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JC review

# **SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION PROTECTION COALITION**

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**To: Mr. MICHAEL COETZEE**

**From: EUGENE BROCKMAN, HENRY BANTJEZ**

**Date: May 17<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Re: PROTEST ACTION TO PRESERVE PROTECTIONS AGAINST  
DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF "SEXUAL  
ORIENTATION" WITHIN THE BILL OF RIGHTS, CHAPTER 2,  
SECTION 9 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA.**

A collection of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) South African and international concerned citizens, non-profits and community based organizations are protesting on this day of May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in unison against the current proposal before the Constitutional Review Committee for the removal of protections against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation as stated in the Bill of Rights within Chapter 2, Section 9 of the South African Constitution.

United Nations Chairman Ban Ki Moon recently stated that LGBTI rights are human rights. We believe any review or discussion on removal of protections for sexual orientation from the South African Constitution is an infringement on basic human rights for a large minority of South African citizens.

The current review of the proposal for removal of protections against discriminations on sexual orientation is also irresponsible and against the sentiment of majority of South Africans. South African LGBTI citizens face intimidation, violence, rape and murder on a daily basis and the current discussion whether these individuals are deserving of rights and protections under the constitution, generates the perception that such actions are justifiable.

It has also become apparent that Phathekile Holomisa serves both on the Constitutional Review Committee and the Council of Traditional Leaders (who brought forward the proposal to remove rights regarding sexual orientation).

Mr Holomisa did not live up to the responsibilities of his office within the Constitutional Review Committee by accepting the proposal to from his peers on the Traditional Council of Leaders, which infringes on the human rights of a section of South African Citizens.

We hand over this memorandum and demand the following actions before the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2012:

- the immediate refutation of the proposal to remove protections against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation within the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2, Section 9 within the South African Constitution as currently accepted by the Constitutional Review Committee
- disciplinary review against Mr. Phathekile Holomisa and any others on the Constitutional Review Committee for their actions leading to the acceptance of the fore-mentioned proposal to the Constitutional Review Committee.
- a public apology for violating the LGBTI and general South African citizen's trust in the constitution.
- assurance to the LGBTI and broader South African community that no review, discussion of sexual orientation protections within the Bill of Rights or any proposal to asking for such actions will be allowed in the future.

Regards,

EUGENE BROCKMAN

Organizer & Activist