

Sunday December 6th, 2020

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights,

I am writing to you today as a Canadian citizen in support of Bill C-6, banning forced conversion therapy in Canada.

The Canadian Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, and many others have widely denounced the practice of conversion therapy. The long term and permanent damage this causes has been proven on many occasions.

It is also important to note that conversion therapy is not always aimed solely at sexual orientation, but also at gender identity and gender expression. I'd like to request that **gender identity and gender expression be added to the bill**, to make it as inclusive as possible to all members of the LGBTQ2+ community.

Bill C-6 states that no one can be "forced" into conversion therapy. However, this leaves room for emotional and psychological manipulation to make a person believe that they need it. An individual may then feel pushed or coerced to "voluntarily" participate in conversion therapy, which will still create long term harm.

During a difficult time in their lives, LGBTQ2+ members may be susceptible to influences by family, community, or religious organisations, to seek this "therapy"; some of these organisations do so in a for-profit framework. The real solution is inclusive community support and proper social services. **It is thus important to ban conversion therapy entirely in Canada.**

Bills have already been passed in Ontario, Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and Yukon (Bill No. 9, which was passed unanimously) banning conversion therapy. It is time for a federal ban on conversion therapy, to protect all Canadians' rights and freedoms to explore and express themselves in healthy ways that pose no harm to anyone in our country.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Inaam Haq