

What is Conversion Therapy?

What it is:

Conversion therapy can be a practice, treatment, or service that is designed to repress OR change either or all of the following:

- ⚠️ a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual
- ⚠️ a person's gender identity to cisgender
- ⚠️ a person's gender expression so that they conform to the sex they were assigned at birth





What it's not:

It's important to note that the Criminal Code also clarifies that practices, treatments, or services related to exploring or the development of someone's personal identity (such as gender transition), is not considered conversion therapy. These practices are not based on the assumption that a certain sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression is more acceptable over another.



Some other things to note!

 The term “conversion therapy” is an inaccurate as it is not a therapeutic practice recognized by any credible organization or governing body. A more accurate term might be “conversion practices”. However, we have utilized this term since it's the term that is most widely known and also the term referenced within the Criminal Code.

 Keep in mind that while this is how the law defines conversion therapy, the realities of this practice are more expansive. For example, the lack of treatment or service from a healthcare provider to provide gender-affirming healthcare such as hormone replacement therapy (HRT), is also a form of conversion practice.

Check out the rest of our #EndCTForAll campaign at egale.ca/conversiontherapyban to find out more about what conversion therapy is, it's impacts, and what you can do to help support survivors.