



The CPS Welcomes the Introduction of Legislation to Ban Conversion Therapy in Canada

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The Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) applauds the introduction of Bill C-4, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)* in the House of Commons and urges the federal government to take the necessary steps to ban the practice of conversion therapy in Canada.

As paediatricians whose life work is caring for children and youth, we are strongly against conversion therapy and the significant harms it poses. Conversion therapy is discriminatory and unethical and should not be provided by physicians, nor should physicians refer patients for such therapy. Conversion therapy propagates harmful myths about sexual orientation and gender identity and is in direct opposition to the CPS's core position that all children and youth should be loved for who they are.

Conversion therapy undermines mental health and development and is traumatic, discriminatory and scientifically discredited. The practice stands in violation of several articles of the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child, as well as the Canadian Human Rights Act, which specifically legislates the protection of children and young people from discrimination based on their gender identity, gender expression, and sexual identity.

Therefore, the CPS therefore strongly urges the federal government to stand with the LGBTQ2IA+ community and legislate a national ban on conversion therapy practices in Canada.