

Scripture and Marriage Equality: Resources

2006 Colloquy resource materials



Faith Statement in Support of Antidiscrimination – Religious Coalition for Equality*

“Until we are all free, we are none of us free.” – Emma Lazarus

We, the faith leaders and people of faith in Washington State named below, support laws and actions that work against discrimination and protect the fragile rights of minorities in our society. In particular, we support the Anderson Murray Antidiscrimination Bill recently signed into law which protects everyone including sexual minorities from discrimination in employment, housing and insurance.

We believe that every person is created equal in the sight of our Creator and should be treated with equal rights in society. We choose to live in a society in which the rights of minorities are protected. These beliefs are the basic building blocks of our system of government. They represent the genius of the American form of democracy.

No person should be turned away from a job because of her sexual orientation. No person should be rejected from a contract because of his sexual orientation. No person should be evicted from an apartment because she is transgender. No person should be denied access to insurance because he is bisexual.

If only one case can be documented, it is one too many. Unfortunately, we know there are many unreported and reported acts of discrimination. If sexual minorities can now feel as secure and safe in our state as anyone else, this law is warranted.

The late Coretta Scott King said, “I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people and I should stick to the issue of racial justice. But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’ I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream to make room at the table of brother- and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people.” (March 31, 1998, Reuters) Selective justice is contradictory. Justice is always blind, always impartial, and always applied with equality to everyone.

We applaud the courage of legislators in both political parties in the House and Senate who went against narrow interests and voted to adopt this antidiscrimination law. We applaud our Governor who signed the legislation into law. We deplore the use of a referendum to overturn this legislation for financial self-gain. We deplore the betrayal by religious leaders of the tolerance and respect in which all the world’s great religions base their truths. Such a stance seems incredible and shocking to us. Discrimination is discrimination. Period. There is no middle ground.

For these reasons, we urge the citizens of the State of Washington to stand against any attempt to undermine this significant law and to decline to sign any petition seeking to overturn it. We believe in representative democracy and object to cynical attempts to use the referendum or initiative process to strip Washington State citizens of their constitutional rights.

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