

**The Overturning Of Illegal and Unjust Laws Regarding Bigamy and Equal Rights For all Citizens of North Carolina and Other United States of the Americas. Petitioning the American Civil Liberties Union- A Society For the Restoration of Torah Marriages Brief.**

***Guidelines And Agenda For The Society For the Restoration of Torah Marriages  
-Comfort-Educate-Advocate-***

- First and foremost, we renounce all forms of child bride taking, underage brides, forced marriages, marriages done without consenting adults, all forms of emotional coercion and mind control, along with any domestic abuse of women and forced marriages in any and all plural lifestyles. Plural matrimony like monogamous marriage, must safeguard and protect the rights of all women and children to live free of coercion and abuse as free moral agents and away from the abuses of the past. State laws protecting women and children must be guarded and treasured vigorously. The Society For the Restoration of Torah Marriages exists to make sure that plural marriage and monogamous marriage is conducted openly and in the light, within the framework of all state laws regarding the protection of women and children. We are dedicated to promote healthy and wholesome living amongst biblical families of faith. On the other hand.....
- Our goal is to assist in granting all married people their full civil rights. No citizen should be denied basic civil rights. As the laws currently stand the diverse anti plural marriage and anti bigamy laws are unconstitutional. It is self evident that basic legal rights apply to all Americans, except law abiding men and women that live a plural marriage lifestyle. We are dedicated to seeing that changed.
- The discrimination against the wives and husbands in a plural family, part of the families of faith community in the USA are un-American and deny the most essential rights to US citizens. The laws as they exist favor one set of morals and one lifestyle over another. The discrimination against these families of faith is worse than the days of Jim Crow segregation, where African Americans, at least technically by law, had separate but EQUAL rights and facilities. Today wives and their children in plural heterosexual families have no legal rights. This is open, obvious and yet unjust discrimination against them and in a just society simply and unequivocally cannot be tolerated. We are dedicated to change that within the law immediately.
- While we believe that the gov'ts, state, or federal, have no constitutional authority to license any marriages at all, yet being realistic and being law abiding citizens, we propose that either they license all marriages between consenting adults (even as homosexuals have their marriage rights in many states), or license none at all. **No state cannot pick and choose which unions between consenting adults are legitimate and which are not as seen by recent rulings. Those days have long passed.**
- We will petition the States to pass a new law granting legal and licensed status to all married relationships between consenting heterosexual adults, that can be witnessed by others, or by a minister as monogamous marriages are.
- In order to advance and receive full legal and civil rights for all of a man's wives in areas such as health insurance, life insurance, social security benefits, family inheritance matters, the legal adoption of stepchildren, drivers licenses in the family name and other benefits, along with the basic human right of carrying their beloved husbands family name, we seek an end immediate to discrimination against a misunderstood, yet legitimate segment of our society.
- We are not, nor do we claim be Mormons, FLDS, fundamentalist Mormons, or any other branch of Mormonism. Rather, we are part of the American landscape of faith and freedom of religion, with many of our members being Jewish, Evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics, Israelites, Hebrews, African Americans, Caucasians, Native Americans and many other parts of the community of religious expression. Many live and work in our towns and cities and have no affiliation whatsoever with compound life. As such, we desire to be recognized as legitimate and lawful citizens, pursuing our faith free from gov't interference, yet desiring equality under the law for those who desire to license more than one wife with the State, just as a man with several automobiles can register each one with the state and not be accused, or charged with unlawful car ownership.

