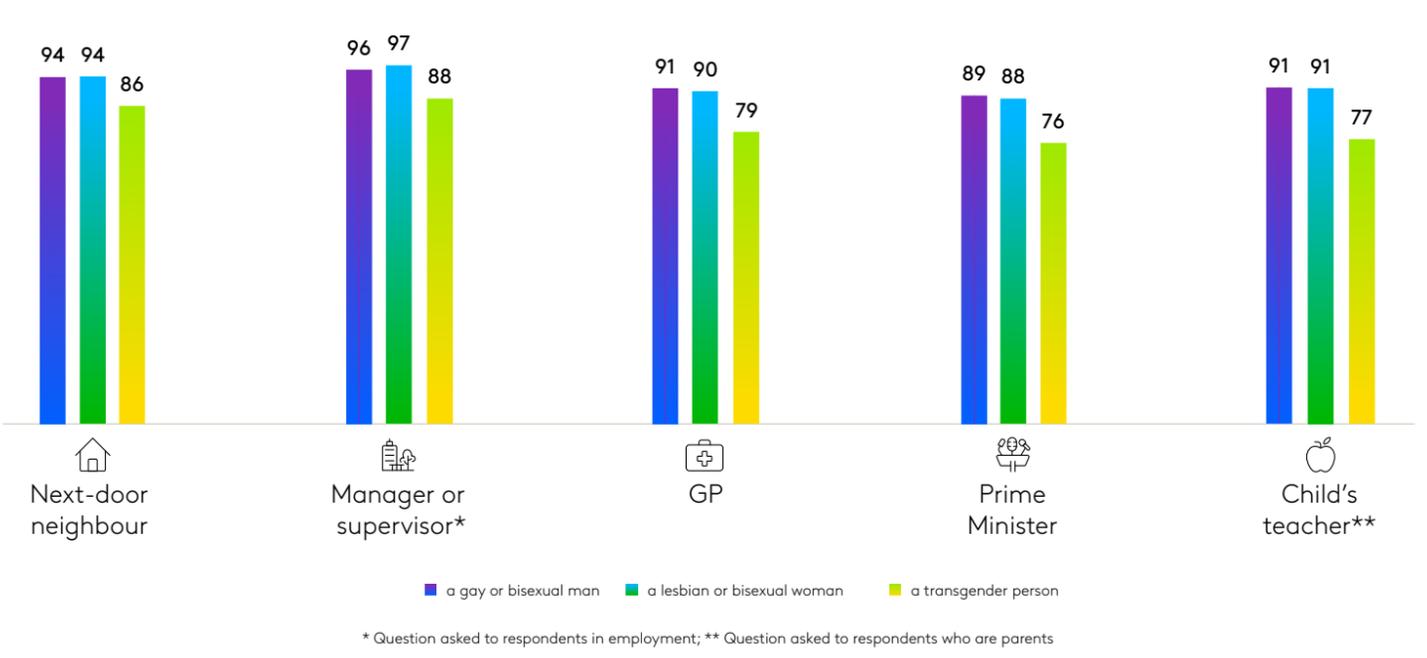
Progress is not guaranteed and greater understanding of the experiences within our society will enable more effective policy making.

Three years on from that study, looking at UK society overall, how comfortable do people feel about LGBTQ+ people in leadership or community roles? How comfortable do parents feel about their children being taught at school about LGBTQ+ rights? These are important questions which Kantar set to answer through this study conducted in July and August 2020.

How inclusive is UK society?

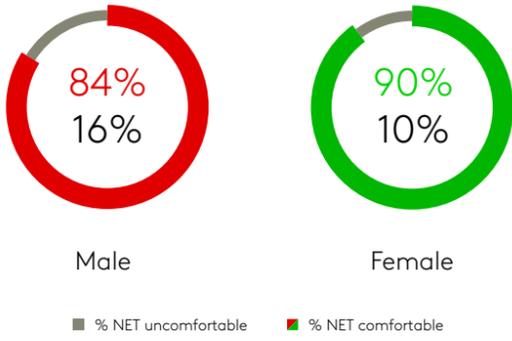
Overall, people in the UK are more tolerant of gay, lesbian and bisexual people than of transgender people. However, over three quarters of people are comfortable with the LGBTQ+ community in every role researched.

