

Brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights Regarding Bill C-6 (Conversion Therapy)

Submitted by Theresa Wilson

I am a lesbian, a longtime advocate for the rights of LGB (Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual) people, a founding organizer for the Guelph Pride Picnic, and the former President of the Vancouver Dyke March & Festival. I have been organizing and advocating for the rights of LGB people for 20 years. I survived attempts at conversion therapy when I was a teenager, and as a result was kicked-out of the home and had to drop out of high school. I have a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, with an emphasis on Human Biomedical Sciences, from the University of Guelph. My professional experience primarily involves education and training within organizations, including as a Training Facilitator for the Heron UAV program at CFB Suffield in Alberta. I currently live in the GTA, but grew up in rural Ontario. Over the course of my adult life I primarily lived in BC and Ontario, but have also lived in Quebec, Alberta, and Newfoundland. I've travelled to all of our beautiful Canadian provinces, and hope to eventually make it to the territories.

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Introduction

I oppose Bill C-6 as it is currently written, and recommend several important amendments that will strengthen protections for lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) people. Sexual orientation is very different from gender identity. It is important for you to understand the differences in order to legislate effectively on this subject. Many people in Canada think that supporting gays and lesbians means supporting LGBTQ+. Unfortunately the LGBTQ+ community no longer supports gays and lesbians.^{1 2} This is especially true for lesbians.³

In this brief I discuss these issues and how gender identity concepts are used to confuse and obscure the debate and mis-represent the real world outcomes of legislation. I explain the reality within the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community to help you to better understand how this law will affect LGB people - and how previous gender identity laws have impacted us as individuals, as well as our community as a whole. To put it simply, in many cases, gender transition is conversion therapy for gay people. Therefore, it is vitally important that you use clear and specific language in Bill C-6 in order to avoid unintended consequences due to vague descriptions and a lack of understanding of the real life impacts of legislation of this nature.

There are two main ways that conversion therapy is used against gay people: (1) Medical and social transition to the opposite gender so that the individual appears heterosexual, or (2) direct pressure, harassment, and violence to force individuals to engage in heterosexual behaviour. Both of these methods are used against lesbians and gays by gender identity activists within the LGBTQ+ community. These concepts are usually based on stereotypes for men and women, as well as the rejection of basic biological reality. As homosexuals, same-sex attracted people, biological sex is the very basis of our sexual orientation. This is the main problem with Bill C-6 – it uses evidence opposing conversion of LGB people, in order to support the very methods used to convert us. An anti-conversion therapy bill that includes gender identity will enshrine into law the very conversion therapy that we are now experiencing in the name of gender identity.

MP's provided a lot of evidence opposing conversion therapy during the debate on this bill. This evidence was mostly regarding gays and lesbians, and did not address conversion therapy for transgender people. However, the bill itself focuses primarily on gender identity. This may not appear to be the case at first glance, but the language used in the Bill specifically reinforces dangerous ideas and confusion about gender identity and sexual orientation, and undermines the rights and protections for lesbian and gay people.

All people are either heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual, no matter how they identify. Conversion therapy for transgender people often involves helping individuals to feel more comfortable in their body as it is, and in their sexual orientation based on biological sex (same-sex attraction). Conversion therapy for lesbians and gays is the opposite of conversion therapy for gender identity.

In 2015, The Royal College of Psychiatrists signed on to a Memorandum opposing conversion therapy for gays and lesbians. However, in 2017, when the memorandum was changed to include gender identity, they refused to sign on because it would prevent them from providing the very therapeutic support they were trained to provide.⁴

Transgender adults are a diverse group including “heterosexual men who identify as women”, “heterosexual women who identify as men”, “gay men who identify as women”, and “gay women who identify as men”, and many others who identify as some other definition of gender. Historically, the majority of trans people were heterosexual men with sexual paraphilias for cross-dressing who felt sexual excitement from being perceived as women. A much smaller group were LGB people who transitioned to avoid the social stigma and the criminal repercussions of being gay.

The common perception in the public is that transgender people are LGB and this makes it easy for legislators and members of the public to want to offer protections for them. However, the main proponents of gender identity concepts, particularly in the media and LGBTQ organizations, are heterosexual men who want to “self-identify as

¹ <https://www.womensliberationfront.org/declaration-of-no-confidence-in-lgb-movement-leadership>

² <https://thecritic.co.uk/issues/january-2020/triumph-of-the-trans-lobbyists>

³ <https://wlrnmedia.wordpress.com/2018/06/26/dykes-take-pride/>

⁴ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bjpsych-bulletin/article/freedom-to-think-the-need-for-thorough-assessment-and-treatment-of-gender-dysphoric-children/F4B7F5CAFC0D0BE9FF3C7886BA6E904B/core-reader> (available in english and french)

lesbians” in order to enter and control women-only spaces.⁵ These men often want to engage in relationships with multiple women, hence their targeting of the lesbian community. As well, they commonly target young and inexperienced women, and use sexual coercion, domination, and sexual harassment to maintain control. Any rejection of this abusive concept is called transphobic. This has led to an influx of heterosexual men entering the gay community and using the same tactics they use to harass and abuse women in the general population, and are often enabled by other women. Lesbians within LGBTQ+ are now expected to include heterosexual men as lesbians.

