

Dear Honorable Members of the Justice Committee

My name is Wilna van Beek. The reason for sending you this is to ask you to please vote no or to remove Bill C 6 which should be called, “***Stay gay, stay transgender Bill***” because this is actually what this bill is saying. The wording of this bill is not only very flawed, but it has the potential to impact parental rights, in fact, it will undermine parental rights. It also threatens religious freedom and freedom of expression and speech. These are rights I have which are now being jeopardized by this flawed law.

I want to be clear from the start: I do not agree with ANY abusive practices that force a person experiencing any kind of gender dysphoria to change or to “fix” them. The reality is: this type of practise has long been banned, but activists with your approval, are now brushing all talk therapy, prayer, counseling, or guidance from a parent with the same brush. Therefore, this bill should actually be called “***Stay Gay, Stay Transgender Bill***”! There are enough laws written to protect the LGBTQ or for that matter anybody who get used, abused, or bullied. We do not need another bill, therefor this bill needs to be removed from the table or please vote no to it.

I want to share my own personal story. I used to be a lesbian but no live this lifestyle and I no longer experiences same-sex attractions, after some incredible talk therapy and counseling I received. (Here is a short video where asked members of Parliament to vote no to Bill C 8 which is now Bill C 6 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUvDikFYVSY&feature=emb_logo). My story is unique because I actually went through abusive talk therapy in the early 80’s. Activist calls it “conversion therapy” but it should be labeled as “abusive talk therapy”.

This is what happened to me. When my mom discovered I was in a homosexual relationship, she forced me to see a psychiatrist who bound me on a bed, injected me with a substance and then tried to force me to change me through coercive therapy. This was such a damaging experience for me! For years I did not trust anyone because of this abusive visit to a psychiatrist. THIS is the type of talk therapy we cannot and should not tolerate, and it should be banned for sure, but there are enough laws in Canada to do so already. We do not need this bill to do that.

My story continues. Years later, following this bad experience, I sought help from my pastors to talk about my same-sex attractions. For me it was a deep struggle. (Please watch the video to hear the full story). I did not want to pursue a homosexual life but instead, I desired to follow my Christian faith and I also chose to live celibate in 2003. As temptations continued to come, the struggle intensified. This is where I realized I needed to talk to someone who could help me not to cave into my same-sex attractions. It was then that I reached out to my pastors who invited me into their home. Their approach was different than the psychiatrist from the early 80’s. They never forced me but created a safe place to talk about everything that was pressing on my heart. They did not try to “fix” my same-sex attractions at all. In fact, they focused on my heart issues. They listened and loved me and prayed for me. This brought much freedom and peace into my heart. My attractions did not go away but my focus changed, and my heart started to heal.

On another occasion, I visited a counselor for undealt anger issues from my childhood. This counselor did an excellent job too. She focused on the root of my anger, which was fear, and

after that was dealt with, I discovered months later that my same-sex attractions had diminished and no longer exist. I believe the root of my same-sex attractions was fear. Today I am living an incredible and meaningful life. I have been celibate for 17 years. I am at peace, which is so important for all human beings.

Please kindly hear me out. Not all talk therapy, counseling or prayer is bad though and should not be misunderstood as what activists wrongly describe as “conversion therapy”. This term is confusing, and I don’t know how they came up by combining the two. Conversion is one thing and so is therapy. This proves again that even the name is confusing and at least the definition should be fixed to be clear what it really is about. In Canada, a free country, the rights of parents, faith leaders and therapy counsellors must be protected, and this bill is not going to do it. Why do I think it’s not? I listened to some of the MP’s during the debate regarding Bill C 6 this past week (Dec 1st and 3rd 2020). The MP from Quebec was strong in his views saying we should not allow a parent or pastor to “influence” the person whom they are talking to. This does not make sense. When I reach out to my pastor, or when I talk to my parents, they are obviously going to influence me according to what they believe, whether it is from the Bible or not. If a person reaches out to a counselor or a pastor, they are influenceable. How can this bill criminalize their influence? Where does self determination come in? This means a person holds the right to pursue whatever they want. Bill C 6 is undermining this right which is an atrocity. For this reason, this bill is flawed and must go.

To summarize :

1. There are many members of the LGBTQ community who do not want to follow a homosexual path. Bill C6 is telling them they “**MUST STAY GAY or THEY MUST STAY TRANSGENDER**”! How can we assume every member of the LGBTQ community wants to follow this path? It is merely not true. For this reason, please **remove this bill**.
2. Change is possible, but it looks different for each person and it does not even mean that same-sex attractions go away. Bill C 6 will prevent help to persons like me and this is an atrocity in my opinion. For this reason, please **remove this bill**.
3. My story is a true story of my journey with same-sex attractions and Bill C 6 is going to prevent me to share it publicly in Canada because Bill C 6 will consider my story as “conversion therapy”. This too is an atrocity and threatens my freedom of speech and expression. For this reason, **please remove the bill**.
4. Young children with gender dysphoria will be prevented from naturally walking through puberty with the guidance of their parents because Bill C6 is telling parents they can’t talk to them, the government will take over, teachers and doctors know better and they will tell the children **STAY GAY or STAY TRANSGENDER**. This is radically undermining parental rights. Parents know what is best for their child and therefore, **please remove the bill**.

My video was submitted to the Justice Committee, too all members of Parliament and all Senators. I was hoping to appear Justice Committee, but after listening to the debate online this past week, it was clear you either don’t believe that people like me exist or you don’t want to hear our stories. To me this is very unfair and against my rights as a Canadian. As an immigrant to this nation who has worked hard, I have voted and I am doing my part to make Canada a

better place. I am asking that you consider my story, there is room for all of us and by accepting each other, respecting each other, we can all live together in peace and harmony.

If you don't believe we exist here are links of other people with similar stories , they are all asking you to remove the bill or at least fix the definition of Bill C 6.

Hudson https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ec4mZoW1l10&feature=emb_logo

Keith https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja3RTTUxDHQ&feature=emb_logo

Robert https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuuDBCr7rtA&feature=emb_logo

Kathy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVV-rR93q0&feature=emb_logo

Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK-x8nDmtwY>

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wilna van Beek