

# CHRISTIAN FAITH AND FREEDOM

SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED THROUGH ADVOCACY, AID AND PRAYER

Our organization wholeheartedly supports the retention of the definition of marriage between one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others, entered into voluntarily for life. This is how marriage has been defined and celebrated for centuries.

It is the foundation of a stable society in which children are born and nurtured. We believe that it is morally wrong to deprive adopted children of their right to both a mother and a father in order to indulge the wishes of homosexual adults.

The family - defined as mother, father and children - is acknowledged and protected under Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State".

It is so easy for policy-makers to set in motion a chain of events which have unintended and unforeseen consequences, over which they have no control. If marriage were to be redefined to include same sex couples, there would be no legitimate reason to prevent it being further redefined to include polygamous marriage, or under-age marriage. As men and women occur in equal numbers in every society, polyandry has been the means by which the people who practice it increase their numbers and influence over people groups which do not. The status and hard-won rights of woman would inevitably be seriously jeopardised.

Homosexuality is not, contrary to popular belief, biologically determined. No homosexual gene has ever been discovered in spite of intensive research. Such a gene could not be passed on to the next generation as homosexual couples cannot reproduce. Research has identified cases of Identical twins, sharing identical genes, in which one is homosexual and the other heterosexual. Emotional deprivation in childhood by a same-sex parent is believed to be one of the factors which create a longing for affirmation and affection from a person of the same gender. Appropriate counselling, emotional and psychological support has been successful in many cases of enabling former homosexuals to enter into fulfilling heterosexual marriage. We have personally known seven people in this category: two women and five men who speak openly of their experiences to encourage others.

We urge the representatives of the people of Australia who value traditional marriage and its proven benefits to society to retain the definition of marriage as it currently stands.

With sincere thanks,

Karen Bos