



A Canadian Parents' Organization

<https://ourduty.group/canada/>

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Press Release:

Our Duty Canada believes “gender affirming care” violates of the rights of the child in Canada

On April 4, 2023, Our Duty Canada submitted a report, “*Stakeholder submission to the Universal Periodic Review regarding the rights of the child in Canada*” to the 2023 United Nations Universal Periodic Review. Our Duty Canada’s Report clearly shows that the rights of children (ages 18 and under, per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are being violated by Canada’s exclusive approach to treating transgender and gender dysphoric children.

Our Duty Canada submits that medical and mental health practices in Canada, through non-evidence-based medical interventions carried out on children, violate the rights of the child under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Specifically highlighted are the child’s right to protection “from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse” and above all “the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.”

Canada utilizes the guidance of non-accredited organizations like WPATH (the World Professional Association of Transgender Health) and the Endocrine Society to provide direction on the treatment of gender ideation. This treatment is promoted as “gender affirming care” and includes the administration of puberty blockers, synthetic cross-sex hormones, and various elective surgeries as primary interventions for children who self-select a gender that is incongruent with his or her sex.

Upon reviewing the evidence underpinning gender affirming care, however, more credible, well-respected, independent bodies have all reached the same conclusion: there is weak evidence, no evidence, or mixed evidence to support WPATH’s belief in and promotion of gender affirming care. In contrast, there is strong evidence that talk therapy, treatment of comorbid mental health conditions and the natural maturation process can alleviate gender ideation in children.

The Report points out that the recent passing of Bill C-4 has solidified Canada’s legal obligation to follow the recommendations from these non-accredited entities, potentially criminalizing talk therapy or even parental discussion.

Our Duty Canada asserts that it is time for Canada to seriously reconsider the exclusive use of “gender affirming care” as other countries have already done. Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom, France and

Norway have all changed their protocols for treating transgender and gender dysphoric children, veering sharply away from the gender affirming model. Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare determined in 2022 that the risks of these treatments currently outweigh the possible benefits for children. Finland has concluded that these treatment protocols equate to "medical experimentation on children".

Our Duty Canada member Miriam (pseudonym) stated, "we are very concerned with the state of Canada's medical care for children caught up in gender ideation. It is shocking that our medical system would take such extreme actions on these children without any extensive psychotherapy or investigation into the child's overall mental and physical health. These interventions are permanent and will have life long impacts on our children. We will have a generation of children who are sterile and with permanent medical needs. Moreover, many will still have extensive mental health issues."

Our Duty Canada highlights the risks of off-label drugs and invasive surgeries, and identifies the often ignored or misunderstood comorbidities and suicide risks. The submission demonstrates that without solid scientific study and evidence it is impossible to give true informed consent. The laws in Canada, federal and provincial, promote gender affirming practices for children with the exclusion of their parents, often resulting in impulsive, risky, irreversible and damaging medical treatments.

The key components of Our Duty Canada's recommendations:

1. Remove "gender identity" and "gender expression" from Canada's Criminal Code or, minimally, properly define "conversion therapy".
2. Complete independent studies on the processes followed by gender affirming medical and mental health bodies.
3. Complete independent studies and systematic reviews to understand the long-term impacts of gender affirming care on children.
4. Prohibit gender affirming drugs and surgeries until they are proven safe and their benefits are proven to outweigh their harm.
5. Revisit the addition of "gender identity and expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act, as it has been broadly interpreted and recklessly utilized.

"It is time to go back to psychotherapy that, over time, has proven to be safer and more effective at allowing kids to grow up healthy." Our Duty Canada member Constance (pseudonym) stated, "Kids with no proper diagnosis or safe and effective treatment options are being harmed, and parents are helpless to save them from the system."

A Universal Periodic Review occurs every 4.5 years, providing an opportunity to assess how a UN State measures up to others pursuant to its commitments to the United Nations Humans Rights including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Canada is part of the 44th Session in Geneva in November 2023.

Our Duty Canada will continue to fully participate in the Universal Periodic Review process with the hope that other UN States will recognize Canada's rogue approach to treating children with gender ideation, consider our recommendations for much needed repair to the current protocol, and respond accordingly.

Our Duty Canada is an organization of parents whose children experience gender ideation. We represent parents from across Canada with a wide range of political views who have come together to protect our children from harmful and non-evidence-based medical and mental health treatments. For further information or for interviews please reach out to Our Duty Canada at canada@ourduty.group.

Refer to the Our Duty Canada submission here: [Canada's Submission to the UPR 2023](#)