

**A BRIEF PRESENTED TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE REGARDING
AMENDMENTS TO BILL C-6**

INTRODUCTION:

Bill C-6 is a bill to amend the Criminal Code to prohibit certain activities that relate to “conversion therapy”, defined as practices, treatment, or services designed to change an individual's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender or to reduce non-heterosexual sexual attraction or sexual behavior. The purpose of this brief is to request you to fix the definition of what constitutes conversion therapy. Stated in another way, what practices, treatments or services are considered to be part of conversion therapy, and therefore prohibited ?

Matters of Concern in Bill C-6

I agree completely with the primary intention of Bill C-6 that Conversion Therapy should never be forced upon an individual against his or her will. Coercive and degrading practices to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity should be banned. As the Justice Committee deliberates on “Fixing the Definition of Conversion Therapy” the practices in the previous statement can be considered as the definition. In addition I have the following concerns:

1. It is imperative that no laws should limit the services that all Canadians can receive based on sexual orientation or sexual identity if such services are freely chosen by such individuals. Thus, consideration must be given to options that an individual may freely explore or choose without criminal offense.
2. The Criminal Code must not prohibit parents from speaking with their own children and giving them guidance in regards to sexuality and gender. Parents must be free to set house rules regarding sex and relationships as parents raise their children.
3. Open and free discussions about sexuality and behavior associated with it must not be prohibited or be subject to police investigation.
4. Bill C-6 must not make professional and religious counseling illegal and subject to the Criminal Code if a Canadian of the LGBTQ2 community freely requests and consents to this service.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. I request the Justice Committee to fix the definition of Conversion Therapy as the initial step in the Justice Committee's deliberation of Bill C-6.
2. In Bill C-6, refrain from making laws that limit access to services that are available to all Canadians regardless of sexual orientation.
3. In Bill C-6, do not criminalize the rights of parents to share their values with their children and offer guidance in regards to sexuality and gender. Allow for open and free discussions about sexuality and behavior in the home.
4. Do not criminalize professional or religious counseling in Bill C-6 if a person of the LGBTQ2 freely chooses to seek such counseling.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. It is important that Bill C-6 not enact new offenses to prohibit.

REFERENCE: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/charter-charte/c6b.html>