

Dear Sir,

Whilst I sympathise with those who wish to prevent discrimination over attributes out of the individual's control, I believe there are serious problems with the way that this is implemented in current anti-discrimination laws in general and in particular this Draft Bill.

Firstly, it is not the role of the civil government to prevent discrimination. It is the role of the individual. By all means educate and persuade, but it is not the government's business to coerce individuals and businesses to comply.

The dangers in taking this approach are readily appreciated. Legitimate free speech is outlawed, or made so risky for individuals to indulge in, it might as well be. Business owners are effectively stripped of their property rights to their own businesses when they are forced to run them along prescribed lines. Businesses are also devalued because of the compliance costs, and increased risk of litigation.

Secondly, this bill in particular outlaws discrimination on grounds which are entirely legitimate. The Bible makes quite clear, for instance, that homosexual behaviour is clearly wrong. It should not be encouraged, let alone protected by legislation.

For these reasons, I therefore recommend that the committee recommend that this Draft Bill be scrapped at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mansel Rogerson