

The Marriage Equality Bill claims to be an attempt to remove discrimination from a specific Act – namely the Marriage Act 1961. In reality, however, it is an attempt to radically change the nature of an institution which is as old and as widespread as civilization itself.

Marriage is the one universal cultural constant. Every major culture, from at least the beginning of known history until the present (or at least, a very few years ago) has defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Moreover, it is the basis of most other cultural institutions.

In fact, many of those proposing this and similar amendments have freely admitted that their intention is not to create equality in marriage but to degrade the nature of the institution of marriage.

To attempt to alter this conception is not to overcome some supposed defect in a particular document but to make a fundamental change in the nature of society itself – a change which may well have devastating and unimaginable consequences.

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