

Dear Justice Committee of Canada,

The definition of Conversion Therapy in Bill C-6 is too broad and we believe that this broad definition will harm the very Canadians it rightly seeks to protect.

Every human being should be treated with kindness and respect. Canadians should be free to discuss their beliefs openly and in a respectful manner without being criminalized. The current definition of conversion therapy in Bill C-6 as it stands will limit free speech and criminalize the sharing of ideas that are freely sought by parents, children, and LGBTQ2 Canadians.

Parents should have the freedom to share their personal beliefs with their own children and set house rules about sexuality while they live at home. Children should have the right to know and understand what their parents believe about the world. Child abuse is a horrific thing & should never happen. However, when it does happen, there are already measures in place in the criminal code of Canada to protect children who are in abusive homes. Parents should not be criminalized for sharing their personal beliefs with their children & setting house rules about sexuality while the child lives at home.

One of the main goals of Bill C-6 is to protect the rights of LGBTQ2 Canadians. Have you ever made a decision and then changed your mind about it later? This happens all the time in every arena of life. Bill C-6 as it stands will limit the choices of LGBTQ2 Canadians in the end if they decide to change their mind and lock them into their decision for the rest of their lives. It will criminalize their choice to freely seek alternative counsel or even know about what options are available since advertising counselling to help LGBTQ2 Canadians who wish to detransition will also be criminalized.

Bill C-6 should:

- 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.

Please fix the definition and preserve the freedom for all Canadians to make their own informed choices about where and how they wish to seek help and keep homes a safe place for parents and children to discuss and understand differing views about sexuality.

Sincerely,
Cullen & Sydney Johnson