% of people who say they would be fairly or totally comfortable with LGBTQ+ people being their...



Key factors driving UK society's inclusiveness

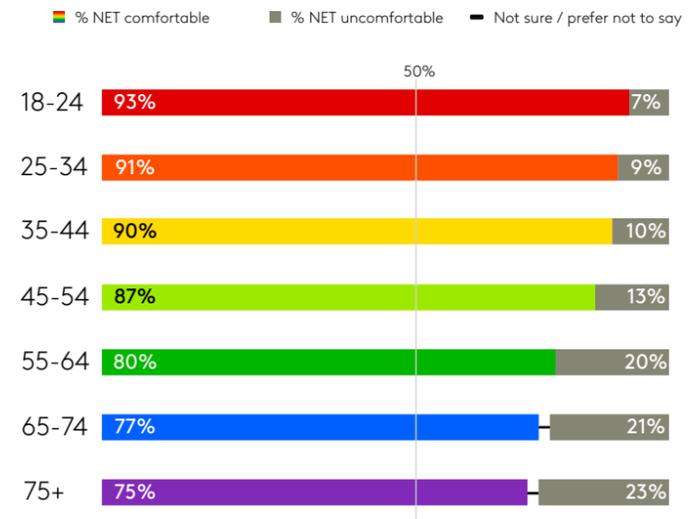
Level of comfort by gender towards the LGBTQ+ community in the five roles researched



Comfort with LGBTQ+ people in these roles, including for transgender people, was higher among women than among men.

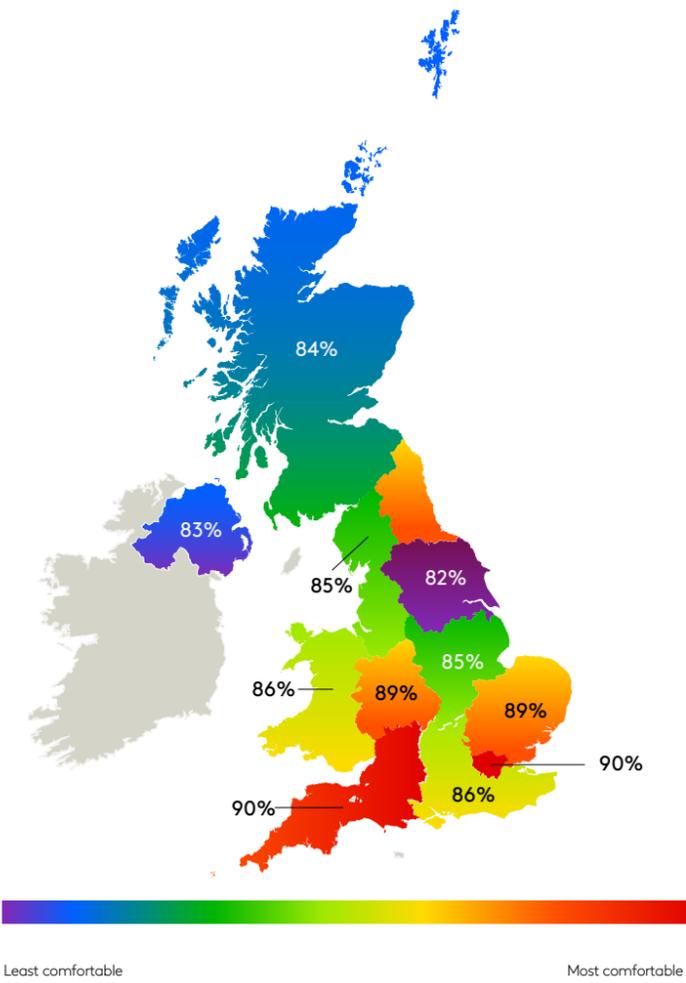
For instance, four in five (81%) women would be comfortable with a transgender GP, compared to three quarters (76%) of men.

