



BY: MG 

Re: Immigration Treatment of Disability

Personal Experience:

I was granted a permanent protection visa in Australia. I have spent whole my life in stress and depression due to persecution in my own country for my religious beliefs. I myself and my whole family had been persecuted a number of times. We were attacked and been treated inhumanely. I spend my life waiting for an escape to some country where I can spend my life with dignity and freedom and peace of mind.

The time came when I succeeded in escaping but unfortunately I could not bring my kids and family with me. I came to Australia. When I landed on this land I found this land a paradise on earth. I thought I am dreaming. The people around me were friendly. The organisations were cooperative. Everyone added little bit to make me comfortable on this land. I spent few days and found this is the perfect land where I can live happily all my life. There is no persecution. No fear. No injustice. **No discrimination**. There is no racism despite the presence of many cultures. I loved this place.

The only thing which bothered me and kept me awake all nights was stress for my family. I feared for their safety and security especially for my kids who were more vulnerable to persecution being young. I had to wait little bit longer before I was granted permanent protection visa and was able to sponsor my kids and family. The day I got my visa I dumped all my worries aside. I could see a light of getting together with my family again.

I started filling in papers and forms to propose my kids and husband. I went on internet to read more about how I can propose my family to come over. I went through health check criteria to obtain visa.

My husband has an eye condition. There no treatment for that. I thought it might be hard for him to pass the health requirement. I read few stories on internet where people were refused visas to enter into Australia due to health requirements. I got scared and consulted with lawyers and read more on internet. I became much worried about my whole family. I started feeling more stressed and depressed and started having regular headaches in severity. I cannot imagine of being away from my kids any more. I have already had enough. No one can imagine the pain of a mother when she is separated from her kids.

My kids are living a life of stress and danger. All the time they are at risk of being harmed. I cannot tell you the pain which I am feeling right now. I am crying everyday for my kids. I thought how come a society who was so kind and acceptable to me can do this injustice to my family. My husband has already suffered a lot in his own country. He was treated inhumanely. He was attacked and he escaped life threatening situations on many occasions.

He is already stressed and deprived of quality life. He has got fading eyesight which is not by choice. If Australian will start discriminating to such kind of people then some of the world might follow Australian. Ultimately we Australian might be contributing to make this world more bad place to live in. We do not want to set a bad example for

the rest of the world. We are trying to start something which will open ways of injustice to other countries. Let us make this place a liveable world. Let us start doing justice to people. We are all answerable to someone. We do not have any right to discriminate any body on the basis of something on which he/she does not have control. Disability is not someone's choice, but to live somewhere in a peaceful land can be someone's choice. Let's make it happen. Let's try to give out something to make this world a better place to live in.

I am sorry but everything around me which was pleasing me has started irritating me. The culture which I loved started making me annoyed and discriminated. If we kept discriminating and kept making these kinds of laws then one day our whole society will be discriminating which we don't want anyway.

I know about a man from Pakistan who got permanent protection visa in Australia. He applied for his family to come over. He waited almost six years to bring his family to join him but failed. One of his daughters had disability. Australian Law thought she will be burden on economy. They only assessed the negative side. They did not look at the positive side. She could have been a positive contribution to Australian society. The man disappointed and set himself on fire in 2001 and died.

Please don't make people to die. Let people live with their choices. Let us give them enough freedom of choice.

There are disable people who contributed positively to their societies. We cannot asses anyone's exact abilities after a period of time. Let's look at the history and find out how many famous people were disable. Let's look at their positive contributions to their societies.

Transparency

The current process for assessing a visa applicant against the health requirement does not seem to be fair and transparent. There is discrimination involved. There are laws which prohibit discrimination of any kind in any department. Australia is a signatory of rights of the people with disabilities convention. No point immigration department be excluded from that list. **Discrimination Means Discrimination**. It should not be allowed at any level, in any department, at any stage. We cannot make different rules for different department and different persons. Let's make the rules fair and transparent for everybody. Let's make one rule for everybody. Let's make it clear that there is not exception when it comes to discrimination on the basis of disability. These people are already missing something important. Let's give them a hug and say them that we love you and we treat you equally. I cannot understand how come discrimination can be allowed in only one department. You name it whatever you want but ultimately it is DISCRIMINATION. Let's not make it happen please.

COST & Contribution:

Disable people can be positive contribution to society. If someone is disable due to some reason it does not mean his/her whole body is not functioning. If someone has lost his/her limb, his/her brain is still working. If something has lost one thing he would have got at least 10 other things which he/she can deploy to make a positive contribution. Let's not asses negatively. Let's not think negative.

Addition Factors:

When it comes to humanity nothing is justifiable treating someone with difference. Economic should come after lives. Let's not weigh the economy and life of the people. Life should be given importance not the economic of a person If not then let's kill all the people in our society who are on DHOL, who are not doing anything for the society.

I request the commission to take immediate steps to change the health criteria for disable people. I request the commission to remove this discriminatory act from Australian law so no one can point finger to such a civilized society about their bad actions.

Your Sincerely

(Individual)

