

669,444

PEOPLE SIGNED THE C4M
PETITION FOR MARRIAGE

SEPTEMBER 2014

SUPREME COURT JUDGE CALLS FOR RETHINK ON CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

Supreme Court judge Baroness Hale of Richmond has said the law needs to work out "how far it should allow for a 'conscience clause'" for service providers or employees who believe in traditional marriage.

The Deputy President of the UK's Supreme Court called for a rethink six months after rejecting an appeal by Peter and Hazelmary Bull.

A same-sex couple sued B&B owners Mr and Mrs Bull over their policy of only allowing married couples to share a double bed; a policy based upon their deeply-held beliefs about marriage. In 2011, a County Court judge ruled against them and ordered them to pay damages of £3,600.

Mr and Mrs Bull are not alone. Inside you can read about Margaret Jones, the registrar sacked for asking not to conduct same-sex weddings. Margaret was offered



Baroness Hale, Deputy President of the Supreme Court.

her job back, but the threat of legal action still hangs over Ashers Baking Company in Northern Ireland. Their offence? To refuse to bake a cake with a gay marriage campaign slogan.

The Government says it is 'lawful to express a belief that marriage should be between a man and a woman'. But it seems that acting on that belief can still get you into trouble.

C4M believe that reasonable accommodation for conscience is needed now before more individuals and organisations

find their reputations and livelihoods at risk for standing by their beliefs.

“ But instead of all the technicalities which EU law has produced, would it not be a great deal simpler if we required the providers of employment, goods and services to make reasonable accommodation for the religious beliefs of others? ”

Baroness Hale, 7 March 2014



◀ Read our campaign leaflet
at c4m.org.uk/resources

SUPPORT FOR BAKERS WHO FACE THREAT OVER MARRIAGE BELIEFS

A family-run bakery in Northern Ireland threatened with legal action for refusing to decorate a gay marriage campaign cake has received overwhelming public support. A ComRes poll of over 2,000 British adults found that 60 per cent agree it was “disproportionately heavy-handed” for the Equality Commission to seek to take the bakery to court.

The McArthur family, who own Ashers Baking Company, said they could not fulfil the order because of their conviction that marriage is between a man and a woman.



Daniel McArthur, General Manager of Ashers Baking Company, faces legal action for declining to bake a pro-gay marriage campaign cake.

The taxpayer-funded Equality Commission for Northern Ireland then sent a letter claiming that the company had acted unlawfully and said they would be sued unless they changed their stance.

Ann Widdecombe, writing in response in the Daily Express, said: “Surely it is an elementary feature of true democracy that nobody should be obliged by law to affirm that which he or she does not believe.”



Supporting Ashers: Ann Widdecombe.

SPEAKING OUT



People should not feel pressurised to go along with same-sex marriage just because of political correctness.

They should be free to express their views.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE NOT A HUMAN RIGHT RULES COURT



The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that there is no human right to same-sex marriage. The judgment says that European human rights law recognises the “fundamental right of a man and woman to marry and to found a family” and “enshrines the traditional concept of marriage as being between a man and a woman”.

MARRIAGE IS UNIQUE



Throughout history and in virtually all human societies marriage has always been the union of a man and a woman.

Marriage reflects the complementary natures of men and women.

Although death and divorce may prevent it, the evidence shows that children do best with a married mother and father.

VINDICATION FOR SACKED REGISTRAR

A registrar sacked for saying she didn't want to conduct same-sex weddings has been offered her job back. Margaret Jones was accused of "gross misconduct" and "bringing the council into disrepute" despite her willingness to deal with related administrative tasks.

Her appeal was upheld unanimously by a panel which decided that Central Bedfordshire Council had not fully investigated ways of accommodating Margaret's religious beliefs about marriage. They also found evidence that in other cases arrangements had been made to "accommodate individual staff situations".

The dismissal of Margaret Jones, the Senior Deputy Registrar at Bedford registry office, echoes that of Lillian

Ladele. Miss Ladele, also a registrar, was pushed out of her job at Islington council in 2008 after asking her managers to accommodate her belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.

After her initial employment tribunal vindication was overturned, she ultimately lost her appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in January 2013.



Registrar Margaret Jones.

NEW RULES RISK SAME-SEX MARRIAGE PUSH IN SCHOOLS

From this month, academies, free schools and independent schools in England will be required to 'actively promote' the rights defined in the Equality Act 2010.

The new Government regulations provide an



opportunity for activists to push same-sex marriage in the classroom.

The Department for Education claims anti-extremism measures promote 'British values' and are required in the wake of the recent 'Trojan Horse' scandal. But it is difficult to see how promoting same-sex marriage

addresses extremist ideology of the sort seen in Birmingham. The Government has made the mistake of equating 'British values' with political correctness.

The Association of School and College Leaders has warned that the plans are rushed and could limit free speech with teachers becoming reluctant to discuss controversial topics.

FARAGE: REDEFINING MARRIAGE WAS 'NOT PARTICULARLY NEEDED'

The national debate surrounding the redefinition of marriage was unnecessary, Nigel Farage has said in response to questions on LBC radio.

Asked for his views on same-sex marriage, the UKIP leader said that it was "an argument and a fight" that "wasn't particularly needed" and pointed out that homosexual lobby group Stonewall had not originally

been calling for its introduction.

He also expressed a "big fear" that under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, there is a "very real risk" churches may be forced to conduct same-sex marriages.

"I think if the churches and the faith communities were forced to conduct gay marriages against their will, that would be wrong", he concluded.



SUPPORT C4M



At C4M we have been working hard to stand up for the legal rights and freedoms of people who believe in true marriage.

Please consider supporting our vital work by making a donation online at:

c4m.org.uk/donate

CAMERON PUSHES GAY MARRIAGE 'EXPORT' DESPITE LOW TAKE-UP

After vowing last year to export same-sex marriage around the world, the Prime Minister has now said the Foreign Office is pushing for similar changes in other countries, and that Britain should "encourage the rest of our world to take our lead".

His enthusiasm comes despite only 1,409 same-sex marriages taking place in England and Wales in the three months from March 29.

Introduction of same-sex marriage was blamed at least in part for a decline in local Conservative membership in at

least 15 constituencies over the course of 2013.

In Witney, Cameron's own constituency, the number of association members dropped by 170 to 1,083.



C4M.ORG.UK

Coalition for Marriage Limited, 8 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL

Coalition for Marriage Limited is a Not-for-Profit Company registered in England. Company No. 07880604.