

The proposed substitution of the words 'sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status and marital or relationship status, in place of marital status in the Objects clause by the proposed amendment of Section 3(b) , identifies relationship status with 'marital status' . The two should be treated as distinct and separate. The same comment applies to each Section of the Act that is proposed to be amended in this way.

Replacing 'marital status' with 'marital or relationship status' is causing confusion and could be taken as paving the way for same-sex marriage legislation when such legislation was voted down by the parliament only a few months ago. It is vague language which does not provide clear indication of what it is.

Yours faithfully
Marg Wallace