

As a parent of two young girls, I fear that Bill C-6 infringes on the sacred family institution and may endanger children by distorting the parent child bond and hinder parents from making the best judgement for their children.

As a young girl growing up, I always wanted to be associated with boys. I felt girls worried about petty things, were loud and too dramatic for my liking. Given my melancholic/phlegmatic temperament and my birth order (last born with my immediate elder brother being 5 years older), coupled with the fact that my brother and Dad were very calm and collected, I wanted to be associated with boys. I dressed like a boy, wore my brother's clothes and didn't like wearing skirts or dresses. I went into the engineering profession (which was mostly dominated by men at that time) because I enjoyed the attributes I had seen in the men around me and didn't want the 'drama' I saw in the girls my age. I am however grateful that there was no labelling placed on me and my parents were very free in the environment I grew up in to discuss my feelings with me. They guided me along and lovingly helped me understand that I could be a 'cool-no drama' girl. I am glad those conversations were not labelled as a harmful 'conversion therapy'. I am also grateful that I didn't have to make decisions on undergoing medical interventions to becoming a boy as I would have made the wrong choices at that time.

Fast forward to 2020, I'm grateful to be happily married to my male husband and raising 2 beautiful girls. I couldn't be more grateful to God for the wisdom given to my parents and well meaning mentors in my tween and teenage years to guide and navigate my feelings and thoughts in the right direction.

The definition of conversion theory in Bill C-6 is a blanket statement that will end up doing more harm than good if not re-defined. Thinking through the current definition, I have identified the following harm that could be done:

- Parents not being able to act in the best interest of their minor children.
- Children been encouraged to make decisions without fully understanding the consequences of their actions (because they are minors and not yet at an age of accountability).
- Spiritual leaders and medical professionals could be reluctant to act in the best interest of their clients and community for fear of being reprimanded.

There always has to be a basis for judging right and wrong. Of no doubt, any degrading action that seeks to dehumanize anyone should be criminalized. This needs to be made clear in the Bill C-6. I respectfully request that changes be made to the definition of conversion therapy in Bill C-6 in the following ways:

- Conversion therapy be defined as a treatment, practice or service that aims to forcefully engage individuals in coercive or degrading practices to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

I also ask that parents be recognized as the first educators of their children and rightfully allowed to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships.