



**Rhema Ministries
South Africa**

9 November 1993

Prof L M du Plessis
The Convenor
Technical Committee on Fundamental Rights
P O Box 307
Isando
1600

Dear Sir

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAFT BILL OF RIGHTS

We would like to make a strong plea for another look at certain aspects of the proposed Bill of Rights. These are:

1. EQUALITY

We have objected to the Technical Committee about the inclusion of the words "sexual orientation" under the heading of "Equality" in the October 5, 1993, draft on Fundamental Rights.

In our previous objection we simply stated our case on the basis that we saw the inclusion of the words "sexual orientation" as an attempt to entrench "Gay Rights". We added that we felt that other sections of a Bill of Rights would provide adequate protection for homosexuals and lesbians within our society.

However, in this second submission we would like to expand slightly and make a point that we believe that the special protection that Gays are looking for under a Bill of Rights would only expose them further as "victims".

The aim of a Bill of Rights is, in our understanding, a way of guaranteeing certain freedoms. But those freedoms often have a cost. Campaigns to assist people in being treated like others have a way of backfiring.

Instead of merging into the rest of society, minorities are not only marked as "different", but are forever seen as "victims" begging for their rights.

There is also, in our opinion, a false assumption that full equality of Gays can only be accomplished by designating them as "victims". Their claim, it seems, is that they are discriminated against by society.

This is not true.

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Pastors & Founders: Rev Ray & Mrs Lynda McCauley

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Homosexuals and lesbians do not, in our opinion, suffer any discernible economic deprivation and already operate in all levels of society.

In fact, we may be surprised to find that homosexuals are not only well educated, but probably better educated than the general population, have good jobs and may even have political clout! Certainly not the marks of an oppressed minority!

Mr Andrew Sullivan, the gay editor of the American magazine "New Republic", has noted that no "cumulative effect of deprivation" takes place with homosexuals comparable to the "gradual immiseration" of a deprived ethnic group, because EACH GENERATION OF HOMOSEXUALS BEGINS LIFE AFRESH IN HETEROSEXUAL FAMILIES.

Our point is that Gays are not oppressed in our society, neither are they deprived of economic advancement, however, it is true that they are harrassed because of their sexual preferences.

However, in our opinion, sexual preferences, (as with heterosexuals) should remain private and not paraded in the work place or in public.

2. RIGHT TO LIFE

We feel very strongly that this clause should include the UNBORN CHILD.

3. ORIGIN OF HUMAN RIGHTS

We submit that a respect for Human Rights depends both upon the rule of law and on moral and spiritual values. Therefore, we believe, that it is an imperative to make reference to God or the Creator in any preamble to the Bill. We believe this is acceptable to the majority of people of South Africa, whether Christian or non-Christian.

We believe that Rights are derived from God and not the State. Therefore, the State administers these Rights, under God.

We are not advocating a "Christian State" or a form of Theocracy, but wish to maintain an acknowledgment of God and His moral laws, which are the basis of much of our value system in South Africa.

Yours sincerely,



REV RAY McCAULEY

RS/dlr
9/11/93