



COPTIC ORTHODOX
PATRIARCHATE



DIOCESE OF MISSISSAUGA,
Vancouver and Western Canada



Letter Regarding Gender Ideologies

Date: August 30, 2023

Beloved in Christ,

In this turbulent hour, I write to you with a heavy heart, yet filled with the resolve that we, as followers of Jesus Christ, are called to exhibit in times of trial. Like our forefathers we have been called to bear our cross. Our children, the very seeds of our faith and future, are being exposed to activities and ideologies that threaten their emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing and future.

We have increasingly been hearing from many, especially parents and grandparents, who have expressed deep concerns about Gender Ideology programs such as “Drag Queen Story Hour” and other such activities taking place within our broader educational system. It is also becoming clear that some children are being influenced while their parents are shut out of decisions that will have long-lasting, irreversible consequences. These are decisions that not only hurt our children in this life but jeopardize their eternity.

We hear your concerns. We share in your anguish. This is not merely an assault on our values; it is an assault on the very fabric of our families and our faith. It is an assault on our future.

The scriptures guide us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). This sacred responsibility becomes increasingly daunting in a society that often seems at odds with the teachings of our Lord.

At this critical juncture, we must ask ourselves: "Are we safe from these societal changes? Are our families safe?" The stark reality is that no one is entirely shielded from the broader cultural shifts occurring around us.

As the body of Christ, we must unite in prayer and action to resist these tides that seek to pull us away from our foundational beliefs. The Apostle St. Paul, even when faced with great personal danger, appealed to Caesar to make his voice heard in defense of the Gospel (Acts 25:11). Like St. Paul, we too must make our voices heard, standing up for the truth even when it is difficult and not in fashion. As clearly articulated by section 2a of our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, every person has equal fundamental freedoms to live according to their conscience and religion and that every person has the right to live in liberty and security of the person as set out in section 7 of the same Charter. These rights protect every person without favouring any particular group over the other and without infringing on the rights of any other group.



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Let me assure you that we are not standing idly by. Our clergy and community leaders are fervently collaborating to support our families and children during these trying times.

I implore each one of you to intensify your prayers, engage in thoughtful and loving dialogue within your families, and reach out to us with your concerns and suggestions. Together, as one Church and one family, we can navigate this tide of darkness and continue to light the path toward Christ, our eternal hope, and salvation.

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)

May the Lord bless you all and keep you steadfast in His love and wisdom.

In the unwavering love of Christ,

Bishop Mina,
Bishop of the Diocese of
Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada