

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)

65B Central Circle, Fish Hoek 7975

Web: <https://www.fhvrra.org.za/> Facebook: www.facebook.com/FHVRRRA/

Heritage Western Cape: Conservation Body

TO: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

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SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE MARRIAGE BILL ¹

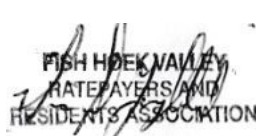
DUE DATE: 31 AUGUST 2023

We, the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers & Residents Association, support the submission made by Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA).

We specifically support the inclusion of a clause that expressly protects the religious freedom of Religious Marriage Officers (i.e. pastors, etc. who do not work for the State and voluntarily hold marriage licences) and the religious organisations (e.g. churches, etc.) to whom they belong. This will ensure that the Bill complies both with the Constitution and international law.

We specifically support the inclusion of a clause that expressly states that Civil Marriage Officers will not be obliged to perform any ceremonial (i.e. religious functions) generally associated with the solemnisation of a marriage.

We am concerned that the current draft of this Bill could unintentionally criminalise religious leaders who solemnise the religious ceremony only. Therefore, we specifically support the inclusion of a clause to avoid this potential problem and confusion.

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SIGNATURE	
DATE	24 August 2023

¹ <https://www.gov.za/documents/marriage-bill-draft-7-jul-2023-0000>