For example, a heterosexual man who “self-identifies as a woman and a lesbian,” is not, in fact, a lesbian. Biological female lesbians are often aggressively pressured by biological male heterosexual “transwomen lesbians” to include them in our spaces and our relationships. To reject the sexual advances of these “transwomen lesbians” results in accusations of transphobia and hate, as well as the label “TERF,” and threats, and violence.⁶ I understand that MP's and legislators who have not experienced this or who are not aware that this is happening - may find it confusing. I ask you to try to understand how it must feel for young people bombarded with these concepts, and who often cave to the constant pressure.

The young people now being referred for transgender care are primarily teenage girls and young women who are same-sex attracted (lesbian or bisexual, approx 92%).⁷ They often seek transition as a result of homophobia, bullying, and/or intense pressure from adult heterosexual men, some of which are trans-identified, and other allies to their cause. This impact has entirely destroyed lesbian spaces, thereby giving young women questioning their sexual orientation no options to reach out for support. Older lesbians have been isolated and excluded from most LGBTQ organizations and spaces, which compounds the problem and prevents us from supporting young women to feel more comfortable with their sexual orientation. My goal is not to discriminate against trans-identified people, but to encourage and support same-sex attracted people to feel comfortable in their bodies and not feel the need to change their bodies to match their sexual orientation, or to escape harassment.

An example of the public silencing and misrepresentation of women's voices is illustrated in the recent statement from CBC english ombudsman Jack Nagler in “Kids News and Bias” on the subject of gender identity where “CBC acknowledged it got things wrong.”⁸ Unfortunately this is a persistent problem at the CBC. An excellent BBC documentary “Transgender Kids: Who Knows Best” explores the issues in detail in a balanced and scientific way. The documentary is about the landscape of gender identity in Canada and explores conversion therapy legislation, treatment options for gender identity, homophobia in gender identity, de-transitioners, and the harassment and silencing of Canadians.⁹ If you are unfamiliar with the subjects in Bill C-6, or if you were unaware of the homophobia deeply embedded in gender identity concepts, I highly recommend this documentary. The one hour documentary can be viewed in full here: <https://vimeo.com/217950594> or by requesting a copy from CBC or BBC. The documentary was originally scheduled to air on CBC in 2017. However, the CBC removed the documentary from their broadcast schedule under pressure from proponents of the “affirmation only” approach to gender identity. “Affirmation only” requires that young people are encouraged to take puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and undergo surgeries. Keep in mind that the majority of heterosexual men who are trans-identified do not have surgery. The majority of the negative impacts are on gay women, and the majority of the privileges and protections are for heterosexual men. The only balanced review of gender identity on CBC is the french language article by Radio-Canada, “Je pensais que j'étais transgenre” (I Thought I was Trans).¹⁰

“But there is a victim here—the public. A network of activists and their journalistic enablers have largely succeeded in suppressing a real discussion of the over-diagnosis of gender dysphoria among vulnerable girls. As you read this, there are parents everywhere being lectured to by authority figures about how they have to affirm their daughter's sudden

⁵ <https://lesbian-rights-nz.org/shame-receipts>

⁶ <https://lesbian-rights-nz.org/shame-receipts>

⁷ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bjpsych-bulletin/article/sex-gender-and-gender-identity-a-reevaluation-of-the-evidence/76A3DC54F3BD91E8D631B93397698B1A/core-reader?s=09> (available in english and french)

⁸ <https://cbc.radio-canada.ca/en/ombudsman/reviews/Kids-News-and-Bias>

⁹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b088kxbw>

¹⁰ <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/info/2019/05/transgenre-sexe-detransitionneurs-transition-identite-genre-orientation/>

interest in becoming a boy—no questions asked. From Amazon to I Am Jazz, everyone is telling them that transition is the path to happiness, and those who question this narrative are bigots. So they stare at their shoes and let the conversion therapy take its toll.”^{11 12}

Recent History – Conflict within LGBTQ: Same-Sex Attraction vs. Gender Identity Concepts

For decades, the LGB community supported the rights of trans-identified people to live happy, healthy lives free from discrimination in the spirit of inclusion, politeness, and diversity. However, traditional LGB organizations have since abandoned advocacy for lesbians and gays. LGBTQ organizations now advocate for gender identity concepts (T) over the rights of gays and lesbians. As a result, lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people across Canada are being silenced and excluded from our own communities – communities we created – in the name of gender identity. In modern LGBTQ spaces, gays and lesbians cannot create, organize or attend events specifically for biological women or biological men who are exclusively same-sex attracted, despite the fact that trans-identified people are free to organize events exclusively for themselves. When we try to create or attend these events, we are immediately harassed and called hateful, exclusionary, and transphobic.¹³

