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Arico Kotze - Opposed to same sex marriage

From: "Khumalo, D. (Duma)"
To: "akotze@parliament.gov.za"
Date: 2006/11/23 12:15 PM
Subject: Opposed to same sex marriage

Dear Mr Arico Kotze,

I feel that the civil unions Bill is discriminating against my values and belief as a Christian. As families, Christian community we have values and standards that we adhere to. I cannot agree that my children will now be taught what is contrary to the bible. We have rights to say what we want our children to be exposure too. My children are being raised up to reverence the Lord and to behave according to the statutory that God (Jesus) has laid before us.

One of them is to respect marriage and shun away from any sexually immorality. Above all I'm concerned that I cannot keep quiet and let God's people do what he has explicitly said Do not do.

I love homosexuals people, but I do not approve of this Bill. It is against what the bible teaches.

I believe homosexuals need our support & love and am willing to help them, but I cannot go against my Lord's command.

What is marriage/union in biblical terms?

Marriage is sacred. It is a covenant between one man and one woman and God. If God had wanted same sex marriages/union/whatever people may want to call it, he would have done so in the beginning. God is the instigator of marriage. God created marriage. He made Eve to be a helper of Adam.

Marriage is not about feelings, but it is a commitment between 2 people of opposite sex. God is a witness in this union.

God is a creator of all things. I believe the manufacturer knows best what is the purpose of the thing he created.

If you don't know the purpose of a thing you are bound to abuse it. One of the purpose of marriage was to increase, another was to demonstrate the love/relationship that Jesus has with the church. There needs to be a man who will be the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.

Please consider the impact this will have on the children, who will grow up confused. Who will not know the difference between a mum and a dad, and between male and female. What kind of society are we creating, that it is okay to be ruled by your feelings? You can do whatever you like just call it your rights/freedom? That

there is no right or wrong?Is this what our freedom is about,going against what God has ordained?Is this what we fought for?

What legacy are we living behind for our children?Are they going to be proud of us that we were a generation that forsook God?

Regards
Duma Khumalo

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RR

Arico Kotze - Civil Union Bill

From: "Candice Roman"
To:
Date: 2006/11/23 11:26 AM
Subject: Civil Union Bill

Dear Mr Kotze,

I have received Carole Mac Donalds letter and have to loudly voice my support of her email to you.

Whereas I understand that same sex partners feel discriminated against. I feel as a citizen of this country I am being forced to accept something that goes against everything I believe in. I feel that my children will be discriminated against in that they will be forced to accept same sex marriages. And accept that what our religion teaches us is so very wrong, the country in which they live will teach them something different.

Please Sir, hear our pleas.

Candice

-----Original Message-----

From: MacDonald, C. (Carole) [mailto:CaroleM@Nedbank.co.za]
Sent: 23 November 2006 11:09
To: 'akotze@parliament.gov.za'
Subject: Civil Union Bill
Importance: High

Dear Mr Arico Kotze (Committee Secretary),

I'm writing to you as I am concerned as to how the civil unions bill is going to affect me, my children, my family and my community. I am currently a proud citizen of South Africa. I'm not a lawyer and have no legal experience. I'm a working wife and mom who disagree with same sex marriages and allowing children to be introduced into these circumstances. I feel that my standards, values and religion are being discriminated on, as my faith in Jesus and the values I learn in the bible strongly disagrees with this behaviour.

I therefore cannot accept that same sex behaviour, I cannot agree to same sex unions or what ever it can be phrased. Marriage is a word that we use to identify a special covenant between one man and one lady which is done in the presence of God. My freedom, values and religion is discriminated upon by this bill. I'm writing to you to appeal against the Civil Unions Bill. As my husband and I have entered into a marriage for life. Marriage has a meaning, value that is pure, honest and is a holy covenant which is done in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that the reason why the " that the family law dispensation as it existed after the commencement

of the Constitution did not provide for same-sex couples to enjoy the status and the

benefits coupled with the responsibilities that marriage accords to opposite-sex couples" was intentional as this behaviour is considered as sin in the bible and is not acceptable. By allowing this to happen it will impact our lives and the way the rest of the world sees South Africans. We have standard and values that we need to maintain so that we can say we are proudly South African.

