Australian Needs to Tolerate Anti-LGBTIQ People

This is an appeal to Australia’s society and leaders. The fact is, 52% of the entire Australian population is Christian (Morris, 2017). Yet, society is leading an uncompromising war against faith cultures by demanding universal acceptance of LGBTQI groups. Today we can only hear the loud voices of those who say, “you have no right to discriminate!” As though the religious are the lynching mobs of the southern states of America. This is not an appeal that such practises as “gay-bashing”, be accepted. No, this is an earnest appeal that as LGBTIQ groups are promoted, so is the acceptance of people of faith. Special minister of State, Mr Hawke, recently said, “The left of politics and the left in society are mounting an assault on religion and people of faith… It’s been happening for a long time. Everyone of faith feels the pressure.” So, please, Australia, promote the laws of our country, which not just vouch for the inclusion of LGBTQI but also the religious; leaders, please promote the human rights of freedom for the religious; please nurture the flourishing of a multicultural country.

Firstly, let us go back to the laws and human rights which protect LGBT and Religious groups. For example, during the year 2013 it became unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2018) But, let’s also remind society of the laws that protect religious groups. Under Article 18 of the ICCPR, the freedom to *hold*a religious or other belief is absolute. It cannot be limited or restricted in any circumstances (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2018). The only limitation to this is the protection of the public, or protecting the rights and freedom of others, all which **opinions** against LGBTQI **do not** violate (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2018). Therefore, people of faith are protected by human rights and certainly should be respected by society and it leaders. But, this is not the case. An example of the intolerant mindsets of leaders marching for tolerance is the retaliations to the Ruddock Review which continued to allow education institutions to be LGBT non-inclusive (Baxendale, 2018). Gay rights activist Rodney Croome announced, “Any school that receives public money should abide by the same rules as the rest of society, including the same rules about fair-treatment and discrimination…This looks and feels like a vindictive attempt to punish LGBTI people for achieving marriage equality” (Baxendale, 2018). This is an ironic thrust by Mr Croome. He claims to stand against discrimination but his very insensitive opinion publically discriminates against religion! This clearly it is about the protection of LGBTI and not a single balanced syllable about the protection of faith communities. He, of course, is supported by many including Senator Rice and Senator Faruqi, from Greens education who said, “We should be removing exemptions for religious for religious schools from anti-discrimination laws, not expanding them” (Baxendale, 2018). No further evidence is needed to prove that leaders in Australia are **not** contributing to a culture that protects religious communities. They are **not** upholding the law and human rights! This is becoming an issue on freedom of speech, not for LGBTIQ but for the faithful! Society and it’s leaders are not respecting but beginning persecution against faith. Australia’s law defends freedom of faith. It’s leaders have a legal obligation to uphold this. Please support ‘people of faith’ in Australia.

Additionally, this extremely uncompromising push for condoning the inclusion of LGBTQI lifestyles is squashing diversity in Australia! It creates an oppressive expectation for uniformity of thinking which is unjust demand on a multi-cultural society. If it is not acceptable for Australians to be anti-LGBTIQ Australia is no longer a religiously friendly country and therefore it is not racially welcoming. Society and its vocal leaders must nurture the future of a multi-cultural Australia caring for long-standing Christians and arriving immigrants and asylum seekers. The Ruddock Review submission states “…human rights commonly interact with one another. Sometimes they are mutually reinforcing. Sometimes they intersect in ways that create tensions or conflicts. This is more likely in a multicultural society with a diversity of beliefs and values. This diversity adds further weight to the international law requirement to accommodate human rights that are in tension.” Mr Ruddock explains that because we are multi-cultural the confliction of beliefs must be acceptable. The values surrounding the LGBTIQ communities and Christian communities is an example of conflicting beliefs absolutely must be accommodated for. We are proud of our multicultural Australia – the picture of many cultures living harmoniously in a chaotic world. Is it any more fair for society to ask an LGBTIQ to abandon their chosen identity that to demand that religious groups abandon their beliefs? If Australia’s society continue to oppress free thinking and demand acceptance of LGBTIQ they will be oppressing their own people as well as as those who seek refuge on our golden shores. They have fled oppression. Let them not find it here. Please make people of faith supported in Australia.

It is clear then. The law of Australia protects both the religious and LGBT communities and should continue to do so. Many people may accuse religious groups of cruel discrimination but the removal of the freedom to disagree is a form of discrimination itself! Basic human rights protect both groups in that they have freedom of speech and freedom of belief. This must be upheld to an equal agree for both sides. Religion wants equality. As a multicultural country it is vital that society upholds this else they shall crush religion. Multi-cultural Australia promotes diversity; anti-discrimination and a government that will abide by its laws and protect it’s citizens human rights. Therefore, I ask you as leaders in our country to maintain these standards and promote the protection of freedom of beliefs, even the belief against LGBT groups! I pray that you will hear my earnest appeal.

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