

6/3/2012

Senate Committee Submission

Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I cannot support this bill.

Marriage has always been the joining together of a male and a female in a contractual agreement which provides a secure environment for them and for the children born of that marriage. That family unit is the basis of all societies, cultures and in fact civilizations. While the rituals that formalise the marriage may differ the basic structure is the same.

A traditional marriage of female and male is a productive unit that produces, nurtures and prepares the offspring to function in a male/female world.

Same sex couples cannot do this. They cannot reproduce, and psychological as well as sociological studies make it blatantly clear that for a child to grow up with a balanced healthy view of self and community they need parenting by parents of both genders.

While one parent homes do unfortunately exist because of many, usually unhappy, reasons no government should legislate in favour of anything that legally produces an unbalanced environment for children or society.

Further the idea that a religious celebrant would be given an exemption from conducting a gay "marriage" puts them in a position that will be seen to be discriminating, and that exemption, in time, will be attacked.

This may not be relevant but it interests me that many gay activists who are anti religion want to be united by what is a religious act, i.e. marriage.

The word "Marriage" has a particular lexical meaning. One such definition is: - "the social institution under which a man and woman establish their decision to live as husband and wife by legal commitments, religious ceremonies, etc."

This word has its own meaning and it should not be twisted to incorporate something that it does not mean.

Yours sincerely

Cóilín Dunn