Kind Regards
 Mrs Carole Mac Donald

To all my friends who I have copied on this email if you fee the same as I do about the Civil Union Bill. You also have the opportunity to voice your opinions by contacting Mr Arico Kotze before 16:00 tomorrow.

Bellow are the links to the Civil Union Bills, it required me to capture my email address before I could access it.

<http://www.pmg.org.za> (choose New Bills twice.)

or

<http://www.pmg.org.za/bills/061109b26b-06.pdf>

extract "PREAMBLE

WHEREAS section 9(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, provides that everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law;

AND WHEREAS section 9(3) of the Constitution provides that the state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth;

AND WHEREAS section 10 of the Constitution provides that everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected;

AND WHEREAS section 15(1) of the Constitution provides that everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion;

AND WHEREAS the rights in the Bill of Rights may be limited only in terms of law of general application to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;

AND NOTING that the family law dispensation as it existed after the commencement of the Constitution did not provide for same-sex couples to enjoy the status and the benefits coupled with the responsibilities that marriage accords to opposite-sex couples,

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa,

as follows:-

Definitions

1. In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates-

"civil union" means the voluntary union of two persons who are both 18 years of

age or older, which is solemnised and registered by way of either a marriage or a civil partnership, in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Act, to the exclusion, while it lasts, of all others;

"civil union partner" means a spouse in a marriage or a partner in a civil partnership, as the case may be, concluded in terms of this Act;

"Customary Marriages Act" means the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998);

"Identification Act" means the Identification Act, 1997 (Act No. 68 of 1997);

"Marriage Act" means the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961);"

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TTT

Arico Kotze - Fw: Submission on Civils Unions Bill: Advancing Backwards

From: "Duncan"
To:
Date: 2006/11/23 05:31 PM
Subject: Fw: Submission on Civils Unions Bill: Advancing Backwards

To the members of the Select Committee on Social Services

Advancing Backwards

The new Civil Unions Bill is both a blessing and a curse that will subtly and negatively impact on individuals, South African's and humanity as a whole. Let me briefly explain my perspective.

While our constitution (born out of an intense experience of unfair discrimination over several decades) does allow for fair discrimination, it places paramount importance on the equality of all human beings. Ours is probably the first constitution in the world to place as much emphasis on this principle as it does and, in doing so, it recognises our common humanity and destiny as human beings. The power and significance of this recognition and emphasis is often lost in the words used to describe it.

In a world in which we as humans are, and increasingly will, struggle for our survival in the face of, for example, unprecedented levels of global poverty, exponential growth in global population levels, environmental degradation, global warming and new and emerging global health threats, the recognition of our common humanity and our common destiny is going to be vital to our survival.

Without this we are going to see responses to these global challenges which stem from narrow, self centered and sectarian views of humanity and the world. Individuals will increasingly and fanatically identify with particular nation states, faith based institutions, political ideologies, cultural communities and the like who will defensively position themselves in competition with each other and seek to secure their influence and dominance in attempts to ensure their (in the narrow sense of the word) "survival". Self interest will blind us to our common destiny and pit us against each other. Superficial issues of difference will come to the fore and will be used to rally support for particular groups and against others. "Good" and "evil", "right" and "wrong" will be catch phrases used to justify the ideological and power positions of these groupings. We will witness the re-emergence, in new forms and guises, of the same mentality that was used to perpetrate the barbarism of the Catholic Church's Inquisition's, that motivated the genocide in Rwanda, and that underpinned the philosophy and practice of apartheid in our own country.

