

Dear Friends!

In May 2007, the Norwegian Government presented a proposal for a new marriage law. The current partnership law will be abolished. Same-sex and two-sex couples will both equally be able to enter into marriage. Discussion and voting is expected to take place in parliament in the spring of 2008.

A campaign to get as many signatures as possible on a document entitled “Yes to the preservation of marriage” has recently been started in an effort to counter such a radical redefinition of marriage that will certainly come to have large and unforeseen consequences for our future society.

We live in a globalized world and as a result, whatever happens in Norway is of concern to every country. That is why we wish to get this signature campaign as much international support as possible. Your response is therefore extremely important to us. If we manage to stop this new law in Norway, this will have enormous impact as precedence for other countries that might come into the same situation.

In order to give us your support, you only need to send us an e-mail giving the name of your organization and a few lines on your views on this matter.

All the help you can give us to spread this request for signatures further to organizations and associations that you know of, would be more than welcome!

Kind regards,

Isabel Hillestad
Institute for Family Policies Norway
Haldenvn. 4B
1367, Snarøya
ifp.nor@gmail.com
isabelhillestad@ipfe.org

Declaration: “Yes To the Preservation of Marriage”

- The government has put forward a proposal for a new marriage law which would lead to a basic change in the understanding of what marriage is *and that challenges the right every child has to have a mother and a father*. Marriage will no longer exclusively be between a man and a woman, but also between couples of the same sex. Homosexual couples would have the right to adopt children, and health services would be able to offer married lesbian couples artificial insemination.
- The proposal would result in a breach with values honoured throughout history by most cultures. Marriage between a man and a woman is society’s foundation stone, and is the unit that provides the most secure framework in which to raise children.

- We are convinced that it is best for society today that marriage between a man and a woman should uphold its special position in Norwegian law. We would like to emphasize the importance for children of having both male and female role models in their everyday life. Insofar as this is important in kindergarten and school, it is also of the utmost importance in the child's most important company the child keeps, i.e. the family. The Convention of the Rights of Children also maintains that children have a right to have a mother and a father.
- We therefore exhort the Norwegian government to withdraw its proposal for a new marriage law. We call on all political parties to prioritize the family as society's most basic Institution, and protect and defend marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.