

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights,

The majority of this letter is taken from a fellow concerned citizen who shares my qualms about the current definition of Conversion Therapy under Bill C-6. I share the concerns of the original writer of this letter and wish to add my name to the list of those in favour of changing said definition under Bill C-6. I believe the current state of this bill significantly limits the freedom of LGBTQ2 Canadians by forcing them to live a certain way without being free to consider other paths. It is my firm conviction that each individual in the LGBTQ2 community has the right to receive counseling, advice, and/or teaching from anyone they choose to hear from. The current definition, while its intent may be noble, actually limits the freedom and autonomy of LGBTQ2 individuals. The following excerpt from the aforementioned letter follows below and has my full endorsement:

I wanted to express concern regarding the current definition of C-6 regarding Conversion Therapy. Please amend the bill's current definition.

In past history, conversion therapy has included things like electric-shock “therapy,” heterosexual pornography, forced confinement, etc. Such practices have been discredited by experts and are obviously contrary to the value and dignity of the human person. However, the current definition would inhibit the freedom of any non-heterosexual person from freely seeking ideas, advice, or a challenge to their behaviors.

Here is an example of how this would limit and infringe on the freedom of a person. For instance, a lesbian woman who wanted to know and engage with a mentor from the Hindu/Muslim/Christian/Catholic community regarding their beliefs of homosexuality wouldn't be able to hold an honest conversation since the Hindu/Muslim/Christian/Catholic person would be in fear of violating such a law since any verbal contradiction or challenge to the lesbian woman's lifestyle choices could be considered as an attempt to "change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour." (This is the current definition in C-6.) This would be a huge limitation on the freedom of this woman since it is her desire to know, hear, consider, and discuss what value she wanted to place upon these beliefs and ideas that are held by the other person or persons. Such an example is not far-fetched or imaginary nor is it limited to the aforementioned example, consider Emmanuel's story which he has freely vocalized so that other people might have the same opportunity and freedoms he has enjoyed in seeking support and advice (<https://fixthedefinition.ca/>)

Bill C-6 currently defines conversion therapy as “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 behaviour.”

"This definition is far too broad and too vague. If passed unamended, advice or counsel promoting the reduction of sexual behaviour could be criminal. Any support for transgendered people seeking to de-transition back to their birth gender would be considered conversion therapy. "-- Garnett Genius

Please fix the definition to allow people to freely choose counseling and support from different perspectives, to have conversations with parents or mentors, and hold casual conversations with friends and others. I suggest the following amendments to bill C-6:

- Ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This would be the above-mentioned historical practices which I have previously underlined.
- 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 do not criminalize professional, familial, and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.

I hope you will consider the concerns mentioned in this letter. While Conversion Therapy in its historical use is a vile and cruel attempt to change a person's sexual identity, the inhibitive language of Bill C-6 goes far beyond the boundaries of protecting LGBTQ2 Canadians and has surged into harmful, restrictive territory in which the rights and freedoms of the LGBTQ2 individual are severely hindered. In my opinion, the definition now accepted under Bill C-6 is distinctly Anti-Canadian.

Thank you for your service to the Canadian people.

Sincerely,

Nick Grandy