

Bill C6 Conversion Therapy Please fix the definition

Hello, I am a concerned citizen and mother hoping to express and reject the wording of bill C6. I agree it would be appropriate to protect Canadians from this outdated and banned practice. The Trevor Project defines Conversion therapy as “reparative therapy,” is any of several dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Conversion therapists use a variety of shaming, emotionally traumatic or physically painful stimuli to make their victims associate those stimuli with their LGBTQ identities.”*

Please reword the ban to the above practice definition and not just “therapy, treatment or program” aimed towards a “predefined goal”. This is much too broad.

Agreed this has no place in Canada where our laws should be protecting the vulnerable within our communities.

The concerns are when the bill includes reducing sexual behaviour such as a parent counselling her child or participating in programs offered in a church or ministry setting that supports reducing sexual behaviour could be considered as a program toward a “predefined goal.”

“Many of these concerns with Bill C-6 could be alleviated by:

deleting the final clause in the definition of conversion therapy, “to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour;” and

clarifying in the exemptions that the following will not be considered conversion therapy:

- parental guidance on matters of gender or sexuality
- religious instruction on matters of gender or sexuality
- the private or public expression of sincerely held beliefs or views
- therapeutic or medical care offered to individuals voluntarily seeking support.”

Excerpt from

EFC (Evangelical fellowship of Canada)**

In conclusion Canadians must be allowed to continue to have open conversations about sexuality with their children and others. Professionals should not be criminalized for counselling or helping any individual who asks for help no matter what their sexual orientation is. Freedom of religion and biblical instruction should not be criminalized.

* <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

** <https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/Communications/Outgoing-letters/October-2020/Concern-over-Bill-C-6-on-conversion-therapy>