

## **SUBMISSION:**

2nd July 2014

Endeavour Forum Inc. is a pro-life, pro-family women's NGO which has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

*Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014* is a very thinly veiled attempt to impose same-sex marriage on Australia in violation of Australian law, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman. The Greens have made a push for SSM a top priority, and they now attempt to introduce it by the back door.

In contemporary Australian society same-sex couples suffer no disadvantage, as they receive the same benefits as heterosexual de facto couples, and they are free to celebrate commitment ceremonies at a social level in which no one is coerced into participating.

Personal relationships are private and no business of government. The only purpose for marriage legislation is a recognition of a joint parent-child bond, the responsibility of parents for the care and upbringing of such children as are born of their union, and the inalienable right of every child to know and be loved by his or her own natural parents.

Wherever SSM has been legalized freedom of speech and freedom of conscience are abolished. Secular, as well as religious, marriage celebrants, and all those concerned with weddings, are coerced into participation under pain of severe penalty for so-called "discrimination". Any who attempt to use freedom of speech to disagree may be indicted of so-called "hate speech".

Children, from kindergarten up, are indoctrinated in homosexual propaganda in violation of parental rights. This is already proposed in Australian schools by a so-called "Safe Schools Coalition" on a pretext of "safety, tolerance and inclusiveness". In fact it is neither safe, tolerant nor inclusive. Part of the agenda is to inflict on 95% of children extreme embarrassment and violation of privacy, by compelling them to share toilets and change rooms with members of the biologically opposite sex, who experience gender identity disorder, and who need only sensitive psychological care to enable them to lead normal lives. It is claimed that this would make "transgender students (5% or less) feel more comfortable." This is at variance with science and reason.

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml> is violated by such injustice.

"Men and women ... have the right to marry and to found a family. The family is the NATURAL and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State". (Article 16)

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance". (Article 18)

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference, and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". (Article 19)

"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children". (Article 26)

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014 is clearly a political subterfuge. Please reject it.

Mrs. Babette Francis,  
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