Homosexuality means same-sex attraction, not same-gender. The seemingly simple word change to include “same-gender attraction,” specifically allows for heterosexual people of the opposite sex to self-identify into the definitions for gay and lesbian. Virtually all LGBTQ and human rights organizations across Canada have changed the definitions for gay and lesbian to include heterosexual people of the opposite sex, thereby rendering these definitions meaningless. For example, EGALE Canada, formerly Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, now defines gay and lesbian to mean “same-gender attraction.”

As a result, within the LGBTQ community we are forced to include heterosexual men who identify as women into our lesbian events, and heterosexual women who identify as men in our gay men's events.¹⁴ This has made our gay and lesbian spaces, traditionally the places where young people would go to find support, a magnet for heterosexual people seeking to sexually harass, sexually assault, and convert members of our community. Young people in particular, who are just coming out as gay or lesbian, are specifically targeted by trans activists (commonly known as TRA's or Trans Rights Activists). Though it is important to differentiate between transgender people, many of whom oppose gender identity concepts that exclude discussions of biological reality, and the most aggressive proponents of gender identity concepts who disregard biological reality altogether. For those of us familiar with these issues and concepts, it is clear that BILL C-6 was written on behalf of proponents of gender identity concepts that eliminate fact based discussions of biological reality, and same-sex attraction.

When young people, especially lesbians, refuse to transition or adopt a different gender identity, they are harassed. When they reject sexual relationships with members of the opposite-sex who are trans-identified, they are harassed. Lesbians and gays did not expect this, nor were we prepared for the fact that simply stating our sexual orientation and refusing sexual advances from opposite-sex community members is now deemed transphobic and hateful. Transgender people deserve basic human rights protections, but not at the expense of gays and lesbians. Most gay and lesbian people across the country do not support the recent developments and progression of gender identity concepts, but are too afraid to speak publicly because of the very real danger of losing jobs and livelihoods, threats, harassment and violence that we experience and witness on a regular basis.^{15 16} We implore you to pause the rapid progression of this bill and take time to listen to our concerns.

¹¹ <https://quillette.com/2020/11/07/gender-activists-are-trying-to-cancel-my-book-why-is-silicon-valley-helping-them>

¹² <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/abigail-shrier-on-teen-trans-trend-feminism-technology/id1532976305?i=1000495240932>

¹³ <https://www.womensliberationfront.org/declaration-of-no-confidence-in-lgb-movement-leadership>

¹⁴ <https://lesbian-rights-nz.org/shame-receipts>

¹⁵ <https://4w.pub/vanessa-vokey-will-not-be-cancelled>

¹⁶ <https://www.feministcurrent.com/2020/06/15/podcast-prof-kathleen-lowrey-didnt-hide-her-views-on-gender-identity-ideology-and-was-punished-for-it/>

Homophobia in Gender Identity Concepts and Transition Services

Very often individuals seek gender transition therapy in response to homophobic bullying, internalized homophobia, and/or homophobia from parents and family members. In a review of gender transition therapies in the UK National Health Service, clinicians spoke of this at length:

"For some families, it was easier to say, this is a medical problem, 'here's my child, please fix them!' than dealing with a young, gay kid," the clinician said. At the service's "family days", a parent was allegedly heard saying that they did not want their child to have gay friends because they "didn't want them mixed up in that hedonistic lifestyle". "It is converting people into heterosexuals," one of the clinicians said. "We had so many families who would talk about not wanting their daughters to be lesbian." Young people "repeatedly" confided their own "disgust" that they may be gay, according to the clinician. Another female clinician said: "We heard a lot of homophobia which we felt nobody was challenging. A lot of the girls would come in and say, 'I'm not a lesbian. I fell in love with my best girl friend but then I went online and realised I'm not a lesbian, I'm a boy. Phew.' " Over the course of three years, 40 clinicians left the NHS gender clinic because their concerns about homophobia were not addressed.¹⁷

During the 2nd reading of Bill C-6, Hon. David Lametti (Minister of Justice, Lib.) stated: "The offences proposed by Bill C-6 do not apply to recognized therapies, first, because the main objective of gender affirming treatments is not to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual...or to repress or reduce attraction or sexual behaviour." With all due respect, he is unfortunately misinformed. This is very often the point of recognized gender affirming treatments, which are "affirmation only" gender identity treatments such as cross-sex hormones, and surgery. If you pass this law as it is, you are directly supporting homophobia and harassment of Canadians on the basis of sexual orientation.

