

24th November 2020

Dear Members of the Justice Committee,

My name is Dr. Michael Oladejo, President of the RCCG Faith Chapel, Orleans, ON. The reason for sending you this is to ask you to please change the definition of Bill C 6 which should be called, “***Ban on forceful and degrading conversion***” because this is actually what this bill is saying. The wording of this bill is not only very flawed, but it has the potential to impact parental rights, in fact, it will undermine parental rights and the rights of teachers, counsellors and other related professionals. It also threatens religious freedom and freedom of expression and speech. These are rights many of us have which are now being jeopardized by this flawed law.

I want to be clear from the start: I do not agree with ANY abusive practices that force a person experiencing any kind of gender dysphoria to change or to “fix” them. The reality is: this type of practise has long been banned, but activists with your approval, are now brushing all talk therapy, prayer, counseling or guidance from a parent with the same brush. Therefore, this bill should be called “***Ban on forceful and degrading conversion***”!

Here’s a story of a friend of mine, Wilna van Beek, who used to be a lesbian but no longer experiences same-sex attractions, after some incredible talk therapy and counseling she received. (Here is a short video where she is asking members of Parliament to vote no to Bill C 8 which is now Bill C 6 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUvDikFYVSY&feature=emb_logo) . Her story is unique because she actually went through abusive talk therapy in the early 80’s. When her mom discovered she was in a homosexual relationship, she forced her to see a psychiatrist who bound her on a bed, injected her with a substance and then tried to force her to change her through coercive therapy. Wilna has shared with me how damaging this experience was to her. For years Wilna did not trust anyone because of this abusive visit to a psychiatrist. THIS is the type of talk therapy we cannot tolerate, and it should be banned for sure.

Please kindly hear me out. Not all talk therapy, counseling or prayer is bad though and should not be misunderstood as what activists wrongly describe as “conversion therapy”. This term is confusing, and I am asking that you please **FIX THE DEFINITION** to protect the rights of parents, faith leaders and therapy counsellors.

Years later, following my friend’s bad experience, she sought help from her pastors to talk about her struggles. (Please watch the video to hear the full story). Wilna did not want to pursue a homosexual life but instead to follow her Christian faith. As temptations continued to come, the struggle intensified until in 2003 she made the decision to follow her Christian faith and to live celibate. This is where she realized she needed to talk to someone who could help her not to cave into her same-sex attractions. It was then that she reached out to her pastors who invited her into their home. Their approach was different than the psychiatrist from the early 80’s. They never forced her but created a safe place to talk about everything that was pressing on her heart. They did not try to “fix” her same-sex attractions at all. In fact, they focused on her heart issues. They listened and loved her and prayed for her. This brought much freedom and peace into her heart. Her attractions did not go away but her focus changed, and her heart started to heal.

On another occasion, she visited a counselor for undealt anger from her childhood. This

counselor did an excellent job too. He focused on the root of her anger, which was fear, and after that was dealt with, Wilna discovered months later that her same-sex attractions had diminished and now no longer exist. She believes the root of her same-sex attractions was fear. Today Wilna is living an incredible and meaningful life. She is at peace which is so important for all human beings.

The points I am hoping to submit and asking for you to fix the definition is:

1. There are many members of the LGBTQ community who do not want to follow a homosexual path. Bill C6 is telling them they “**MUST STAY GAY or THEY MUST STAY TRANSGENDER**”! How can we assume every member of the LGBTQ community wants to follow this path? It is merely not true. For this reason, please **FIX THE DEFINITION**.
2. Change is possible, but it looks different for each person and it does not even mean that same-sex attractions go away. Bill C 6 will prevent help to persons like Wilna and this is an atrocity in my opinion. For this reason, **FIX THE DEFINITION**.
3. Wilna has a true story and Bill C 6 is going to prevent her to share it publicly in Canada because Bill C 6 will consider her story as “conversion therapy”. This too is an atrocity and threatens her freedom of speech and expression. For this reason, please **FIX THE DEFINITION** of Bill C6.
4. Young children with gender dysphoria will be prevented from naturally walking through puberty with the guidance of their parents because Bill C6 is telling parents they can’t talk to them, the government will take over, teachers and doctors know better and they will tell the children **STAY GAY or STAY TRANSGENDER**. This is radically undermining parental rights. Parents know what is best for their child and therefore, please **FIX THE DEFINITION** of Bill C 6.

Wilna’s video was submitted to members of Parliament and all Senators. She has been approached to appear in front of the Justice Committee. I urge you also to consider hearing from her firsthand.

Here are links of other people with similar stories, they are all asking you to FIX the DEFINITION

Hudson https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ec4mZoW1l10&feature=emb_logo

Keith https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja3RTTUxDHQ&feature=emb_logo

Robert https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuuDBC7rtA&feature=emb_logo

Kathy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVV-rR93q0&feature=emb_logo

Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK-x8nDmtwY>

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Oladejo
President & Pastor,
RCCG Faith Chapel, Orleans, ON.