Level of comfort of different age groups towards the LGBTQ+ community in the five roles researched



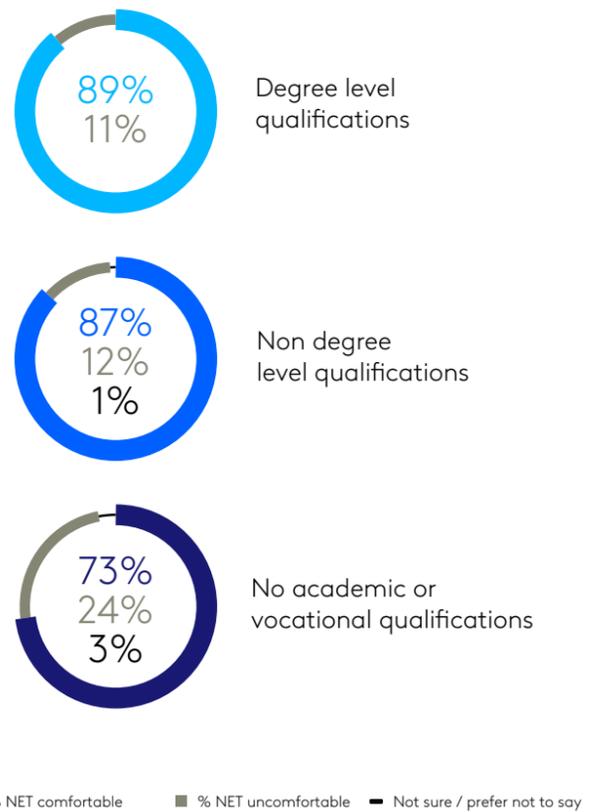
Tolerance of LGBTQ+ people in these roles decreases with age, with the most significant gaps between age groups around the roles of GP and Prime Minister.

Level of comfort with LGBTQ+ people in the five roles researched across different regions



Level of comfort with LGBTQ+ people in the five roles researched by level of education

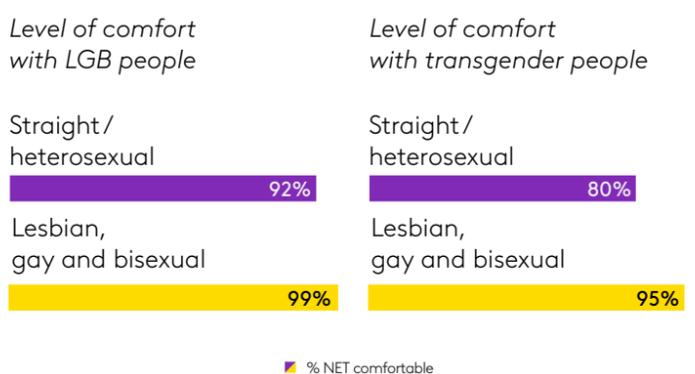
People with no academic or vocational qualifications are less likely to be comfortable with LGBTQ+ people in the five roles researched compared to people with any other kind of qualification.



Level of comfort with LGBTQ+ people in the five roles researched by religiosity



Level of comfort with LGBTQ+ people in the five roles researched by sexual orientation



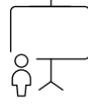
Attitudes towards LGBTQ+-inclusive education

According to research conducted by charity Stonewall in 2017², **40%** of LGBTQ+ pupils are never taught about LGBTQ+ issues at school, while almost half (**45%**) are bullied for being themselves.