Ultimately, we will all be losers in this process but along the way some will feel the brunt of this mentality more than others. To date, our common history suggests that one of the first will be those who find themselves physically and emotionally attracted to people of the same sex. Gay and lesbian people have always been in the minority. They have never been a coherent and unified "group". They have never wielded any significant influence or power. They are an easy target for scapegoating. They have constantly been portrayed as immoral, sick, evil, perverted and the like and consequently have been discriminated against and persecuted for almost all of human history. But gay and lesbian people will be only one of many who will be sacrificed by those that dominate the scramble for influence and power in the struggle for survival. In fact, one could argue that the recognition of the dignity and equality of gays and lesbians is the litmus test for the survival of the human species. And this is why the Civil Unions bill is both a blessing and a curse.

It is a blessing in that it valiantly tries to recognise the aspirations and rights of gay's and lesbian's in the face of significant prejudice and homophobia. Despite predominantly negative social perceptions and attitudes it recognises that first and foremost gay's and lesbian's are people - human beings and, as such, are fully entitled to enjoy opportunities, rights and privileges just like any other individual or group. However, while it extends all the legal rights, privileges and obligations associated with heterosexual marriage to gay and lesbian partnerships it does so by creating a new and separate bill that deliberately avoids using the terminology of marriage and, in this, it is a curse.

It is a curse because in referring to gay and lesbian partnerships in different terms it tacitly affirms the perception that gays and lesbians, while entitled to opportunities, rights and privileges are not equal to heterosexuals. The institution of marriage carries not only legal rights, privileges and obligations but also messages and assertions of status. The failure to use the same terminology for all forms of committed

human partnership communicates that some partnerships are more significant, or in George Orwell's terminology, "more equal" than others and fails to clearly communicate our common humanity and equal status as human beings.

In addition, and perhaps of even more concern, the creation of a separate bill to "accommodate" the aspirations of a "group" of individuals in a country characterised by the diversity of its peoples is very dangerous indeed. As South African's we should be all too aware of the dangers inherent in "separate development" and should be vigilant of and opposed to it in any form or guise. The Civil Unions Bill is exactly that a form of separate development in the guise of progressive legislation that grants gays and lesbians (and conveniently those heterosexuals who would like to have their partnerships recognised without getting married as defined by the marriage act) equal rights, privileges and obligations. It can only be equal if it is the same - if the SAME law applies equally to ALL. If it is not the same then it can only be equivalent and if it is equivalent it is not equal. One just has to look at our recent history for evidence of this assertion: separate schools, separate residential areas, separate business areas, separate health services etc. etc. each with its own rules and regulations, each with its own systems and processes and each with its own language and terminology. This is why gay's and lesbian's have been calling for the recognition of their partnerships under the marriage act and why they have been asserting that "anything else is NOT equal".

If the Civil Union's Bill passes the requirements of the constitutional court (which I sincerely hope it does not) then we would have opened the door to a slippery slope which could see us return to a place where different rules, systems and institutions are applied to different individuals and groups and where the inequality inherent in this is disguised by "linguistic gymnastics" in which claims of semantic equivalence are used to convey the impression of equality. We would have advanced - backwards.

If we in South Africa cannot see these dangers then how much more difficult will it be for others to recognise them? Surely, given our recent history, we have an obligation to succeed in demonstrating that it is possible for diverse peoples to relate to each other as equals. That it is possible to live side by side and to work together for the greater good despite superficial differences. Surely others do not have to suffer as millions did under apartheid to recognise that, if we are to survive as the human race, we cannot continue to relate to (or against) each other on the basis of superficial differences but instead must see and relate to each other on the basis of our shared humanity.

For the sake of all of humanity, I hope South African's can rise to this challenge; recognise our common humanity and pass the litmus test inherent in the equal recognition of gay and lesbian partnerships under one marriage act - anything else is NOT equal.

Duncan Andrew
3 Cedar Ave
Durban, South Africa