

As a Catholic, heterosexual, recently married mother of 4, I am horrified to find I still live in a country where equality does not mean equal.

As a mother I cannot explain to my children why some people have more rights than others, because I do not know.

As a Catholic I cannot explain to my children why "Love one another as I have loved you." does not apply to all people.

I lose nothing if marriage is available to all consenting adults, it does not belittle the love my husband and I share; but I gain much when I can share the joy I feel, and the natural rights I have with all other Australians, and all other people.

Are children of homosexual children disadvantaged? Of course they are! While their parents are viewed with dislike, despite, denied equality, how can they not be?

I remember my mother trying to explain "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner". It didn't make sense to me, because it was obvious to me as a child that if all mixed race couples were allowed to marry, then it wouldn't be strange anymore, and people in love would be happy, so their kids would be happy. I don't think my opinion has changed much.

My faith is not threatened by equal marriage rights, my marriage is not threatened by equal marriage rights, but my belief in our democracy, our claim to fairness and equality is deeply shaken by this irrational, cruel disparity.

Other may not accept homosexuality - they do not have to; they may not accept work on the Sabbath; they may not accept bikinis on the beach. Everyone is allowed to hold personal prejudices, indeed you cannot prevent it. However, society should not allow personal prejudices to govern human rights, to govern law.