



**Will religious freedom be protected?** – “The protection for religious freedom in Bill C-38 is not worth the paper it is printed on.” Provincial governments have not taken any steps to protect religious freedom. Currently, there is a human rights complaint against a Knights of Columbus hall in British Columbia because they would not rent the hall to a lesbian couple for a wedding ceremony as well as a human rights complaint against the province of Manitoba by a marriage commissioner who is being forced to resign over this issue. Religious freedom is not being protected. It is being violated.

**Are committed people of faith “unCanadian”?** – “Christians who cannot accept same-sex unions as ‘marriage’ will be forced into the closets recently vacated by gays and lesbians. “The people whose values Canada was founded on will be pushed to the margins of society.”

**Marriage is universally recognized:** Around the world and across all religions and cultures, marriage has been recognized as being between a man and a woman. What will happen when this global consensus is broken down?

**We should not lightly abandon millennia of human wisdom as reflected in the institution of marriage:** Religions, governments and other social/cultural institutions have recognized the importance of marriage to society.

**Every child needs and has a right to a mother and a father, preferably his or her own biological parents:** Marriage is about giving a child a mother and a father. Bill C-38 creates intentionally motherless or fatherless homes.

**Marriage as the foundation of the family** – Marriage will no longer be about having and raising children. When marriage is reduced to being all about the couple and their wishes and desires, the self-sacrifice needed to have and raise children disappears. “When you say that marriage is not longer about procreation it cuts marriage off at the knees.”

**This historic definition of marriage does not violate fundamental human rights:** Those who argue that the historic definition of marriage violates equality rights of gays and lesbians have reduced marriage to *merely* the recognition of close personal relationships between adults. However, if marriage is not merely a contract between two people who love each other — if it is the unity of a man and a woman with the potential to found a family — then the heterosexual definition of marriage is essential to marriage itself. It therefore does not violate the equality rights of gays and lesbians to retain the historic definition of marriage.

The Supreme Court of Canada *did not* rule that the Charter requires that marriage be redefined. The court deliberately refused to answer this question. The court ruled that Parliament *may* redefine marriage.