



# THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(Anglican Communion)

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## POSITION OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

**ON THE BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROHIBIT MARRIAGE BETWEEN PERSONS OF SAME GENDER, SOLEMNIZATION OF SAME AND FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THEREWITH.**

### PREAMBLE

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) is a bible-believing church. It sees the world as the creation of a loving, caring and rational God whose wisdom is unsearchable. That he created man in his image is a clear indication that man is the crown and caretaker of creation. In his infinite knowledge, he created them **male** and **female** with the injunction to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ..." (Gen 1:28).

The present trend in certain quarters to cast the bible aside and foist on the world a religion that does not have God and the bible at the centre was why orthodox Anglican all over the world gathered in Jerusalem (June 2008) for the Global Future Anglican Conference (GAFCON), which dwelt extensively on human sexual orientation resolving to be faithful to the plain teachings of the bible on this. The introduction of this bill at this stage of national development is one of the best things that have happened to us as a nation.

**Section 1 (4) of the bill should be upheld for the following reasons:**

**(a) The Bible clearly forbids the practice:**

- (i) **Leviticus 18:22** "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.
- (ii) **Leviticus 20:13** "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood guilt is upon them."
- (iii) **Romans 1:26-27** "For this reason, God gave them over to degrading passions, for their woman exchange the natural function for that which is unnatural and in the same way also men

abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

(viii) **1 Corinthians 6:9** "Do not be deceived, neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkard nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

(ix) **Genesis 19: 1-29** "It was because of the sin of homosexuality that the city of Sodom and Gomorrah was completely wiped out from the face of the earth.

Any society or nation that approves same sex union as an acceptable life style is in an advanced stage of corruption/moral decay. This bill therefore seeks to shield Nigeria from the complete annihilation that will follow the wrath of God should this practice be accepted as normal in this land.

**(b) Marriage is a creation of God between a man and a woman.**

**Genesis 1: 27** "So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; **male and female** he created them.

**Matthew 19:4-6**, haven't you read the scripture? Jesus replied. They record that from the beginning God made them male and female; and this explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. They are no longer two but one; and what God has joined together, let no man put asunder".

We must note that it was God who ordained marriage. Since it was not invented by man, it must be practiced in accordance with the will of God.

(c) Those who argue for the legalization of this unwholesome practice on the claims of human rights must first of all recognize and respect the right of God to order his creation the way he wants it. Human rights therefore should not infringe on the right of God to remain God.

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(d) Part of the purpose of God is to ensure that human existence is sustained through procreation. "God blessed them i.e. Adam and Eve and told them, multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1: 28). Same sex marriage is a violation of this divine injunction and will only endanger human existence.

(e) The world is a global village. The explosion in information technology has made communication very easy. As with every other thing in human development, globalization has both good and bad sides, which are disseminated through the ICT to every nook and cranny of human society. The Harmful effects of the bad side of globalization can have very painful effect on a nation and its citizens. It is therefore the duty of every responsible government to ensure the protection of her citizens from all harm including bad influences.

The presence of gay churches, fellowships and clubs in Nigeria is not only embarrassing but also very unhealthy. The passage of this bill will no doubt ensure that this moral cancer did not destroy the social fabric of our dear nation.

(f) It is a well known fact that individualism is one of the marks of secularization and post-modernism. This culture which dominates the Western World presently is alien to Africa in general and Nigeria in particular where existence outside the community is inconceivable. The family is the nucleus of any society and its destruction will lead inevitably to the destruction of the society. Same sex marriage is out to foist on the world a false sense of the family which will bring disastrous consequences to mankind.

This bill therefore will not only preserve the Nigerian families but will also ensure that the community spirit in African does not die.

(g) One of the Corollaries of same sex marriage is the introduction of male prostitution. For a long time now, Nigeria has had to battle the unhealthy practice of female prostitution because it got to the point of being a national embarrassment. This battle is far from being won. If male prostitution is added to the social problem of Nigeria at this stage of our national development the effect will be very catastrophic particularly to our youth.

**Section 1 (5)**

This section is perfectly in order as allowing persons of the same gender enjoy the benefits of a valid marriage would mean a tacit recognition of the practice which this bill seeks to outlaw. Refusing them the rights and privileges of a valid marriage will make the practice unprofitable and unattractive.

**Section 1 (6)**

Nigeria is a sovereign state and has the right to make laws that will regulate the life of her citizens. It will amount to reducing her status as an independent nation if laws made in other lands are imposed on her. Again our law courts as a creation of our constitution are also made to interpret the same. They cannot therefore interpret or enforce any law or right that is not recognized by our constitution.

Furthermore, we must take note of the various stages of pernicious western influence in our nation and continent. The slave trade dehumanized us, the political colonization humiliated us while neo-colonization has continued to exploit us through imperial institutions/agents like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The present clamour for unrestricted human rights especially in relation to same sex union is yet another ploy to unleash more mayhem on this nation.

**Section 2 (3) & (4)**

Places of worship are built according to the religious worldview of the people. They reflect their understanding of God and man's relationship with him. Every worship that goes on in these places is as revealed in the peoples sacred book. Since both the Christian Bible and the Muslim Quran are unequivocal in their condemnation of same sex marriage, it will therefore be impossible to develop a liturgy for such a service that is a true reflection of the teachings of the scripture. It follows then that using either the church or mosque to solemnize same sex union will be like burning a strange fire in God's altar. The consequences of this will be disastrous.

Secondly, some places of worship are licensed by our law to solemnize marriage. Our understanding of marriage in Nigeria is that it is a union

between a man and a woman. It will no doubt run counter to our constitution should we use places made for the solemnization of a union between a man and a woman to that of people of the same gender.

**Section 3**

This section is in tandem with the laws of the land.

**Section 4**

We accept this section with the following amendment.

- (a) The penalty for engaging in same gender marriage should be five (5) years imprisonment each.
- (b) The term of imprisonment for witnesses should be three (3) years.
- (c) Section 4 (c) should be three (3) years imprisonment for an individual while one year imprisonment without an option of fine should be the punishment for group of persons.

**CONCLUSION:**

Same sex marriage apart from being ungodly is also unscriptural, unnatural, unprofitable, unhealthy, uncultural, un-African and un-Nigerian. It is a perversion, a deviation and an aberration that is capable of engendering moral and social holocaust in this country. It is also capable of existncting mankind and as such should never be allowed to take root in Nigeria. Outlawing it is to ensure the continued existence of this nation. The need for doing this is urgent, compelling and imperative. **The time is now.**

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