

**BRIEFING FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**REGARDING BILL C-6 WRITTEN BY JESSICA CHURSINOFF**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this briefing is to seek amendments to fix the definition of Conversion Therapy. This poorly worded bill will not do what it is intended to do, unless the definition is fixed.

**Current Situation:**

The need for protection of vulnerable individuals is very important. It is good that the law should prohibit any coercive, degrading and abusive Conversion Therapy. However, the law needs to identify and clarify the difference between what is abusive or forced Conversion Therapy versus counsel, therapy or speech that is offered without any abuse or coercion. Counsellors, parents, family members and/or religious institutions must have the freedom of speech to respectfully present different points of view on gender identity and sexuality. Without clarity and distinction being written into the criminal code surrounding the definition of Conversion Therapy, there is the possibility for grievous misuse of Bill C-6, and violations of Canadian's freedom of expression and religion.

**Recommendations:**

- 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.