



The Redeemed Christian Church of God Canada

Office of the Country Coordinator

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December 4, 2020

Unjust and prejudicial treatment of any kind should never be permitted in our society. As an organization, we recognize the intent of Bill C6 to criminalize Conversion therapy as this have historically entailed aversion techniques that do more harm than good^[1]. Any coercive, degrading action that seeks to dehumanize anyone or devalue human life should not be permitted.

We are requesting that the definition stated in 320.101 of Bill C-6 be redefined to eliminate ambiguity of any kind. Since the term Conversion therapy has evolved over the years, it is imperative that the definition of conversion therapy in Bill C-6 be made clear leaving no room for the courts or well-meaning citizens to interpret as they so desire. We need to ensure that the freedom of conscience and religion, opinion and expression which are fundamental charter rights and freedoms of Canadians are not infringed upon.

The definition of Conversion therapy in Bill C-6 states that:

"Conversion therapy means a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior."

We have identified a couple of questions raised by our organization with respect to this definition:

1. Will encouraging an adult to participate in daily prayers to seek truth on their identity be considered a practice or an act to repress their current feelings?
2. Will this bill criminalize a Clergy man from providing spiritual guidance/counseling to an adult that wants to transition back to their birth gender?
3. Will a Clergy man's professional freedom of conscience be restricted such that they are unable to help their clients and community members according to their best professional judgment?

We believe that Canadians cannot be limited in the type of conversations they can have with the people they trust neither can the freedom of opinions and expression be infringed upon.

[1] Legislative Summary of Bill C-6: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)
https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/432C6E#txt18

We understand that various parliamentarians in support of Bill C-6 have stated that the bill does not infringe on faith, parental guidance, professional counseling, mentorship and other meaningful conversations. We therefore seek that the definition of Conversion Therapy in Bill C-6 be redefined and made clear in the following ways:

- The term '*forcefully*' be added to the definition to make the definition now read as such:
 - "... a practice, treatment or service designed to ***forcefully*** change a person's sexual orientation..."
- Parents or Guardians be allowed to explore spiritual and medical assistance in exploring the mental health and wellbeing of their children before pursuing any permanent medical gender identity change.

We urge legislators to critically and carefully look into the real issues facing gender identity and non-heterosexual communities. The issues of gender identity and sexual orientation are two different issues and should not be lumped up into a one size fits all solution.

RCCG Canada is Christian organization with 200 parishes across Canada. With over 20,000 members, our sole purpose is to share the love of God to the ends of the earth by following Biblical teachings as inspired by the Holy Spirit.