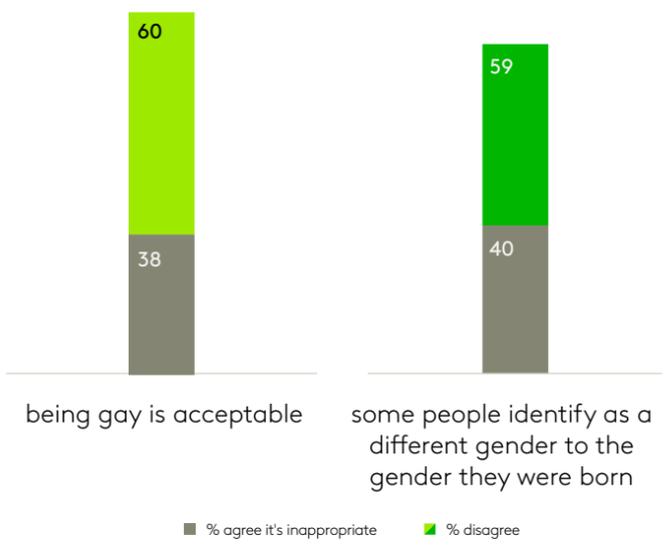
Our research finds that most people in the UK say they don't think it's inappropriate to teach children aged six or twelve about LGBTQ+ rights. However attitudes around this are more mixed than they are about LGBTQ+ adults in different roles, and people are more tolerant with these lessons when the child is older.

² Stonewall: The School Report

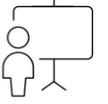
Teaching six-year old children at school about LGBTQ+ rights



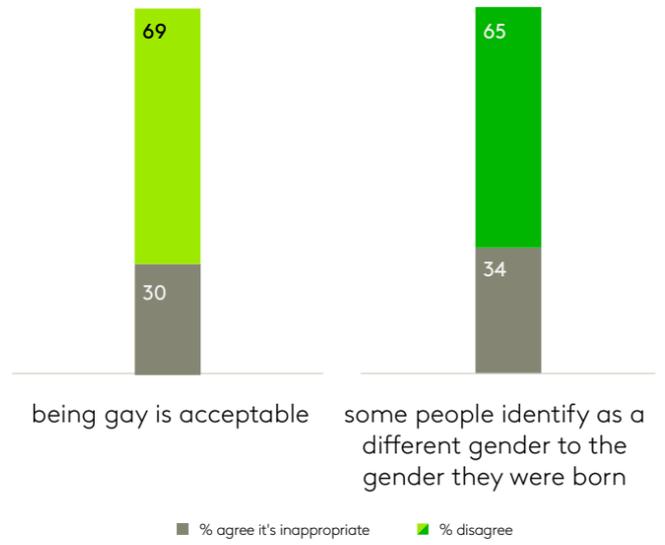
% of parents who say that it's inappropriate for a school teacher to teach a **six-year-old** child that:



Teaching twelve-year old children at school about LGBTQ+ rights



% of parents who say that it's inappropriate for a school teacher to teach a **twelve-year-old** child that:



Key factors impacting attitudes towards LGBTQ+ inclusive education

Views on LGBTQ+ inclusive education by religiosity

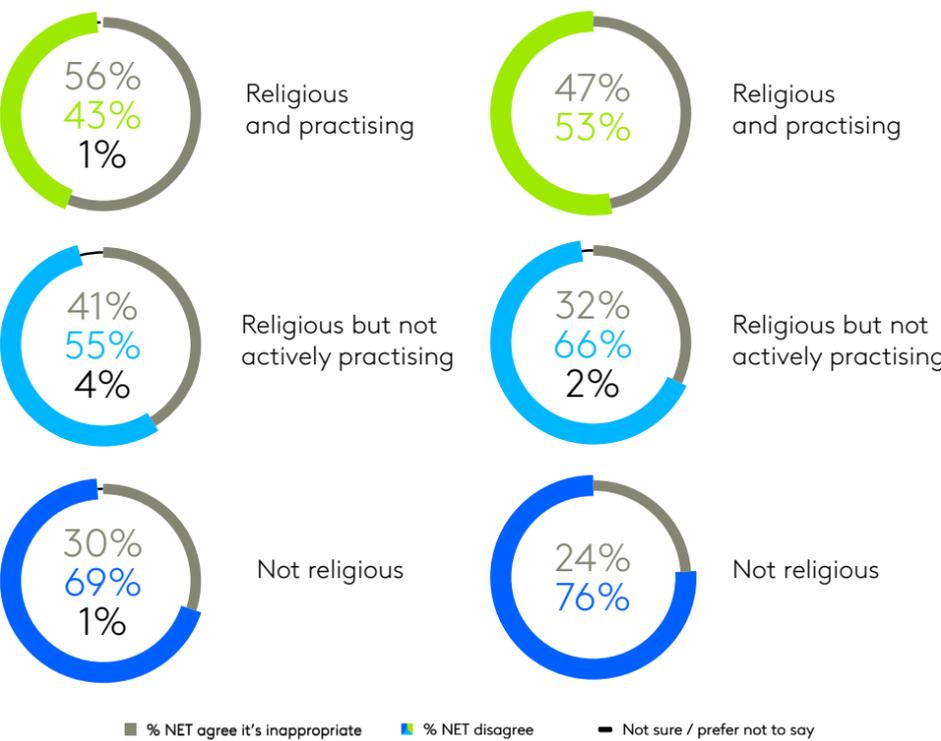
This study finds that people practising religion are likely to have less progressive views about what is appropriate to teach to children of age six or twelve, including when compared to people who are religious but not practising.



"It's inappropriate for a schoolteacher to teach a **six-year-old** that being gay is acceptable."



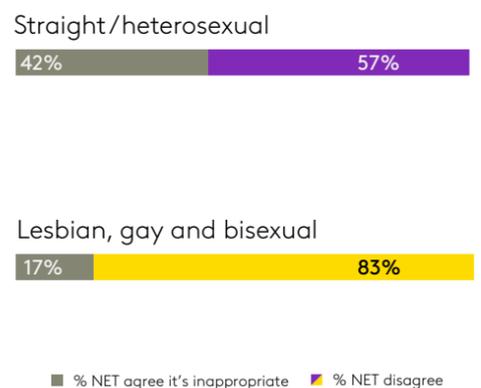
"It's inappropriate for a schoolteacher to teach a **twelve-year-old** that being gay is acceptable."



Views on LGBTQ+ inclusive education by sexual orientation

Heterosexual people are much more likely to say that it's inappropriate to teach a **six-year-old** that some people identify to a different gender to the gender they were born as.

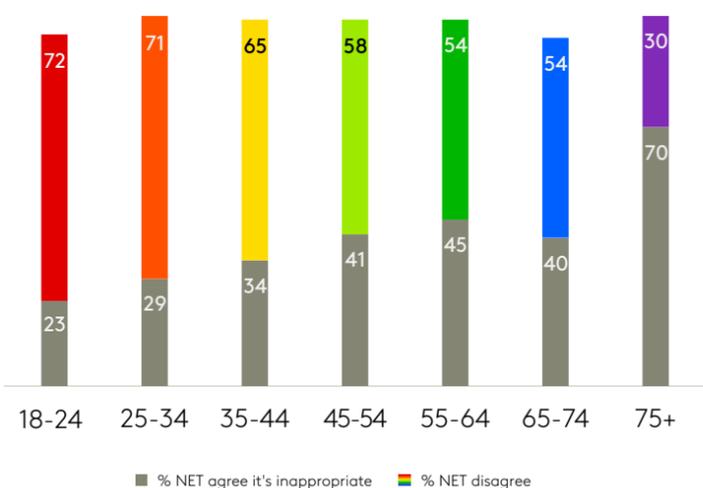
"It's inappropriate for a schoolteacher to teach a **six-year-old** that some people identify as a different gender to the gender they were born as."



