

Brief to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Amendments to **Bill C-6**: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (**conversion therapy**)

December 12, 2020

I respectfully request that Canada's Committee on Justice and Human Rights **amend** the current definition of Conversion Therapy in Bill C-6 to ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians, while banning coercive treatment designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Section 2.2 New Offences (Clause 5) New section 320.102 of the Code does not mention or define the role consent might play as a defence to charges under this provision. Rather, it simply states that the offence is committed when a person knowingly causes another person to undergo conversion therapy against that person's will. Were charges to be brought under this section, the prosecutor would need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the alleged victim had undergone conversion therapy as provided by the accused, and that the victim had not freely consented to it." 1

1. Decriminalize voluntarily requested, consented to, professional and religious counselling sought by any Canadian, including LGBTQ2 Canadians. 2
2. Permit, encourage, and support the rights and freedoms of all Canadians to, by choice openly participate in conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour.
3. Permit parents or legal guardians to openly converse with their children, regarding sexuality and gender.
4. Permit parents or legal guardians to set house rules regarding sex and relationships.

Notes

1. https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/432/C6E#a1.2.1
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK-x8nDmtwY>

This is respectfully submitted this 12th of December 2020

Ruth Hardy