



ACT Policy Brief

Topic Title: Conversion therapy and Bill C-4

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Reviewed:

ACT supports Bill C-4, an act that amends Canada's Criminal Code through the development of new criminal offenses related to conversion therapy put into effect January 7, 2022. The new offenses consist of knowingly causing another person to undergo therapy, promoting, or advertising conversion therapy, and receiving financial or material benefit from conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy refers to a practice, service, or treatment designed to:

- a. Change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual;
- b. Change a person's gender identity to cisgender;
- c. Change a person's gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth;
- d. Repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour;
- e. Repress a person's non-cisgender identity; or
- f. Repress or reduce a person's gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth

These practices are dangerous. Survivors are often left with significant emotional distress, PTSD, self-harming behaviours, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation. There is no credible evidence that suggests conversion therapy interventions are effective at bringing about change to sexual orientation and gender identity as reported by reputable sources such as Canadian Paediatric Society, Canadian Psychiatric Association, and Canadian Psychological Association.

We believe this bill will protect 2SLGBTQIA Canadians, uphold human rights, and hold accountable those who force this upon children, youth, and adults.



References

https://www.cbrc.net/conversion_therapy_survivors_have_spoken

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/ct-tc/index.html>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2022-01-19/canada-bill-c-4-banning-conversion-therapy-comes-into-force/>