

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

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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:

It is good that the law should prohibit any degrading and abusive Conversion Therapy. However, the law needs to identify and clarify the difference between what is abusive or forced Conversion Therapy vs counselling or therapy that is offered without any abuse or coercion. I am a parent, and I want to have the freedom to speak freely with my child about matters of gender identity and sexuality. Without the distinction being written in to the criminal code surrounding the definition of Conversion Therapy, there is then possibility of misuse of Bill C-6 and violates the 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.