

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights:

Devon and I began the campaign to ban conversion therapy to protect people we love. To ensure that the ones we knew that didn't survive will be the last funerals we attend for victims of this heinous practice. To show queer kids that they are loved, valued, and protected. To ensure that Canada is a leader globally for Human Rights. We have campaigned for this bill because it is literally a matter of life and death.

We can't properly express the trauma and heartbreak we have been through during this process. Everyday more survivors come out and share their stories. Some are further along their path of recovery. And some are homeless, jobless, suicidal. With the help of amazing activists and allies across the country we've been able to provide support and resources. And every survivor that has been able to speak out publicly has exposed this torture for what it is.

We must listen to the people that are willing and able to speak out, share their trauma, and discuss the worst periods in their lives with the country and the world. Because they speak for the untold masses that can't. We can not do away their nightmares based on hate driven gear mongering by those that don't want to see human rights expanded to some of the most at risk members of the LGBTQIAA+ community.

Over the years we've worked on this we've been in contact with people fighting for band in other nations. Whatever Canada chooses to do will be used as a blueprint around the world. We must ensure that Bill C-6 is strong and all encompassing. The world is watching us.

This is a global human rights issue and we must be leaders. We must do everything we can to protect our LGBTQIAA+ community.

Thank you-
J Marie Takahashi
Devon Hargreaves