

As per the subject line, I oppose the introduction of anti-discrimination laws based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Discrimination laws might aim at protecting ONE group of people - but they inevitably restrict the freedom of conscience, religion, thought and association of OTHER PEOPLE.

As a Christian, I believe that homosexuality between humans is wrong, on the grounds that God has designed relationships between humans to be heterosexual, and ordained marriage as an institution of this.

Despite the biased treatment of the subject in much of the media, there are many (if not a majority) of people in our community that do not accept homosexuality and should be entitled to their voice on the matter.

We already have defamation laws to protect people from abuse of freedom of speech, however anti-discrimination laws will achieve the stifling of opinion, which is not healthy for society. On top of this, anti-discrimination laws are indeed discriminatory against certain views, and detract from free practice of religion - the Christian is not allowed to voice his or her views according to anti-discrimination laws.

"The proposed Bill says that if someone feels they are treated "less favourably" than someone of a different sexual orientation or gender identity then they can make a complaint - and the person complained about has to defend themselves.

The previous Attorney General had proposed extending the 'unfavourable treatment clause' in the discrimination section to include 'offend or insult'. That has been done away with - but the words 'offended' and 'insulted' still appear in this section of the proposed Bill."

The right to offend is a fundamentally important element in any democracy. Indeed it is sexual discrimination to restrict these laws only to sexuality-related matters. What about racism? And if racism is included, then it is also discrimination not to extend the laws to all forms of discrimination (based on appearance, job, whatever). There is either no consistency, which constitutes discrimination based on sexual-orientation itself, or if consistency is bought in, free speech is dead.

Again, I oppose the introduction of these laws.

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Daniel Joseph