Sexual Harassment and Violence Against Women in the LGBTQ Community – How It Impacts the Decision of Young People to Transition

Lesbians, in particular, have always been the target of some heterosexual men who see us as threats to their ideas of manhood and womanhood. This is basic sexism and homophobia. Historically we were able to exclude these kinds of men from our lesbian spaces. The new sexism and homophobia of LGBTQ takes the form of extreme gender identity concepts, where we are no longer able to exclude them if they claim to "identify as women." More than 80% of men who "identify as women" do not have any surgery and appear in all ways as typical men. The only defining characteristic is that they "self-identify" as women, and sometimes only for short periods of time. Virtually all of the trans people pushing to enter women's spaces are heterosexual men who claim to be lesbians. Sexual orientation and gender identity are in direct conflict. We are aware that many LGBTQ organizations disagree, but it is important for you to understand that these organizations have been entirely taken over by gender identity concepts at the expense of regular gay, lesbian, and bisexual people, who have been bullied, harassed, and excluded from spaces and organizations that we created. For example, I am the former President of the Vancouver Dyke March.^{18 19 20 21 22 23 24} The current Vancouver Dyke March is now at the direction of "heterosexual men who identify as lesbians" and female allies who harassed, bullied, and excluded lesbians from the march and festival. They surrounded the women with bullhorns and threats and refused them entry to the festival. The new Vancouver Dyke March also banned the womanhood symbol (♀) and the lesbian symbol (♀♀), and any mention of XX representing female chromosomes.²⁵ Across Canada and around the world,

¹⁷ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/it-feels-like-conversion-therapy-for-gay-children-say-clinicians-pvsckdvq2>
(also accessible here: <http://archive.is/FYWSN>)

¹⁸ <https://www.dailyxtra.com/dyke-march-festival-to-return-to-grandview-park-in-2012-5423>

¹⁹ <https://www.dailyxtra.com/new-dyke-march-members-keen-to-get-going-7466>

²⁰ <https://www.dailyxtra.com/full-slate-and-financial-stability-4052>

²¹ <https://www.dailyxtra.com/dyke-march-on-track-for-beer-garden-3409>

²² <https://www.dailyxtra.com/dyke-march-teams-up-with-winterpride-1762>

²³ <https://www.dailyxtra.com/dyke-march-launches-year-of-10s-1587>

²⁴ <https://www.dailyxtra.com/vancouver-dyke-march-returns-to-grandview-park-3007>

²⁵ <https://www.feministcurrent.com/2018/08/13/lesbians-excluded-vancouver-dyke-march-name-inclusivity/>

lesbians are being physically assaulted for using the wrong pronouns.²⁶ Some, even murdered for opposing transgender people who support extreme gender identity concepts:

"For anyone new to the transgender war against the lesbian community, Dana Rivers aka David Chester Warfield was a California teacher...[and] an organizer and participant in "Camp Trans," the largest organized protest in transgender history. Camp Trans was a campaign [directly] against the rights of lesbians [who held] an annual women-only music festival called "Michfest" [The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival]. Dana Rivers and other Camp Trans protesters occupied the space outside the rural lesbian-owned property and traveled cross-country and [dedicated themselves] to harassing lesbians whom, they believed, discriminated against [them] by excluding males from [this] private lesbian event [held] on private [property]. In November 2016, David Warfield/Dana Rivers went on to brutally batter, then stab, shoot, and burn two women who were long-time Michfest attendees [along with] their adopted son. David/Dana was charged with stabbing, shooting, and beating Patricia Wright and Charlotte Reed and their son Benny, and then burning them. He has been housed in the Santa Rita Jail - allegedly in the women's sector - ever since."^{27 28}

Lesbian organizations like the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, which ran for 40 years, and the women who run them, are targeted in the same way by proponents of gender identity concepts. These violent outcomes serve as a warning to all lesbians that challenging gender identity ideology is dangerous. Every true lesbian bar in North America has been closed, while lesbian dating apps are now full of heterosexual men. Complaints about men entering these spaces are met with violent threats, as well as examples of actual violence cited above. The loss of all dedicated lesbian spaces gives young women the perception that they have nowhere to go for support. Silencing of older lesbians means there are no role models for a healthy lesbian community.

