

IYAAP Canada Statement on Bill C-6, “An Act to amend the Criminal Code.”

Bill C-6, “An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy),” offers a significant opportunity to reflect on conversion therapy practices that have historically and continue to adversely affect Two-Spirit, transgender, non-binary, queer, bisexual, lesbian, gay, and other gender and sexually diverse people across the country. Amongst these adversities, IYAAP Canada is also particularly concerned about the prolonged impact and inequities that will sustain as a result of Bill C-6 for Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities.

IYAAP Canada stands in solidarity with the many organizations and individuals who have expressed their concerns with Bill C-6, with particular emphasis on the fact that Bill C-6 fails to define and prevent all forms of conversion therapy. Advocates and organizers have noted their particular concerns around the inequitable impact the bill’s current version will have on trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse people across the country.

In its definition of conversion therapy, Bill C-6 fails to provide neither ample nor adequate distinction of what conversion therapy encompasses. The [Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity](#) has expanded on this, noting that,

“In its current form, Bill C-6 narrowly defines conversion therapy, excluding practitioners who insist that they are not intending to “change a person’s... gender identity” but whose goal is nevertheless to discourage or delay the adoption of gender identities not assigned at birth, as well as non-conforming gender expressions. We specifically call for amendments (Appendix) to sections 320.101 (“definition of conversion therapy”), 320.101 (a) and (b) (“exclusions”), and 320.102 (2) (“forced conversion therapy”), in order to: include conversion therapy targeting gender expression; more clearly define conversion therapy as including practices that regard a gender identity not assigned at birth as disordered or less desirable; and assert that consent is not valid, if risks associated with conversion therapy are not clearly explained to the patient.”

We urge like-minded community organizers, as well as organizations, agencies, and institutions, to expand upon these calls to action. We urge concerned communities to convey their thoughts and interests via submission through the [House of Commons website](#) in order to address the inequitable conversion therapy practices that disproportionately impact our communities. We need and demand equitable access to safe and inclusive care and support for Two-Spirit, transgender, non-binary, queer, bisexual, lesbian, gay, and other gender and sexually diverse identities for young people and folks of all ages.