

March 17, 2020

«Bishop Name»
«Diocese of _»
«Address_»
«city», «Prov_»
«Posta_Code»

Subject: Bishops must fight the “conversion therapy” ban

Dear «Bishop_name»,

The Trudeau government is working to pass a new law to criminalize both spiritual counselling and clinical therapy for Canadians who want help to overcome **unwanted** gender identity confusion or same-sex attraction. This law has been proposed simultaneously in the Senate as S-202, and an even more insidious version in the House of Commons called Bill C-8.

The bills ensnare pastoral counselling, clinical psychotherapy, and parental conversations with their own children, under the wildly overbroad definition of “conversion therapy” adopted by this Liberal government.

Even *parents* who try to help their gender-confused children be at peace with their biological sex, or to discourage gender transitioning, could get up to 5 years in prison!

These “conversion therapy” bans are a frontal assault on the Catholic Church. If passed into law, any effort by priests or lay ministers to help a minor overcome unwanted gender identity confusion or same-sex attraction, *even by praying with them*, will be deemed “conversion therapy” and can result in a 5 year prison sentence.

Although the Liberal government is disingenuously claiming that adults will still be able to pursue this type of clinical or religious counseling, the truth is that C-8 will make it de facto illegal, including the Catholic Church’s official ministry to support adults with same-sex attraction, *Courage*™.

This precious apostolate, with chapters in in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Toronto, will become de facto illegal in Canada because **Bill C-8 provides a prison sentence of up to two years** if the apostolate offers a website to promote the ministry (which it does at www.couragerc.org), or promotes the existence of Courage’s support services in any public manner whatsoever, whether a bulletin announcement, parish newspaper, leaflet, Facebook post, or announcement from the pulpit.

Bill C-8 accomplishes this backdoor goal by criminalizing the “advertising” of conversion therapy. If Courage (and other religious ministries) is banned from publicly offering its services to adults, in reality, they are being prevented from ministering to parishioners, and will soon be forced to close. That’s the Liberal government’s goal.

We are contacting all the Bishops of Canada – successors of the Apostles - to make you aware of this unconstitutional, anti-Christian bill, and ask you to take up arms against it. The Catholic Church has a duty to stand for the Truth in the face of tyranny, especially when Christians face such imminent persecution.

To counter the mainstream media lies about “conversion therapy” being harmful, CLC has created a video series with testimonies of people who benefitted from this type of counselling.

All viewers of these short videos have been telling us these personal testimonies have been unexpectedly powerful and enlightening. They reveal more about the transgender issue and the cruelty of the government bills than any written articles ever could.

<Name>, I ask you to please watch these compelling video testimonials yourself at:

www.campaignlifecoalition.com/StopTheBan

Hearing these personal testimonials will strengthen your resolve to defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ - which has *conversion* at its very heart - during this unprecedented crisis in the history of the Canadian Church.

I ask you, as Christ’s shepherd, to please share this news with your flock immediately. Then, **begin publicly preaching and teaching** against the dangers of C-8, and instruct all the priests in your diocese to do the same.

Silence, or turning a blind eye to this imminent threat, is not an option. Thank you in advance for your critical attention to this. I stress that **your spiritual leadership is needed now more than ever.**

Yours in Christ,



Jeff Gunnarson
National President
Campaign Life Coalition

PS: We’re in the process of adding more videos and hope to produce eight in total. Please check back on campaignlifecoalition.com/StopTheBan for more in the near future.

Fighting for Truth and Justice

Campaign Life Coalition is a National Pro-Life Organization representing over 170,000 families across Canada.