

**1. Has the Act reduced or stopped change or suppression practices? Describe any impact you think the Act has had on the occurrence or the nature of change or suppression practices.**

Being part of a faith-based community, it's made LGBTQ people hesitant about coming to religious leaders for support. These leaders are often seen as untrustworthy before a conversation has happened.

**2. To what extent do you think the community is aware of and understands: a. the Act and how it works b. what change or suppression practices are and c. the harm caused by change or suppression practices**

a. many people believe you can never speak against an individual's gender identity or behaviour, otherwise you risk social status.  
b. It's when a professional tries to tell LGBTQ people that they're wrong/confused/misguided about their identity  
c. A lot of people won't comment on what they believe is the extent of harm caused by suppression practices. Unless social status is of high importance to a person, then he/she will be very vocal about how awful the harm of suppression is. If people don't care for social status, she/he will usually state something along the lines of "LGQTZ--whatever need to get over themselves"  
Most people seem not to care unless it makes them look good.

**4. How clear is the Act's definition of what is and what is not a change or suppression practice? If further clarity is needed, what forms of clarification would be most helpful?**

Its as clear as it can be. The strain now comes from a sense of lost trust between professionals, LGBTQ, and even friends

**5. How clear is the exclusion for health service providers? If further clarity is needed, how could this best be achieved?**

This is where it gets confusing.  
Health care providers will understand the complexity of gender change and in many cases the irreversibility of it. Understanding that they are responsible for their patients' care whilst having these laws in place doesn't add up. I didn't know there were any exclusions for health services, because I've heard of so many stories where health professionals refuse a person looking to change their gender due to the irreversibility of it, and they're publically shamed for refusing someone.

**6. Is greater clarity needed about how people of faith can hold and express their beliefs to support clear understanding and compliance with the Act? What forms of clarification would be most helpful?**

It is already clear that we can express that we believe in the teachings from the Bible about men and women. There is, however, difficulty in just stating this. When we express our belief in men and women, we aren't acknowledging the existence of all the other genders, or the fluidity of changing genders. LGBTQ people will likely feel excluded because faith based people exclude the ideology of more than two genders, or the changing between them. There is no way, if people of faith are

remaining true to what God instructs through the Bible, for us to be supportive of this act. The example given of what is considered okay for a religious leader to say to someone who is seeking support for gender identity, versus what is considered not to be okay, is one line of dialog. Imagine the confusion that LGBTQ person has about how they feel about themselves, and the pastor says they believe in the teachings from the Bible. That LGBTQ person will then likely follow up with more questions, more thoughts and feelings. Like everyone does. And the pastor is meant to do what then? Church leaders have ongoing counsel with us. We ask them for direction. LGBTQ people will ask for direction, and the pastor is stuck because we believe in what the Bible teaches. The pastor can direct this person to the Bible, which will state that men should not seek relations with other men. Has the pastor committed a crime then? He simply stated what he believed to be true in the Bible. But the Bible said it was wrong, so is that considered conversion therapy? This act can never work with people of faith because those of us who hold to what the Bible instructs refuse to support same sex relations, changing genders or multiple genders. We fear God more than we fear men.

