

Dear ALRC team,

I would like to submit my opinion regarding suggested Law reform in following points.

- 1- Religious schools and institutes are places especially approved for religious practices and environment. It is for people to feel safe and thrive in their environment of faith. It is a place for them where they strive for excellence in their beliefs and way of life according to their religion. Anyone who doesn't share the same set of belief would not be allowed to join as it will disrupt the whole idea of having a separate place on religious basis.
- 2- Religious schools are specifically for shaping young minds according to faith. As according to science we all know that human brains are under development till the age of 21 and keep on getting mature till age 26 roughly. Exposing our young generation to conflicting ideas will ruin their upbringing in spiritual aspect. We want a safe place to nurture our kids and expose them to outer environment in a controlled manner to get the best possible outcome. Hence religious schools should be allowed to shape their own environment and role models.
- 3- This law reform is actually restricting freedom of expression and freedom to practice the religion for all groups of faith which is unfair. We equally have a right to feel safe and right to shape our social circles and communities. It is not disrespect to any other school of thought.
- 4- We need to keep in mind that in order to make room for LGBT+ community we shouldn't be sacrificing space for other communities and they shouldn't be imposed on other groups. Their concerns should be addressed in best possible way according to law but not according to their own likes and dislikes. Sexual orientation is a very personal idea and it has nothing to do with social life. Gender identity is something which goes both ways. Whatever person thinks about themselves cant change perception of others about them. They should have respect in society and equal opportunities in normal mainstream schools and institution. Interfering and allowing them to enter religious institutions will not gain them any particular respect or opportunity which they don't have in mainstream. It will only restrict freedom of expression and practice religion of concerning schools and institute.

Kind Regards

Dr Aysha Rasul.