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**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council  
**Attachments:** appeal\_to\_saskatoon\_city\_council\_docx

**From:** Web NoReply  
**Sent:** January 24, 2021 3:08 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Sunday, January 24, 2021 - 15:08

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, January 24, 2021  
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name Wilna  
Last Name van Beek  
Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED] Laurier Dr  
City Saskatoon  
Province Saskatchewan  
Postal Code [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) God Gazers - Bridge Builders Ministry  
Subject Please vote no to "conversion therapy" bylaw  
Meeting (if known) Monday, January 25th at 1pm  
Comments  
I will be honored to share my story or you can play my video which is in the letter I am submitting. My phone number is 306 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council in Saskatoon

My name is Wilna van Beek. The reason for sending you this is to ask you to please consider my appeal before you merely accept and prohibit the “conversion therapy” bylaw in Saskatoon.

Have you considered the stories of people who do not agree with this bylaw? Have you considered the stories of people who have been helped by counseling and whose lives were saved because of that? One thing that I see happening all over Canada is that the stories of members of the LGBTQ community who do not want to pursue this lifestyle and who actively seek help, are not acknowledged or listened to. In fact, activists and perhaps some of you, do not believe that people like that exist. I am here to tell you that we do! Therefore, please consider what I am about to share with you.

I want to be clear from the start: ***I do not agree with ANY abusive practices that force a person who experience any kind of gender dysphoria, to change or to “fix” them.*** The reality is: this type of practise has long been banned, but activists with your approval, are now brushing all talk therapy, prayer, counseling, or guidance from a parent with the same brush. Therefore, this bylaw should be called “***Stay Gay, Stay Transgender Bylaw***”! There are enough laws written to protect the LGBTQ or for that matter anybody who get used, abused, or bullied. We do not need another bylaw, therefor this bylaw needs to be removed from the table or please vote no to it.

I want to share my own personal story. I used to be a lesbian but no longer live this way. After some incredible talk therapy and counseling I received years back, I can testify I no longer experiences same-sex attractions. Here is a link of a short video where I tell my story of change and how I made an appeal to Members of Parliament to vote no to Bill C 8 which is now Bill C 6 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUvDikFYVSY&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUvDikFYVSY&feature=emb_logo) ).

My story is unique because **I actually went through abusive talk therapy in the early 80’s.** Activist today refers to it as “conversion therapy”, but it should be labeled as “abusive talk therapy”.

This is what happened to me. When my mom discovered I was in a homosexual relationship, she was angry. First, she wrote me out of her will and then forced me to see a psychiatrist. I did not want to embrace a homosexual path, so I agreed to go. During my second visit to his office, he made me lay down on a bed, they tied my hands and feet, then injected me with a substance to put me into hypnosis. Then he forced me to talk. What came out of his mouth was not kind, it was coercive and abusive in every sense of the way. All I wanted to do was run away. This was such a damaging experience for me! For years I did not trust anyone because of this abusive visit to the psychiatrist. THIS is the type of talk therapy that should be banned and as far as I know it is! We do not need this bylaw to do that.

My story continues. Years later, following this bad experience, I sought help from my pastors to talk about my same-sex attractions. For me it continued to be a deep struggle. Please note: for many of the LGBTQ community this is not a struggle, but for some it is! By not acknowledging this reality, we infringe on their human rights and freedoms to believe what they believe.

My story continues. I chose celibacy in 2003. This did not mean the struggle went away. (Please watch the full video). I never wanted to embrace a homosexual path, but instead, I desired to follow my Christian faith. When another woman showed up on the scene in 2005 and when I felt attracted to her, I realized I needed help and support. I wanted to stay focused on the Lord and not caving into my same-sex attractions. I reached out to my pastors who invited me into their home. Their approach was different than the psychiatrist from the early 80's. They never forced me. They created a safe environment which allowed me to talk about everything that was pressing on my heart. They did not try to "fix" my same-sex attractions or to change me from being homosexual to heterosexual. In fact, they focused on my heart issues. They listened and loved me and prayed for me. They did not try to "pray the gay away", but rather encouraged me to keep my focus on the Lord Jesus. This brought much freedom and peace into my heart. My attractions did not go away but my focus changed, and my heart started to heal.

On another occasion (2014), I visited a counselor for undealt anger issues from my childhood. This counselor did an excellent job. She focused on the root of my anger, which was fear, and after that was dealt with, I discovered months later that my same-sex attractions had diminished and no longer exist. I believe the root of my same-sex attractions was fear. Today I am living an incredible and meaningful life. I have been celibate for 18 years. I am at peace and I would hope people will respect my journey and how I came to this place in my life.

