

6 December 2020

Dear Members of the Justice Committee:

**Re: Bill C-6**

I write to voice my concern about the proposed Bill C-6. I wholeheartedly agree that one should ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. But I very much fear that the language of the bill is such that it will criminalize discussions between parents and children or religious ministers and other counselors and those voluntarily seeking their help, should the parents or various counselors advocate chastity or therapy that is not degrading. I am also concerned that various mental health professionals not be forced to deny dignified treatment to Canadians who self-identify as LGBTQ2 and who seek to feel at home in their cis-gender, for fear of government prosecution.

You may assure me that this is not the intent of the law. But I am far from convinced. It seems to me that if there was a concern with stamping out coercive degrading practices in sexual reorientation, the law would also ban sex-change surgery or hormonal sex-change treatments that attempt to change males into females and females into males. The law's lack of symmetry tells me that the main purpose of the law is to relegate into the fringes of society anyone who holds a Judaeo-Christian view of male and female and sexual morality.

You may have the legislative power to achieve this step. But does the country really benefit from an intensification of the culture wars? Is it not rather time for healing? There are people in our country who self-identify as LGBTQ2 who want no part of the vociferous agenda that is giving rise to legislation such as C-6.

I think that practices that are truly coercive and degrading can be handled by the various laws which we presently have in Canada. If the legislators feel that they must pass a specific law concerning "conversion therapy", then I would strongly urge them to fix the definition of "conversion therapy" in line with the recommendations found on the website [fixthedefinition.ca](http://fixthedefinition.ca).

Sincerely,



Martin Hilbert