



STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN MALAWI ON SAME SEX UNIONS

1.0 PREAMBLE

The religious bodies in this country, comprising of Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), Malawi Council of Churches (MCC), Muslim Association of Malawi (MAM), Quadria Muslim Association of Malawi (QMAM) and the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) in conjunction with other religious groups and concerned citizens have joined together on this day, 13th July, 2023 in a march across the country in defense of marriage, the family and human sexuality.

The faith community in this country is concerned with attempts towards the legalization of homosexuality in our nation. It is important to note, besides being sinful and unnatural, homosexual acts and unions are a threat to the continuity of the society. The union between man and woman is the basic unit of a society and anything that runs counter to this natural set up is a direct threat to our humanity as established by God.

The family march, therefore is an open call to all Malawians irrespective of political, social, cultural religious or regional divide to stand up for what is morally right today against the tide of homosexual practices and the sexualization of the society.

2.0 OUR BELIEFS

The faith community in this country share the following beliefs about marriage:-

- 2.1 That it is God who created them male and female. He ordained marriage to be between male and female.
- 2.2 That any relationship contrary to the above is unacceptable scripturally and therefore a perversion of God's own Law. From a religious point of view, homosexuality is a sin before God. Whilst God loves sinners just as He loves everybody else created in His image, He hates sin. Homosexuality is one such sin.

2.3 God designed that children, as offspring of a marriage relationship between male and female, be brought up under the care of a mother and father, wherever possible.

2.4 That homosexuality practices do exist in our midst but it is an abnormality. We believe such people require counselling and our support to reform.

2.5 That the issues of homosexuality are against our own culture.

2.6 That those who may have homosexuality tendencies need our pastoral care.

3.0 OUR OBSERVATIONS

Marriage, family and human sexuality are under direct attack by those pushing for Malawi to legalize homosexual practices and unions. What we see is a deliberate move to influence the removal of laws that criminalize homosexual practices and unions.

We are aware that the majority of Malawians do not support efforts to normalize same-sex relations. It is therefore important for Malawians to strongly stand against any attempt by the adversaries of family to redefine the institution of family under the pretext of reviewing those laws that criminalize homosexuality or even invalidating or replacing them.

The faith community is of the view that this is a fundamental part of our law, which if indeed has to be changed, can only be done by the will of the majority of the citizens of this nation through either a referendum or through the peoples' representatives in Parliament. Any other route to change such a key law is tantamount to undermining the cardinal principle which respects the will of the majority.

4.0 OUR CONCERNS

4.1 Legalizing same sex relationships unions will directly infringe on our religious liberties. Once legalized, church leaders will be forced to marry same sex couples in our churches even against our own spiritual convictions, as is currently the case where such laws have changed.

4.2 Legalizing same sex marriages would promote the moral decay in our society as our children and young people in schools and colleges will openly be taught homosexuality as being normal. This is an unacceptable behaviour.

4.3 Homosexuality indirectly threatens the natural family unit which is the hub or core for a strong society. Other definitions of marriages/unions besides male and female are a fallacy and perversion of God's divine order.

5.0 OUR APPEAL

We therefore make the following appeal:-

5.1 Parliament

Parliament in its legislative function has an oversight role to come up with laws which strengthen the family and guard against practices which would undermine the moral fabric in this country. We therefore call upon the relevant Parliamentary Committees such as on Health, Education, Gender, Legal Affairs and many more to review the available policies and legislation and subject it to an overhaul through public participation with a view of protecting the family and ensure we safeguard our young people from extreme sexualization campaigns such as what homosexuality seeks to achieve.

5.2 The Executive Arm of Government

We request the Executive branch of Government not to succumb to pressure from other circles thereby mortgaging this country to moral decay. It is undeniable fact that issues of same sex relations and abortions as being advocated by some so called "progressives" have seriously polarized many people, especially where laws have been changed without taking into account the interest of the majority.

We further call upon the Executive, that should there indeed be need to change the laws, the voices of the majority of the people should be engaged through a referendum. We are made to understand that The Human Rights Council of the UN effectively recommended a referendum in 2015, which is yet to be conducted. Such an exercise would have settled this matter once and for all.

5.3 The International Community:

The international community should respect our sovereignty as a nation and not dictate values which are conflicting with our religious and cultural beliefs as a people or a nation.

5.4 Civil Society and Human Rights Group:

We are aware that the majority of the activists pushing the same sex agenda in this country mostly do it for money and not necessarily based on convictions. We therefore urge all such groups to

seriously reflect on their actions and respect God’s divine order and the will of the majority of the Malawian people.

5.5 The Faith Community:

The faith community should continue to unite and actively bring an awareness to the masses, both in our worship places and community at large on the implications of some of these extreme sexuality movements upon the family and especially the young people.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The faith community in this country would like to emphasize that family as a central social institution and a hub for a healthy society, must be protected, supported and strengthened and not undermined. We therefore call upon all Malawians of goodwill irrespective of political, social, racial regions, tribal and religious divide to stand up jointly to protect, preserve and strengthen the family, as established by God, in the face of many threats. We must all stand together as a nation in solidarity to defend the natural family marriage as established by God.

May the Lord bless Malawi and keep it a land of peace.

Episcopal Conference of Malawi



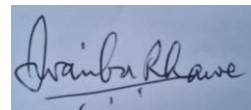
Malawi Council of Churches



Evangelical Association of Malawi



Muslim Association of Malawi



Quadria Muslim Association of Malawi



13th July, 2023