- Those past abuses within polygamous circles such as illegal child brides, the marrying of other men's wives-adultery and all other forms of manipulation and coercion are fully and totally condemned by us and we desire no part, or implied guilt by association (seeing we have no affiliation), in any of these abuses, or among any of these communities. We simply petition that consenting adults, who are law abiding citizens paying their fair share of taxes and may be your neighbors, or professional service providers, be allowed to benefit legally from their contributions in a just and open way.
  - Recognizing these past abuses doesn't mean that the state is free from blame and culpability having driven polygamists underground, due to their discrimination and humiliation of its own citizens. We desire that plural married people be free to live their lives openly and without the discriminatory shame of desiring to hide, which in itself has created the darkness from which abuses can take place. The State can atone for their past culpability by reversing the current injustice of bigamy statutes.
  - We desire that once restored the civil rights of plural married people will allow them to live with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, in plain view, without ridicule and State sanctioned discrimination. Consenting adults once recognized and licensed as consenting adults above the marriage age limits being married people, are to feel free to move about as free men and women. We desire to remove the compound mentality by bringing our basic rights out into the open. The way the laws are illegally written now, a polygamist's wives have no equal rights, even within a family where the legal wife of record has rights, but subsequent wives have no rights. This is a discrimination of the worst kind amongst law abiding taxpaying citizens. If all the children in a large family have full civil rights, so should families with more than one wife, who birthed these same children.
  - Our goal is to force the States to end their discrimination immediately, so that a man and his wives can all enjoy the benefits of citizenship, as equal citizens and as equal spouses. As equal spouses in the eyes of the State, the chicanery and paper shuffling of polygamous families will end, as there will be no need to marry and divorce a wife before taking another, just to keep the family name on all of them. We renounce this practice in our community, believing the only grounds for divorce is adultery or unfaithfulness as define by Scripture.
  - We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. These rights are now granted in such states as North Carolina to all types of cohabitation arrangements between consenting adults with no loss of civil rights and liberties. A man can co-habit in North Carolina with 7 mistresses and have no harassment or threats from the state. Yet if he were to marry them and be responsible for them without making them dependent on aid from the state, he would be threatened with jail or harassed by the self same State, leaving the man with the 7 co-habitants alone in peace. This injustice must end and the full civil rights of all Americans must be granted and preserved by all 50 of these Unite States. If Nazis have been licensed to march in the recent past, our wives should also be licensed to live and move about freely, being US citizens.
  - The plural marriage society is quite large and needs to come into the open and the light. This will end plural families past abuses of gov't funding known as "milking the beast." We renounce that practice as stealing, which is contrary to our bible faith. We believe all plural married peoples should work hard to lawfully provide for their families in a just society, where they have all the same legal and beneficiary rights that monogamous families have, that reward them for their hard work.
  - We look to the American Civil Liberties Union in North Carolina to aid, assist and represent us in the immediate need to end discrimination against men and women of faith and conviction, not limiting civil rights to the union of one man to one woman, or one man to one man, or one woman to one woman. We all are citizens and we all have civil liberties. We demand them to be finally granted-recognized to us now!
  - We reserve the right to peaceful but vibrant ongoing protest and public assembly to declare our dissent to current unconstitutional bigamy laws and intend on using that right through peaceful non-violent protest in front of state capitals and courthouses, until change comes and all the marital Jim Crow-willful discrimination laws have come to an end.
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-Preparation For Justice-

*Addendum 1-In a recent ruling such as the Lawrence vs Texas 2006 decision it is clear that all forms of marriages between consenting adults is on its way to legalization in many of not most states including gay, lesbian and trans-gender relationships granting them full civil rights. Yet plural marriages are still not given their rights even when no other laws are broken or no other abuses take place. All consenting adults in all types of marriage relationships deserve equal treatment and full rights under and in any just society. A Supreme Court justice rendered the opinion as follows: The fact that the governing majority in a State has traditionally viewed a particular practice as immoral is not a sufficient reason for upholding a law prohibiting the practice,' Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote, quoting approvingly from his colleague Justice John Paul Stevens." That is, the state or federal government cannot pass a law criminalizing a behavior, simply because the vast majority of its citizens feel that it is immoral or sinful. What some people consider to be immoral behavior can no longer be criminalized if it is done in private; what some consider sinful behavior can no longer carry a jail sentence.*

*And in at least one earlier precedent, the realm of private, intimate life has been defined by the Supreme Court to include 'marriage . . . family relationships [and] child rearing'." So, polygamy and same-sex marriages might become legalized. He goes on to say: [The majority opinion] dismantles the structure of constitutional law that has permitted a distinction to be made between heterosexual and homosexual unions, insofar as formal recognition in marriage is concerned." **He said that laws against bigamy, adultery, prostitution, bestiality and obscenity were now susceptible to challenges.** Justice Kennedy's statement might be interpreted as implying that American citizens have the right to engage in various behaviors "without intervention of the government " even including the choice of more than one spouse. States may no longer be able to criminalize polygyny.*

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*Addendum 2-What is the current ACLU position (in North Carolina) on legalizing polygamy? In 2005 the opinion was as follows:*

*In comments at an Ivy League school, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union has indicated that among the "fundamental rights" of people is the right to polygamous relationships and that the ACLU has defended and will continue to defend that right. In a little-reported speech offered at Yale University earlier this year, ACLU president Nadine Strossen stated that her organization has "defended the right of individuals to engage in polygamy." Yale Daily News says Strossen was responding to a "student's question about gay marriage, bigamy, and polygamy." She continued, saying that her legal organization "defend[s] the freedom of choice for mature, consenting individuals," making the ACLU "the guardian of liberty ... defend[ing] the fundamental rights of all people."*

*The ACLU's newly revealed defense of polygamy may weaken the pro-homosexual argument for changing the traditional definition of marriage.*