Views on LGBTQ+ inclusive education by age

Younger people are much more accepting of having school lessons inclusive of LGBTQ+ people.

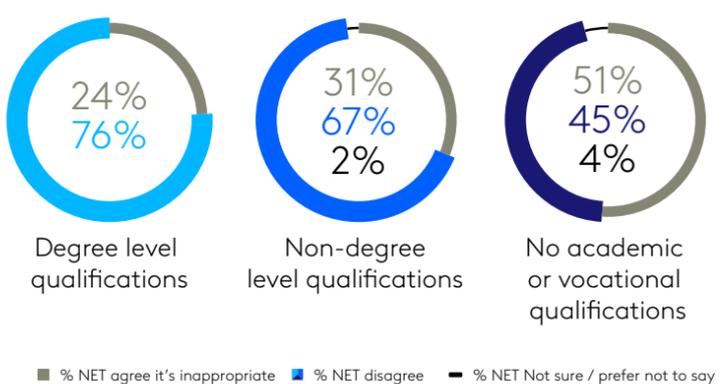
"It's inappropriate for a schoolteacher to teach a **six-year-old** that being gay is acceptable."



Views on LGBTQ+ inclusive education by education level

People with fewer or no academic qualifications are more likely to think that teaching LGBTQ+ rights to children is inappropriate.

"It's inappropriate for a schoolteacher to teach a **twelve-year-old** that being gay is acceptable."



UK society's attitudes towards conversion therapy

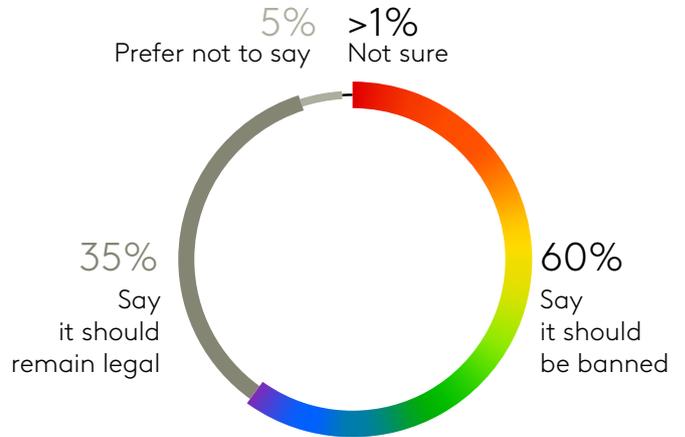
Conversion therapy, which is currently legal in the UK, is the practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation from gay or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological or spiritual techniques, which, in extreme cases, can include surgical interventions and 'corrective' rape.

After giving participants one of two neutral definitions of conversion therapy, we asked them whether they think the UK should ban or keep it.

Despite expressing a high level of comfort with the LGBTQ+ community, the youngest respondents do not seem to want conversion therapy banned as much as those in the immediately older cohorts. Further research would be required to better understand this incongruity; however it could be that younger people aged 18-24 are less aware of the severities of the practice.