Many lesbians are being labeled a TERF (Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist), whether or not we are trans exclusionary or radical feminists, simply for refusing the sexual advances of men who identify as women. Trans people and allies are regularly encouraged to "Punch a TERF" or "Kill TERFs." An official Pride event for Baltimore Pride described, "terfs will be hung by their necks."²⁹ Many of us did not even realize this was a label assigned to us until after we started experiencing harassment and violence. We are regularly doxxed (our personal and private information released on the internet) to facilitate this harassment. There are TERF tracker apps, pages, forums, and websites set up (often by registered sex-offenders) for this sole-purpose.^{30 31} When harassment, threats, and violence are not successful at excluding and silencing us, simple lies and slander are spread to further force our submission and silence. This dramatically limits our ability to support young people struggling with their sexual orientation and experiencing harassment themselves. It also serves as a warning to young people that associating with LGB people who are critical of any aspect of gender identity concepts, will also be met with violence. It's no surprise that the most dramatic rise in referrals for gender transition in the healthcare system is for young lesbian and bisexual women. It is no wonder that so many young women seek to transition to appear as men in order to avoid this harassment. It is no wonder that so many gays and lesbians will publicly support gender identity concepts, and privately express deep concern and fear.^{32 33 34 35 36}

^{37 38 39}

²⁶ <https://afterellen.com/general-news/559907-queer-identified-women-jump-lesbian-outside-of-a-drag-show>

²⁷ <https://www.gendertrending.com/2019/08/13/media-blackout-on-dana-rivers-michfest-murder-trial/>

²⁸ <https://listening2lesbians.com/tag/dana-rivers/>

²⁹ <https://wlrnmedia.wordpress.com/2018/06/26/dykes-take-pride/>

³⁰ <https://queeratxlaura.wordpress.com/2020/05/27/resisting-terfs-and-transforming-their-organizations/>

³¹ <https://ovarit.com/o/GenderCritical/5105/3-for-3-terf-tracker-terfblocker-and-shinigami-eyes-terf-hunter-all-created-by-o>

³² <https://thevelvetchronicle.com/why-is-the-media-trying-to-erase-the-word-lesbian>

³³ <https://4thwavenow.com/2016/01/25/the-surgical-suite-modern-day-closet-for-todays-teen-lesbian/>

³⁴ <https://afterellen.com/general-news/567823-girl-dick-the-cotton-ceiling-and-the-cultural-war-on-lesbians-girls-and-women>

³⁵ <https://medium.com/@mirandayardley/girl-dick-the-cotton-ceiling-and-the-cultural-war-on-lesbians-and-women-c323b4789368>

³⁶ <https://lesbian-rights-nz.org/shame-receipts>

³⁷ <https://www.transgendertrend.com/lesbian-detransitioners-must-question-primary-solution/>

³⁸ <https://www.womensliberationfront.org/declaration-of-no-confidence-in-lgb-movement-leadership>

³⁹ <https://lesbianalliance.org.uk/lra-fact-sheet-for-gra-reforms/>

Gender Transition as Gay Conversion Therapy

It's important to point out that targeted violence against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people is commonplace around the world, especially in countries and cultures where they face honour killings from family members or state sponsored capital punishment for the crime of being LGB. In countries, such as Iran, the alternative to violence, honour killings and public execution, is gender transition. A gay man in Iran shares a disturbing story to the BBC: "Psychologists suggested gender reassignment to Soheil, a gay Iranian 21-year-old. Then his family put him under immense pressure to go through with it. 'My father came to visit me in Tehran with two relatives,' he says. 'They'd had a meeting to decide what to do about me... They told me: 'You need to either have your gender changed or we will kill you and will not let you live in this family.'"⁴⁰

Unfortunately, this type of violence, conversion of gays and lesbians by way of forced or coerced gender transition, and even honour killings are also happening in Canada. How can we provide safe-haven to immigrants fleeing violence for being gay or lesbian when we are now experiencing the same violence and conversion pressure here? Some of the most intense proponents of gender transition for children and youth are parents who don't even attempt to hide their homophobia. Susie Green, the founder of the UK based children and youth gender identity organization, Mermaids, is an example of parent's homophobia leading to gender transition for children. Until recently, Mermaids, was involved in education and training for UK schools and other governmental organizations. The UK Government recently cut ties with Mermaids, and advised teachers and educators to stop teaching children that it is possible to be born in the wrong body. Instead teachers are encouraged to teach non-discrimination for people who don't fit gender stereotypes. There is a marked and important difference between these two approaches. One encourages young people to feel comfortable with themselves and their bodies, while the other encourages medical interventions to fit sex-based stereotypes. The UK government has also recently abandoned proposals for self-id for gender identity, which is unfortunately still the basis for bill C-16 and Bill C-6 here in Canada. The vague inclusion of gender identity in legislation in Canada has led to a dramatic increase in homophobia, especially in the LGBTQ community, medical transition as the standard for care, as well as a variety of other unintended consequences for women and children.

