

Dear Human Rights Sub-Committee,

I believe that one of the gravest dangers to religious freedom in Australia is the relentless push to redefine marriage other than as the union of a man and a woman. If marriage were so redefined, it would expose individuals and organisations to much greater risk of attracting complaints under state and territory anti-discrimination laws even if they so much as express their view of marriage or cannot, by reason of conscience, conform to changed social, educational or legal requirements that flow from that redefinition.

The implications are severe, not just for religious freedom to worship, but for other associated rights such as freedom of speech, employment and education that are clearly recognised in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPRs, Article 18) which expressly states, "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom ... to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."

Some overseas examples of where these rights have been impacted by homosexual 'marriage' legislation include those of Aaron and Melissa Klein, owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa in Oregon, US, who were fined \$135,000 for not providing a cake for a same-sex wedding; and also Elaine Huguenin, a photographer in New Mexico, US, was fined \$6,000 by the state Supreme Court after she declined to photograph a lesbian wedding.

This religious persecution will undoubtedly intensify greatly in Australia if homosexual 'marriage' is legalised. I therefore ask the committee to devote part of its report to warning of this danger.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gordon GUDGEON

The following 28 people submitted versions of a Form Letter which were identical or substantially similar to Form Letter 6.

Gordon Gudgeon
Steve & Helen Terpstra
Karen Mitchell
John Elliott
Rodney Hall
Kim Ausling
Jennifer Avery
Barrie Ryan
Bienne Tam
Bruce Burger
Drago & Linda Telisman
Riane & Rick Whittle
David & Di Macpherson
Basil & Kathy Bryan

Diana & Stacey Johnson
Michael Kelly
Rev Warwick Davidson
Rev Raj Gupta
Keith Tiller
Name withheld
Dr Tim Hamilton
Dirk Jackson
Bruce & Heather Hogan
Lorraine Schroeder
Cindy Colborne
Chris Boer
Shirley Dawes
Keith & Julie Gillam