

November 20, 2020

To the Canadian Parliament Justice Committee,

I am writing to ask this committee to fix the definition of “conversion therapy” and amend Bill C-6: An Act to amend the Criminal Code. The proposed changes as currently written do not clearly define conversion therapy, therefore leaving it open to interpretation. When I think of conversion therapy, I think of old coercive practices of people being locked up in institutions to receive shock therapy until they submit that what they are thinking is wrong. That is already illegal in Canada. Please clearly define “conversion therapy” before this bill is passed.

Also, the way Bill C-6 is currently written limits Canadian’s freedom of expression in not allowing for simple conversations about personal beliefs or what a person is feeling or struggling with from past experiences and that is a violation of our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The wording also limits identity transition resources in one direction and not the ability to transition back if they change their mind or feelings in the future. Resources need to be available to Canadians to transition genders in either direction, we are human and have the right to change our minds and have supports available without prejudice.

There can be much confusion when people are minors and need adult supports to help them grow into mature healthy citizens. If we limit the resources available to them at a young age, such as open discussions about sexuality, we are doing them a disservice. I am asking that open conversations be able to take place about sexuality and behaviour in a non-coercive manner without being criminalized.

I am proposing the following changes to Bill C-6:

- Ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Allow parents to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships;
- Allow free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour; and
- Not criminalize professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nichol Kriпки