De-Transitioners

I have not yet mentioned the medical repercussion of transition and the experiences of de-transitioners (people who transitioned and then returned to identifying with their biological sex), because I know that other groups are addressing their specific concerns.^{41 42 43 44 45 46} Researchers in the Journal *Archives of Sexual Behaviour* recently published a thorough analysis and rebuttal of the evidence opposing conversion therapy for gender identity.⁴⁷ One of the researchers also did a video interview discussing the scientific evidence.⁴⁸ As well, scientists around the world are joining in a coalition against the misinformation of science relating to gender identity, Project Nettie: Scientists Supporting Biological Sex.⁴⁹

I sincerely support the efforts of de-transitioners (most of whom are female and lesbians) to advocate and educate about the challenges they experience. Many therapists in Canada will not work with de-transitioners for fear of violating existing gender identity legislation.^{50 51} Bill C-6 will likely make this situation much worse. Unfortunately, de-transitioners

⁴⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-29832690>

⁴¹ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-detransitioners-what-happens-when-trans-men-want-to-be-women-again-fd22b7jhs>

⁴² <https://www.detransadv.com/resources>

⁴³ <https://www.docdroid.net/kWO8DNY/the-influence-of-peers-during-adolescence-does-homophobic-name-calling-by-peers-change-gender-identity-pdf>

⁴⁴ <https://4thwavenow.com/2018/08/07/research-evidence-gender-atypical-tots-likely-to-become-gay-or-lesbian-not-trans/>

⁴⁵ <https://thecritic.co.uk/issues/november-2020/transitioning-to-a-medical-scandal>

⁴⁶ <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/info/2019/05/transgenre-sexe-detransitionneurs-transition-identite-genre-orientation/>

⁴⁷ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10508-020-01844-2>

⁴⁸ <https://youtu.be/rC7nhOqfCKs>

⁴⁹ <https://projectnettie.wordpress.com/2019/09/17/project-nettie-scientists-supporting-biological-sex/>

⁵⁰ <https://quilllette.com/2020/10/31/i-signed-up-to-study-sexual-health-what-i-got-was-gender-ideology-fetishism-and-porn>

⁵¹ <https://news.sky.com/story/nhs-over-diagnosing-children-having-transgender-treatment-former-staff-warn-11875624>

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are just as likely to be harassed and excluded from the LGBTQ community as other gay, lesbian and bisexual people who believe that homosexuality is same-sex attraction based on biological sex. Despite what many proponents of gender identity will claim, gender transition actually increases suicidal ideation.⁵² The impact of gender-reassignment can lead to a lifetime of medical dependency on the healthcare system, footed by Canadian tax-payers. Cross-sex hormone therapy alone can cause permanent infertility, constant physical pain, developmental delays, loss of sexual function, loss of bone density potentially leading to increases in fractures, delays in healthy brain development, and increased rates of heart attacks, to name a few. In the survey cited below, 67.8% of de-transitioned females report feeling like they didn't receive adequate counseling or accurate information before and during transition. 59.4% found alternative ways to cope. 62.9% had political or ideological concerns with proponents of gender identity.

Reasons for de-transitioning/Raisons de la détransition: ⁵³

| What led you to stop your transition? (Check all that apply) | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Medical concerns | 26.7% | 54 |
| Mental health concerns-hormone related | 15.3% | 31 |
| Mental health concerns-not hormone related | 30.7% | 62 |
| Financial concerns | 17.8% | 36 |
| Dissatisfied with outcomes of transition-dysphoria not resolved, transition did not/would not change enough | 26.2% | 53 |
| Dissatisfied with outcomes of transition-dysphoria not resolved, transition did/would change too much | 15.8% | 32 |
| Dissatisfied with outcomes of transition-dysphoria not resolved, other | 20.3% | 41 |
| Resolved mental health issues which led to dysphoria | 28.7% | 58 |
| Found alternative ways to cope with dysphoria | 59.4% | 120 |
| Dysphoria resolved itself over time | 22.8% | 46 |
| Political/ideological concerns | 62.9% | 127 |
| Workplace, housing, or other institutional | 7.4% | 15 |
| Lack of social or family support | 16.8% | 34 |
| Other (please specify) | 17.3% | 35 |
| answered question | | 202 |
| skipped question | | 1 |

Dysphoria is a general scientific term that describes extreme distress, and is the opposite of the term euphoria, extreme joy. Though it's important to note that many trans-identified and de-transitioned people use the word Dysphoria to mean Gender Dysphoria. Gender Dysphoria describes extreme distress about the sex of an individual's body. Speaking as a woman, this is a very common experience for all women regardless of sexual orientation, especially during puberty. Sex-reassignment has been re-branded and marketed as "gender confirmation," or "gender affirmation," when it actually encourages discomfort in the body. This is a push for an "affirmation only" medical and social transition response to Gender Dysphoria, as

opposed to therapies that help a patient find ways to be comfortable in their own body. Bill C-16, which prevents discrimination on the basis of self-determined gender identity, has created a culture of fear within the medical and therapeutic communities. Gender Clinics in Canada that opposed this "affirmation only" approach, have been shut down due to this culture of fear and harassment. There has been a 9000% increase in young people seeking gender transition treatment, 75% of which are teenage girls, and 50% are in foster care. Of those, 30-50% have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum, while more than 60% have co-morbidities like ADHD and eating disorders. Below is a description of the dramatic difference in treatments for Body Dysmorphic Disorder (eating disorder) and Gender Dysphoria (transgender identity) from a de-transitioned woman:

gloom @fedupmoth · Oct 28

it's so wild to me that when i was diagnosed with body dysmorphic disorder i was referred for therapy which centred around accepting myself for who i am, focusing on & amplifying aspects about my personality that had nothing to do with my body, finding worth in myself as a person

