

A Brief to  
The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
Concerning Bill C- 6 (conversion therapy)  
By  
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The following summarize my reflections on the December 1, 2020 hearing of The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

- 1) **Definition:** Without some new “for greater certainty” clauses, it seems clear to me that the definition of conversion therapy in Bill C- 6 still seems to be so broad that it is likely to violate our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, especially the fundamental freedoms, particularly re:  
  
(a) freedom of conscience and religion;  
  
(b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression.
- 2) **Coercive, degrading actions:** Yes, coercive, degrading actions that seek to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity should be banned in a revised Bill C-6.
- 3) **Conversation and instruction:** I recommend that Bill C-6 include a clause such as “for greater certainty this Bill does not ban any kinds of conversational exploration, advice, counsel and instruction from parents, teachers, guidance counselors and spiritual leaders concerning gender identity or sexual behaviour with minors.” It seems clear to me that without some such clarification some will cite this bill as evidence that Canada does not tolerate expression of some opinions.
- 4) **Law enforcement:** I recommend that Bill C-6 include a clause such as “for greater certainty this Bill bans any kinds of law enforcement taps into private family communications to investigate discussion that might fit the bill’s definition of ‘conversion therapy’”.
- 5) **Discrimination:** While the present Bill C-6 expressly allows counselling, medical, and surgical efforts to change a minor’s gender, it expressly prohibits any support for a minor seeking to de-

transition to their birth (cis) gender or to change their sexual orientation – that is unfair discrimination.

- 6) **LGBTQ2 restrictions:** the present Bill C-6 restricts the choices of LGBTQ2 Canadians by prohibiting access to any professional informal or spiritual support freely chosen to limit sexual behaviour or de-transition gender identity.
- 7) **LGBTQ2 who desire change:** the present Bill C-6 fails to recognize the difference between those LGBTQ2 Canadians who choose to continue their sexual orientation and gender identity from those LGBTQ2 Canadians who voluntarily wish to change their sexual orientation and gender identity. Note that many Internet sites<sup>1</sup> include print and video testimonies of ex-gays and ex-trans people who have freely chosen to leave that lifestyle, some with talk therapy coaching, some without. They report that this talk therapy has been extremely helpful in improving their lives concerning their *unwanted* gender confusion or same-sex attraction. These counselling supports have saved lives. They testify that spiritual guidance or clinical therapy saved them from despair, depression and suicide. One clinic<sup>2</sup> reports that some 135 clients per week come *voluntarily* seeking such clinical therapy help from their eight licensed professional counselors. They also report that about one-third of their clients achieve the clients' own goals for change, about one-third experience no change and about one-third experience some change. Bill C-6 says nothing about such clients. It only criminalizes their therapists—which is clearly unfair. Hence, many see this bill as unconstitutionally intolerant of viewpoint diversity. Thus, this Bill fails to serve the needs of ALL Canadians. Instead, it officially binds the Canadian government as an LGBTQ2 activist ally (note the Department of Justice website change to add “affirmed” mentioned in the December 1, 2020 hearing). At one point, Bill C-6 mentions “forced conversion therapy.” Elsewhere no such limitation is referenced. That makes the present bill ambiguous. Some fear that parents, pastors and other faith leaders who mention traditional sexual ethics may be charged with violating this new law and threatened with incarceration.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BuHXVA70> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maBBfiYW-C4> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnRC0E9MG1Y> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ab0aPpkI33A> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKSPdyH8x4&t=416s> ; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPBLyb8H\\_iE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPBLyb8H_iE) and many more. (Accessed November 25, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_GLo3hD964&t=308s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_GLo3hD964&t=308s) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO6pzJTvTU>. (Accessed November 25, 2020).

8) **Parental rights:** I recommend that Bill C-6 include a clause such as “for greater certainty this Bill bans any adult message to minors under junior high school that ‘there are no real boys or girls,’” cf., “Barbara Kay: The case for deep-sixing Bill C-6.”<sup>3</sup>

9) **Responsible informed consent:** I recommend that Bill C-6 include a clause such as “for greater certainty this Bill bans any initiation of gender transition procedures prior to securing responsible informed consent (including the future implications to health and fertility) for those Canadian minors and their parents or legal guardians who choose gender transition,” cf., “Bill C-6 needs more nuance: Conversion therapy is wrong but pushing kids to trans-medically is worse” by 47-year-old Scott Newgent, a trans-man who lived 25 years as a lesbian.<sup>4</sup> He warns transgenders of the life of pain and multiple health risks they enter when they choose to change gender. He warns that gender-confused people of all ages and their loved-ones are routinely not given such warnings.

### Summary of recommendations:

- Ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity (see #2 above);
- Expressly allow free and open conversations and instruction about sexuality and sexual behaviour (see #3 above);
- Ban law enforcement taps into private family communications about sexuality and gender (see #4 above);
- Ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (see #5 above);
- Expressly allow parents to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships (see #3 above);
- Expressly do not criminalize professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians (see #5, 6 and 7 above);
- Ban adults suggesting to minors that “there are no real boys or girls.” (see #8 above); and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/barbara-kay-the-case-for-deep-sixing-bill-c-6> (Accessed November 25, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.trevoices.com/post/canadabill-il-c-6> (Accessed November 25, 2020).

- Ban initiation of gender transition procedures prior to securing responsible informed consent including the future implications to health and fertility for those minors and their parents or legal guardians, (see #9 above).