Please kindly hear me out. Not all talk therapy, counseling or prayer is bad though, and should not be misunderstood as what activists wrongly describe as "conversion therapy". This term is confusing, and I do not know how they came up by combining the two. Conversion is one thing and so is therapy. This proves again that even the name is confusing and at least the definition should be fixed to point out coercive or abusive practices which in my opinion is already covered by Canadian laws.

In Canada, a free country, the rights of parents, faith leaders and therapists/counselors must be protected, and this bylaw is not going to do it. Why do I think it's not? I listened to some of the MP's during the debate regarding Bill C 6 a few weeks ago (Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020). The MP from Quebec was strong in his views saying we should not allow a parent or pastor to "influence" the person whom they are talking to. This does not make sense. When I reach out to my pastor, or when I talk to my parents or my counselor, they are obviously going to influence me according to what they say. If a person reaches out to a counselor or a pastor, they are influenceable. How can this bylaw criminalize their influence? **Where does self determination come in?** This means a person has the right to pursue help/support/counseling from whomever they want. They can determine their own outcome and it cannot be done by your bylaw. Your bylaw will be undermining this right of Saskatonians. How can you, Honorable Mayor and Council members tell me who I can see for counseling and who I cannot? This is infringing on my human rights as a Canadian citizen.

To summarize :

1. There are many members of the LGBTQ community who do not want to follow a homosexual path. However, your bylaw is telling them they "**MUST STAY GAY or THEY MUST STAY TRANSGENDER**"! Your bylaw is telling them they cannot see a counselor or a pastor or even

talk to their parents about what is going on in their hearts. By believing that all members of the LGBTQ community want to follow a homosexual path, you are not making room for me and others, thus infringing on my human rights. For this reason, please **remove this bylaw or vote no to it.**

2. Change is possible, but it looks different for each person and it does not even mean that same-sex attractions go away. Your bylaw will prevent help to persons like me and this is an atrocity in my opinion. A group of LGBTQ community will be void of help and support they so desperately deserve and need. How can you prevent them from receiving this? For this reason, please **remove this bylaw or vote no to it.**

3. Young children with gender dysphoria will be prevented from naturally walking through puberty with the guidance of their parents because your bylaw is telling parents they can't talk to them, the city of Saskatoon will take over, teachers and doctors know better and they will tell the children "**STAY GAY or STAY TRANSGENDER**". This is radically undermining parental rights. Parents know what is best for their children and therefore, **please remove this bylaw or vote no to it.**

4. Ministries like mine (God Gazers – Bridge Builders) will be considered to practice "conversion therapy" when members of the LGBTQ community reach out to us to talk about their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. According to what I read in your bylaw, by merely talking to them and sharing my journey, it may influence them, therefore this will be considered "conversion therapy" and I will receive a hefty fine. How can this be? People have the right to choose whom they want to talk to and be influenced by whomever they want. It is not the place of a local municipality to determine whom people can see and listen to and who not. **Therefore this bylaw is going to restrict help and support to vulnerable people who are seeking help and I am asking you to please remove it.**

5. Your bylaw has the potential to impact parental rights, in fact, it will undermine parental rights. It also threatens religious freedom and freedom of expression and speech. These are rights I have which are now being jeopardized by this flawed bylaw. **I request again that you please remove this bylaw or vote no to it .**

For more information on "conversion therapy" laws in Canada please visit <https://stoptheban.ca/>. If you don't believe people like me exist, here are links of others with similar stories , they are all asking the government to remove Bill C 6 or at least fix the definition of Bill C 6. May this be your opportunity to hear them out regarding your own bylaw in the city of Saskatoon.

Hudson [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ec4mZoW1110&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ec4mZoW1110&feature=emb_logo)

Keith [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja3RTTUxDHQ&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja3RTTUxDHQ&feature=emb_logo)

Robert [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuuDBC7rtA&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuuDBC7rtA&feature=emb_logo)

Kathy [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVV-rR93q0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVV-rR93q0&feature=emb_logo)

Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK-x8nDmtwY>

Wilna [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUvDikFYVSY&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUvDikFYVSY&feature=emb_logo)

My video was submitted to the Justice Committee, too all members of Parliament and all Senators. I was hoping to appear in front of the Justice Committee, but after listening to the debate online, it was clear they either didn't believe that people like me exist or they just did not want to hear our stories. I sure hope you are not going to fall into the same trap. To me this is very unfair and against my rights as a Canadian. As an immigrant to this nation who has worked hard, I own a business in Saskatoon, I have voted, and I am doing my part to make Canada a better place. I am asking that you consider my story too. There is room for all of us and by accepting each other, respecting each other's choices of how we want to live, we can all live together in peace and harmony. As the Mayor or City Counselors, you cannot decide for me.

I will be honored to speak to your council meeting and share my story or you can just play my video. I can be contacted at [REDACTED] or call me 306-[REDACTED].

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wilna van Beek