9:21 AM · Oct 28, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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gloom @fedupmoth · Oct 28

Replying to @fedupmoth and practicing exposure therapy to desensitise myself to the parts of my appearance which made me uncomfortable. but as soon as i told my therapist i hated being a woman & that i "knew" i was trans the course of my therapy did a complete 180.

2 11 104

gloom @fedupmoth · Oct 28

all of my fears, paranoia, self-loathing, internalised homophobia & misogyny was confirmed and legitimised. all of it. how is that an effective & ethical way to treat people??

1 12 114

gloom @fedupmoth · Oct 28

and the thing is since detransitioning i have utilised some of the techniques i learnt during bdd therapy to deal with my dysphoria. it's not some magic wand that takes it all away but it definitely helps.

1 5 93

gloom @fedupmoth · Oct 28

i wonder if i could've prevented all i've been through in the past 9 years if intensive therapy & self-acceptance had been the option presented to me instead of trying to change absolutely everything about myself to feel normal

1 10 98

gloom @fedupmoth · Oct 28

but honestly i think the culture around gender & transition, my social circle & tumblr (ah tumblr!!!!) would have made it impossible. i guess i really don't have any answers.

4 5 87

⁵² <https://www.transgendertrend.com/the-suicide-myth>

⁵³ <https://guideonragingstars.tumblr.com/post/149877706175/female-detransition-and-reidentification-survey>

Unintended Consequences of Gender Identity Legislation

Clear definitions and explicit expectations are vital when introducing gender identity legislation due to the unintended consequences of vague language. I sincerely support the efforts of feminist organizations and women's rights groups to advocate and educate on behalf of women's sex-based rights.

I understand that the government had no intention to endanger women, children, gays, and lesbians by introducing gender identity laws on the basis of inclusion and anti-discrimination. However, the impact of previously passed legislation, such as Bill C-16, has resulted in extreme unintended consequences. In Canada women are being sexually harassed and sexually assaulted in women's shelters, rape crisis centers, female jails, and prisons by men who self-identify as women. Women who complain report being kicked out of these facilities, or face sanctions, for those imprisoned. Some of these assaults have resulted in convictions. 50% of the prison transfer requests are from sex offenders. In the first week that The University of Toronto opened gender-neutral washrooms and shower facilities, there were two separate reports of men filming women in the showers. Some researchers suggest that these laws and policies signal to sexual offenders the types of locations and communities where it will be easier to commit offenses, where they may be more likely to enter these spaces undetected, or where complaints from women will go unheard or ignored. Please try to understand that these offenses are not only occurring in highly monitored spaces, but also in the shadows in the LGBTQ community. Biological females in Canada, even those identifying as transgender, are being subjected to these atrocities at the hands of men who self-identify as women, and who are enabled by their female allies. Whether these male people are transgender or not is almost irrelevant at this point, as self-ID allows anyone to claim any gender identity and receive an "affirmation-only" response. The culture of silence around sexual violence is well understood, but this is compounded by the culture of bullying, harassment, and silencing that has developed in recent years within the LGBTQ community in Canada. I beg you to consider these facts as you amend Bill C-6. There will be unintended consequences to Bill C-6, much like there were unintended consequences to Bill C-16. I wonder why the federal government has not released a gender-based analysis of Bill C-16 before proposing another gender identity related bill, especially when these unintended consequences would be revealed and could inform the ability of MP's and legislators to better legislate on gender identity related subjects.^{54 55 56 57}

Correctional Service Canada provides an interesting analysis in their Sexual Homicide and Paraphilias: The Correctional Service of Canada's Experts Forum 2007.⁵⁸ Paraphilias range from cross-dressing to pedophilia and sexual murder. A person with a paraphilia has on average 4.8 different paraphilias. I am not suggesting that all trans-identified people are dangerous, far from it. There is a big difference between someone who feels distress about the sex of their body, and someone who experiences sexual excitement from cross-dressing. Unfortunately the wide "trans umbrella" of gender identity does not differentiate and has specifically included dangerous offenders in LGBTQ. Lesbians are not allowed to bring up our concerns or exclude anyone who self-identifies as a women, even when someone is showing predatory behaviour. This contributes to the loss of lesbian spaces and the impact on young people discovering their sexual orientation is that they do not have access to a safe community that can support them. The best solution to combat conversion therapy for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people is a healthy and safe LGB community where our voices can be heard and valued.