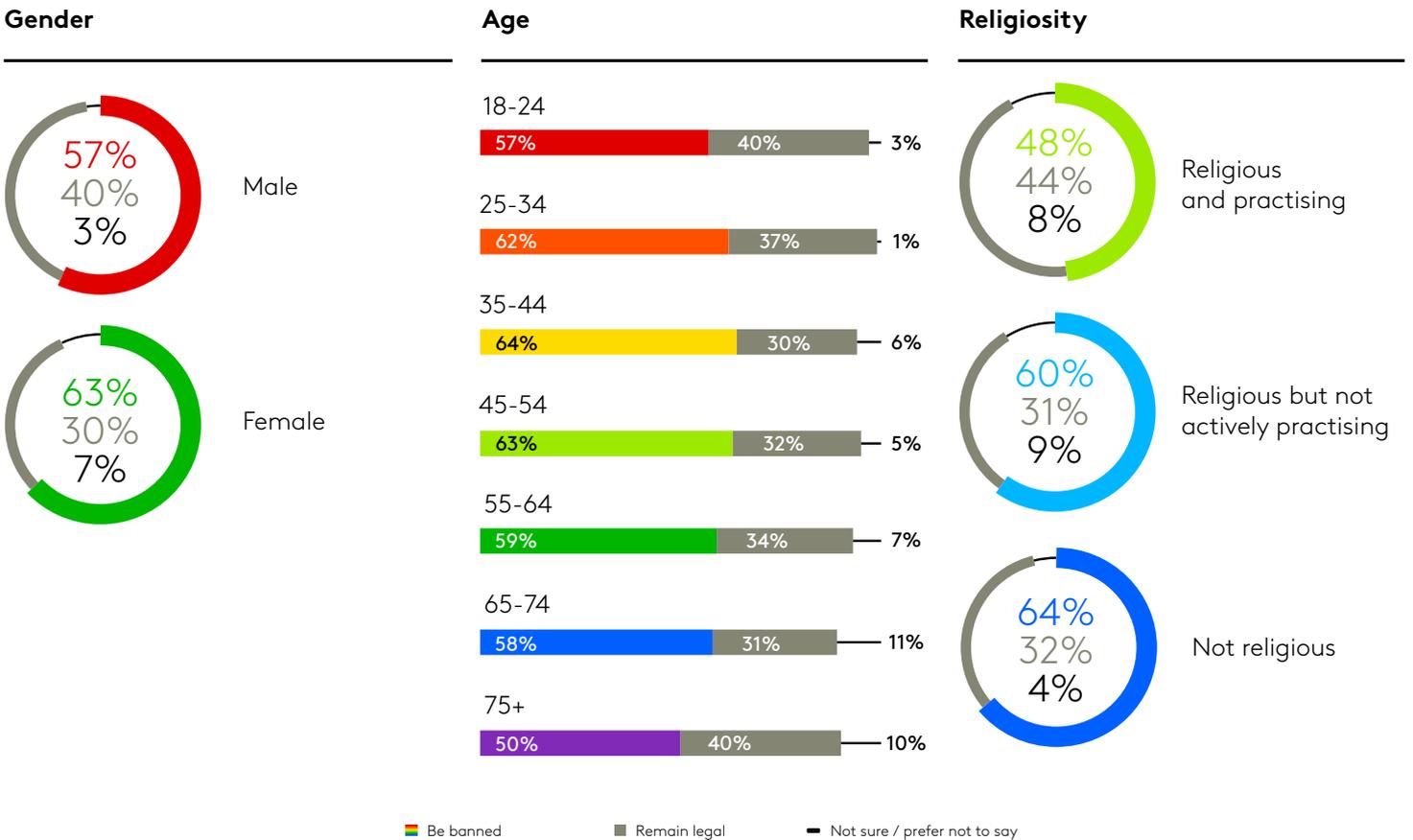
Should conversion therapy be banned or remain legal in the UK?

Most people in the UK say they think conversion therapy should be banned but over a third want the practice to remain legal.



Key factors impacting attitudes towards conversion therapy

% of people who think conversion therapy should be banned or remain legal



For more information on these findings contact us at public@kantat.com

Source: Kantar study conducted among a representative sample of the UK population (N=2,363 adults aged 16+) 8 July – 6 August 2020.

Base size of questions asked:
 of parents: 612
 of employees: 1,390
 on comfort towards one's GP, PM or neighbour: 2,337
 about teaching six-year olds: 1,163
 about teaching twelve-year olds: 1,173
 on conversion therapy: 2,333