



מועצת הרבנים

The Rabbinic Council of the Union for Progressive Judaism

Press Release

RE: Progressive Jewish View on the Upcoming Plebiscite in Australia

1 September 2017/10 Elul 5777

Judaism is guided by the belief that every human being is created "in the image of the divine," as it says in Genesis 1:27, "And God created humans in God's own image; in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them."

Alongside this basic principle, we recognise the call of Torah (The Jewish Bible) to pursue justice in an equitable manner" (Deuteronomy 16:20, "Justice, justice shall you pursue"), as well as the obligation to show respect and dignity to all people, kinsman and stranger alike (Leviticus 19:18, 33-34).

Therefore, we believe that every individual regardless of age, religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation has equal rights and should be treated accordingly. Regardless of circumstance or context, discrimination against any person, whether it arises from apathy, insensitivity, ignorance, fear, or hatred, is inconsistent with these fundamental beliefs. We oppose discrimination against all individuals, including the GLBTIQ community, for the stamp of the divine is present in each and every one of us.

We believe that two people who wish to join in lifelong union through a wedding ceremony should be able to do so without prejudice. Rabbi Ettlinger believes "prejudice causes hurt and pain and in this case even more so when people only want to celebrate their love and so marriage equality and voting "yes" is essentially for communal harmony and civil rights." Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins added ""Religion's mythic traditions should guide us to moral insight, and those insights in turn must be based in facts, evidence and commitment to equal rights in civic society."

On this basis, the rabbis of the Rabbinic Council of the Union for Progressive Judaism Moetza and its parent body the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ), along with the rabbis and lay leaders of Masorti Australasia support marriage equality and the rights and privileges therefore afforded.

We encourage our members to vote YES.

Signed on behalf of our members:

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Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins – Chair of the Masorti (Conservative) Council of Australia - jbkamins@emanuel.org.au; (02) 9328 7833

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