Recommendations for Bill C-6

I greatly appreciate the support of many conservative and moderate MP's to use careful consideration with respect to the language of Bill C-6. I've never actually voted conservative and have always voted either NDP or Liberal. I'm incredibly surprised that that only MP's expressing caution with an understanding of the actual implications of the language in this Bill, are conservatives. I certainly oppose homophobia in all its forms, but I also recognize the

⁵⁴ <https://theysaythisneverhappens.tumblr.com>

⁵⁵ <https://www.womenarehuman.com/trans-groups-terroristic-threat-to-murder-gender-id-skeptics-does-not-violate-facebook-standards>

⁵⁶ <https://www.womensliberationfront.org/news/national-poll-support-for-womens-spaces>

⁵⁷ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-battle-over-gender-has-turned-bloody-2wpkmmqh>

⁵⁸ <https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/shp2007-paraphil01-eng.shtml>

complicated nature of the subjects involved, and how homophobia impacts us on many levels, and in new ways through gender identity concepts. I therefore recommend that much greater specificity be added to the language of the bill to protect lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, as well as protecting freedom of speech, which includes the free speech of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Canada. Having provided some context to the conflict within the LGBTQ Community, specifically the conflict between lesbian, gay and bisexual people, and gender identity concepts, **I wholeheartedly support the request of many MP's to include the statements of the Minister of Justice in the bill as follows:**

"These new offences would not criminalise private conversations in which personal views on sexual orientation, sexual feelings or gender identity are expressed such as where[by] teachers, school counsellors, pastoral counsellors, faith leaders, doctors, mental health professionals, [community groups, LGB organizations], friends or family members provide affirming support to persons struggling with their sexual orientation, sexual feelings, or gender identity."

- **I recommend** that you include mention that support of someone experiencing same-sex attraction, can, and often does, conflict with gender identity concepts. This would further strengthen support for homosexual (gay and lesbian) and bisexual people, who are under constant pressure to instead identify as transgender or non-binary, and either appear heterosexual or engage in heterosexual or bisexual relationships.
- **I recommend** that you specifically allow for public conversations on these matters, and make clear that public conversations are not criminalized. It is important that gay, lesbian, and bisexual people, and particularly young people struggling with their sexual orientation, know that there are many who support them to feel comfortable with themselves and in our community. At times this will require us to specifically challenge certain concepts of gender identity.
- **I recommend** that you include in the bill definitions for homosexual, gay, and lesbian that specifically define these on the basis of same-sex attraction. I ask that you resist the pressure of gender identity proponents to also include same-gender attraction in these definitions. As mentioned previously, inclusion of same-gender attraction renders these definitions meaningless and thereby renders any protection from conversion therapy ineffective, and would actually promote the conversion of gay and lesbian people in Canada. To state it simply, oftentimes gender transition is conversion therapy for gay people. I understand that this is precisely not your intention. I understand that you are well meaning and want to protect gay and lesbian people from conversion therapy. I hope that my comments have helped you to understand the conflicts involved.
- **I recommend** that you eliminate any reference to "non-heterosexual" attraction and instead address only homosexual, bisexual and heterosexual.
- **I recommend** that you eliminate the use of "cisgender" and instead focus on biological reality in discussions of gender identity.
- **I recommend** that you separate sexual orientation and gender identity in all sentences and paragraphs of the bill.
- **To add clarity, I recommend an amendment:**
"Conversion therapy does not include discussions about whether it would be better for an individual to accept their birth sex, and to accept and act on their sexual orientation (defined by their birth sex), or to accept and act on their gender identity (which is incongruent with their birth sex)."

I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration in reading my brief. I request that you invite me to speak to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights to further discuss my concerns and recommendations. I also sincerely appreciate the almost unanimous support for the protection of lesbian, gay and bisexual Canadians expressed by MP's of all political parties during the debate on Bill C-6. I am a lesbian, a longtime advocate for the rights of LGB (Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual) people, a founding organizer for the Guelph Pride Picnic, and the former President of the Vancouver Dyke March & Festival. I have been organizing and advocating for the rights of LGB people for 20 years. I survived attempts at conversion therapy when I was a teenager, and as a result was kicked-out of the home and had to drop out of high school. I have a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, with an emphasis on Human Biomedical Sciences, from the University of Guelph. My professional experience primarily involves education and training within organizations, including as a Training Facilitator for the Heron UAV program at CFB Suffield in Alberta. I currently live in the GTA, but grew up in rural Ontario. Over the course of my adult life I primarily lived in BC and Ontario, but have also lived in Quebec, Alberta, and Newfoundland. I've travelled to all of our beautiful Canadian provinces, and hope to eventually make it to the territories. **Theresa Wilson (November 2020)**