



The Committee Manager
Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

LA LSIC - AVP INQUIRY
SUBMISSION NO. 58
RECEIVED 30 MARCH 2020

March 29 2020

To the Committee

[Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections](#)

Protection against hateful or vilifying language targeting a person's religion is available under the law in Victoria, yet there is no equivalent protection on the grounds of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics. We feel this disparity is discriminatory and unjust.

Since 2001 there have been numerous hateful and vilifying attacks on LGBTIQ+ people in print and social media, originating in or closely connected to Melbourne's Jewish community. Had such attacks been anti-Semitic in nature it is likely there would have been justified outrage from the Jewish community and attempts made to seek legal remedy under anti-vilification legislation. At present there is no equivalent protection available for attacks on LGBTIQ+ people.

Addressing point 7 of the Terms of Reference:

7) Any evidence of increasing vilification and hate conduct in Victoria;

We have provided seven examples of vilifying and hateful language that we hope are helpful to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Michael Barnett.

Michael Barnett
Co-convenor
Aleph Melbourne

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Aleph Melbourne is a social, support and advocacy group for same-sex attracted, trans and gender diverse, and intersex people (and allies) who have a Jewish heritage, living in Melbourne, Australia.

December 7 2007

Author: [REDACTED]

Reference:

<https://aleph.org.au/2017/12/18/ten-years-ago-robert-weil-was-claiming-aids-is-a-gay-disease/>

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AIDS DOES DISCRIMINATE
I HAVE read in detail the feature, "A disease that doesn't discriminate" (AJN 30/11). It would seem that one of the purposes of the article was to promote World Aids Day as some sort of a Jewish yom tov. I, for one, won't be observing it.
In fact, AIDS does discriminate. It discriminates against those who engage in activities such as illicit sex with multiple partners, drug abusers etc. and although, as the article points out, medical science is still far from discovering a cure, unlike so many other diseases, we clearly know what causes it and that it is entirely preventable.
Why is it that health authorities, with the knowledge that smoking causes another horrible and devastating disease, have enforced legislation that issues graphic warnings about the dangers of cigarettes, in an effort to ram home the message that this activity can be fatal, but do not have the guts or the fortitude to rail against sexual immorality, apart from a token message about "safe sex" and a "condom"? The answer, sadly, lies in the other insidious disease that is destroying our society – political correctness.
No doubt there will be many who disagree with me. Provided they can manage to write a paragraph without the use of politically correct, nonsensical buzzwords, such as "judgemental" and "homophobe", then I welcome the debate.

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December 21 2007

Author: [REDACTED]

Reference:

<https://aleph.org.au/2017/12/18/ten-years-ago-robert-weil-was-claiming-aids-is-a-gay-disease/>



AJN Watch blog

August 7 2009

Author: AJN Watch

Reference:

<http://ajnwatch.blogspot.com/2009/08/jewish-news-goyish-news-or-gayish-news.html>

Criticism of blog:

<https://mikeybear.com.au/2010/04/29/victorian-jewish-community-and-internet-hate-the-victim-becomes-the-perpetrator/>

there are no less than 9 items(!) about the AJN's current sweethearts – the homosexuals (or to use the full label – “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transvestites”).

...a couple of repeat letters from the usual Torah-hating, gay-loving, single-issue-obsessed letter-writers (see top right) and of course a Kron cartoon.

Just like [REDACTED] we too have no idea who the TA gays killer is. But there is as much a chance – in fact far greater – that it was another homosexual (jealous lover's tiff, maybe) as it being the work of an 'ultra-orthodox'.

The last thing their readers are interested in is what is happening in Tel Aviv snakepits of dreck and perversion.

Your comment that “Israel is one of the more gay-friendly countries in the world and you don't have to spend too much time in the more vibrant sections of Tel Aviv to become aware of a strong and tolerant gay culture” indeed nauseates, depresses and disgusts not only Hamodia readers, but all decent, civilized and moral people – of all religious beliefs. Your pride and delight that Israel has become a world-leader in depravity and debasement says much about you and your publication.

Galus Austalis blog (defunct)

September 21 2010

Author: [REDACTED]

Reference:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20100925060328/http://galusaustalis.com/2010/09/3528/gillard-who-is-she-good-for/#comment-14986>

Same sex marriage – I do not particularly (along with a few others) like having homosexuality presented to me as 'normal'. It is not and while I do not advocate discrimination against people who are practicing homosexuals, I think if they want marriage and all the other things that go with it, (Like the adoption of children) they need to give up their deviant practices and return to a heterosexual lifestyle and put themselves in order. Children deserve to have a normal family situation as far as possible.

