

Bill C-6 Harmful to the Dignity of Persons with Same-Sex Attractions

I wish to express my profound concerns with the definition of “conversion therapy” in Bill C-6. Every form of abuse and torture must, of course, be condemned, but Bill C-6 defines "conversion therapy" so broadly that it will apply to non-objectionable practices such as offering support and counselling to persons with unwanted same-sex attractions who want to live chastely or to persons with gender dysphoria who want to identify with their biological sex. Such persons have an inalienable right to seek out and receive the counselling and support they want. Depriving these persons of the ability to do so is cruel and discriminatory and may easily lead them to depression and even suicide.

Cases abound of persons who are happy and grateful for having received counselling of the sort that C-6 would consider "conversion therapy." The Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists itself states that "some people believe that sexual orientation is innate and fixed; however, sexual orientation develops across a person's lifetime”

(<https://aglp.org/Pages/factsheets.htm>). There is a great deal of evidence that same-sex attractions are related to negative social and familial influences. Therefore, why should persons with unwanted same-sex attractions be prevented from seeking out and receiving counselling that may help diminish these attractions?

As a religious leader (Catholic priest), I am concerned about the impact of C-6 on the freedom of the Church to teach the truth revealed by God about human sexuality and to offer pastoral counselling to persons with unwanted same-sex attractions who wish to receive such counselling. However, my concerns are not only of a “religious” nature. I am also concerned, for example, about the impact of Bill C-6 on the integrity of science, for underlying Bill C-6 is the idea that the distinction between male and female is a mere social construct and not an objective reality – an idea which is manifestly contrary to human biology.

To conclude, as Professor Douglas Farrow of McGill University has written in his "Reply to Canada's Minister of Justice"

(https://www.academia.edu/43051219/Reply_to_Canadas_Minister_of_Justice):

“[T]his legislation is not narrowly targeted at cranks selling quick fixes to complicated sexual, social, or psychological problems. It is broadly directed at all who act on views contrary to the new moral order...In short, these bills [Bill C-6 and Bill S-202] are more or less naked attempts to interfere in the freedom of medical communities, religious communities, educational institutions, and families. They are attempts, falsely made in the name of science, to stop scientific research in its tracks.”

George Orwell wrote in “Politics and the English Language” that “political language ... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.” Bill C-6 does precisely that – “give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.”

Rev. Derek Remus

All Saints Roman Catholic Parish
2405 12 Avenue S.
Lethbridge, AB
T1K 0P4