

To: The Attorney General

**Commonwealth Anti-Discrimination Laws : Submission**

Endeavour Forum is an association dedicated to supporting family values in the context of situations facing families. In contrast to feminism, we maintain that men and women are equal but different. Such a position is consistent with reality and natural science. Website: <http://www.endeavourforum.org.au/>

On this basis we oppose the introduction of new protections against so-called discrimination of gender identity and sexual orientation.

Terms such as "sexual diversity" relate to vacuous concepts, remote from biological science, wherein there are factually two genders, male and female. The authentic definition of gender in international law refers to the two sexes (male and female) in the context of society.

LGBT plus additional letters to denote various other "types of gender" have been pushed by "human rights" organisations internationally, including the *Australian Human Rights Commission*, claiming to derive from the Yogyakarta Principles. These Principles are not binding, but supposedly based on an interpretation of binding documents. Interpretation is nothing more than opinion, irrelevant to any legal concept. A definition of gender as a "social construct" is fanciful and inconsistent with reality. It is claimed that "sexual orientation" can not be changed, but that sex can be changed, and that an individual is free to choose from a variety of genders.

A concept of "gender diversity" in fact includes paedophilia, using a euphemism "minor attracted persons" <http://b4uact.org/science/symp/2011/index.htm>. Such a line of thinking has been introduced in the Netherlands and the US. In Greece paedophilia has been included in a list of "disabilities", giving paedophiles entitlement to government-funded disability pay. Innocent child victims are not taken into consideration.

[http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/outrage-as-greece-adds-pedophilia-to-list-of-disabilities?utm\\_source=LifeSiteNews.com+Daily+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=c9b74296cc-LifeSiteNews\\_com Intl Headlines-01\\_14\\_2012&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/outrage-as-greece-adds-pedophilia-to-list-of-disabilities?utm_source=LifeSiteNews.com+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=c9b74296cc-LifeSiteNews_com Intl Headlines-01_14_2012&utm_medium=email)

International legal experts dismissed claims of *Human Rights Watch*, which challenged the new Constitution of Hungary, on the grounds that "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" were not included in a non-discrimination clause. In reality no UN treaty makes any reference to such terms, and the UN General Assembly has never accepted such definitions.

The Yogyakarta Principles were put together by radical activists, and have not been accepted by the UN, but have been repeatedly rejected on occasions when "sexual orientation" was debated.

There is no scientific evidence to suggest that sexual orientation is a valid term. Consensus is not science. The *Human Genome Project* failed to identify a "gay gene".

An intersex condition is known to medical science and derives from chromosomal abnormalities. This is unrelated to homosexuality. Persons who experience any disorder, physical or psychological, are entitled to whatever care is needed, medical or psychiatric, and, of course, entitled to full recognition of their dignity as human persons.

Activism to recognise sexual orientation/diversity as requiring protection against "discrimination" is directed in an attempt to impose same-sex "marriage" Such radical lobbyists are to be distinguished from homosexual persons, many of whom do not want such legislation.

Homosexual couples already have the same benefits as heterosexuals, and there is no longer any injustice against them. There is nothing to prevent a same-sex couple from celebrating **in a social context** a commitment to each other. Sexual relations are private, whereas marriage is a **public and legal recognition** of responsibility on the part of natural parents for the upbringing of such children as may be born of the union.

Marriage between one man and one woman is enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16:

*Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family....  
The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#atop>

Same-sex "marriage" may easily be refuted on secular grounds, unrelated to religious belief.

However freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience are also protected in the UN Universal Declaration. It is a grave violation of freedom to exercise coercion on persons, religious or otherwise, to participate in practices contrary to conscience.

We can not ignore overwhelming evidence of the consequences of legalisation of same-sex "marriage" and civil unions wherever **such** legislation has been passed, resulting in abolition of democratic freedom. Moreover children from an early age are subjected to compulsory indoctrination in homosexuality, sometimes including pornographic material, in violation of parental rights. Abominable "hate-crime" legislation imposes punishment on those who hold a contrary opinion, **defending** the right of every child to a mother and a father. Fortunately in Canada this legislation has now been abolished, after decades of abuse.

Authentic tolerance is a two-way street, and requires mutual respect of conflicting beliefs.

It does not advance human rights to invent new "rights" at the cost of violation of genuine rights which are universally recognised.

Increasingly religious freedom is coming under attack. In the US, for instance, the Obama administration has imposed a mandate that requires religious agencies to offer contraceptive (including abortifacient drugs) and sterilization coverage to their employees. **Catholic** Bishops are fighting back

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=13140>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=13127>

The Australian Human Rights Commission has in effect declared war on freedom of religion,

[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/papers/freedom\\_religion20090803.pdf](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/papers/freedom_religion20090803.pdf)

by declaring that it is not a right. "Like oil and water, they don't mix"

[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/2008/97\\_08.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/97_08.html)

These assertions are made in defiance of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights,  
Article 18:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Indeed it is not enough to grant exemptions for religious institutions, as all persons, including atheists, have a right to freedom of conscience, thought and speech, and **no one should be compelled** to act counter to ethical principles.

Secular marriage celebrants, as well as those who provide ancillary services at weddings, such as catering, those who hire out venues, photographers have a right equal to that of clergy.

We apologise that this Submission is a day late, but we have had very little notice of the call for submissions, so we trust that you will accept this.

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