...

...those poor sick individuals who have to follow their unnatural desires and indulge in sexual practices that are not normal.

...

No I feel discriminated against, because I am not allowed to hold the view that homosexuality is deviant sexual behaviour, which it is.

Just Grounds Community blog (formerly Agmates Community) (defunct)

October 17 2010

Author: [REDACTED]

Source:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20101025161642/http://agmates.ning.com/profiles/blogs/a-reflecti-on-and-some-serious>

While I do not, and I m very clear on this, advocate causing harm to any person who is homosexual or otherwise different, I do not regard their behaviour as 'normal'. That is my opinion. I base it on a number of facts including the idea that it is not normal sexual behaviour, even in the animal world.

...

I have sympathy for those born homosexual because I believe that it must be a difficult burden to deal with but by the same token, I think there are many therapies available and even if they cannot be cured they are able to come to terms with the fact that they need to address some issues in their lives.

...

Younger people with emotional problems can be taken advantage of in this very sensitive stage of their life by older more experienced homosexuals who may be just looking for a bit of fresh meat so to speak, and are apt to convince a younger impressionable person that they are gay because they (the older person) desires it to be so.

...

I will not be bullied or forced into accepting homosexuality as a normal sexual behaviour.

AJN Watch blog

November 23 2010

Author: [REDACTED]

Source:

<http://ajnwatch.blogspot.com/2010/11/did-yevonim-triumph-maccabees-after-all.html?showComment=1290494366520#c2526957033413860708>

I'm surprised AJNwatch hasn't picked up on an engagement announcement in the current AJN edition. There are three sets of parents for this one. The bride's parents, the groom's father and his second wife, and the groom's mother and her gentile lesbian 'partner'. I'm not criticising the AJN for printing the ad, but it really opens your eyes to what a sick society this has become. It will be interesting to know the arrangement of who will be standing under the chuppah here.

[REDACTED]

AJN Watch blog

December 17 2010

Author: [REDACTED]

Source:

<http://ajnwatch.blogspot.com/2010/12/their-parents-must-be-so-proud.html?showComment=1292540813717#c5265406392349690708>

B'H No one is judging. On a deeper level, we have to look at homosexuality as equated with bestiality and understand that both activities require the individual to submit to baser instinctive behaviours on one level that requires much effort to control. If we support marches for 'gay rights' and support a gay lifestyle, then why are we not marching to support child sex offenders because surely they are 'just one of many variations of HUMAN sexuality'? Child sex offenders will use that argument to negate criticism of their behaviour to and say that they were merely 'helping children to express their inner sexual desires'. I know that people like Mikeybear who runs Aleph have great issues with my views on the subject and I want to get away from the personal aspect of it, because there are many worthwhile and gentle sensitive gay people who contribute to society in many very worthwhile ways. However, I for one am not going to support a gay lifestyle and I certainly will not march in favour of sexual behaviour and lifestyle that I disagree with. If I had two people going for a job and both were equally qualified and one was gay, would I hesitate to hire a gay person, definitely not. Would I go to a gay nightclub (despite the fact that I do not hang out at night clubs and never have seen it as a desirable activity), definitely not, but would I stop a gay person coming to a function I (for arguments sake held) definitely not, but I would require a certain code of conduct. Am I in favour of sending my son to a Jewish Youth Group that supports same sex marriage - definitely not, because those sorts of values are not what I want for my son. I had a similar answer to someone who suggested that I remove my son from a school and send him the Caulfield Community School because they believe he has 'behaviour issues. Now, the Caulfield Community School may be very worthwhile for the sons and daughters of XXXX (removed by blogmaster) and if I wanted my son to become like those poor little blighters and for him to get an education in the social mores of fringe dwellers, I certainly would see that as an option, but I do not. It would be the beginning of the end of him and corrupt him, Now when we choose a youth group, we want certain values to be supported and espoused. I have not come across anywhere in Jewish literature that homosexuality is a Jewish value, although people will argue that David and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship. I believe that had a deep relationship that was purely spiritual in its essence and love. I think it is very hard for us in these days, when we are so connected to the material and physical world, to conceptualise a love or a relationship that is on a purely spiritual level without physical or sexual expression. I can understand how a mother's love for her child may entitle her to go beyond condemnation of socially unacceptable sexual behaviour and she may endeavour to ask for acceptance of her child and indeed support from the wider community for her child's sexuality. However, while the wider community can accept her child as who he or she is, we should avoid accepting his or her deviant sexual behaviour as the norm and indeed we should avoid supporting it as the norm.