

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights:

Dear honourable Members of Parliament, should it be a crime to encourage someone to love and accept the body she or he was born with? This is what could end up happening if the definition of conversion therapy in Bill C-6 is not amended.

It can be very distressing for a person to experience something such as gender dysphoria. Should the only solution available to help someone through the distress of gender dysphoria be to permanently change his or her body? Has the committee looked into statistics about how many teenagers who experience gender dysphoria at one point end up accepting the body with which they were born? If the statistics are high, then it would be most unwise to pass Bill C-6 into law simply as is.

Now, let's be clear, in many ways Bill C-6 is important. We should definitely ban coercive and degrading forms of 'therapy'. However, this does not mean we should lump all forms of 'conversion therapy' under the same umbrella. I would also suggest a change of the definition of conversion therapy for the safety of the people involved in doing the 'sex-change' surgeries. Those who do end up receiving such surgeries and end up regretting them later on in life may be able to sue for damages if body affirming counselling is banned by the government.

Recommendations:

1. I call on the government to fix the definition<sup>1</sup> of conversion therapy in Bill C-6, to:
  - a. Ban Coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity
  - b. Ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.
  - c. Allow parents to speak to their own children about sexuality and gender, and to set house rules about sex and relationships
  - d. Allow free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour
  - e. Not criminalize professional and religious counselling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.

Thank you for your time,  
Hendrik Vanderhorst

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<sup>1</sup> See [fixthedefinition.ca](http://fixthedefinition.ca)