



MEDIA RELEASE
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Applause for the British Consulate's move to Allow Gay and Lesbian Couples to Marry in Australia

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) applaud the British Consulate in Brisbane for inviting lesbian and gay couples holding dual British Australian citizenship to get married under United Kingdom law.

“The UK’s legislation allowing same sex unions was a significant move to protect some of the most basic human rights of same sex couples. Namely, protection of and assisting with the formation of a family, enabling men and women to take part in cultural life and equal treatment before the law” said Amy Kilpatrick, spokeswoman for ALHR.

“However it is discrimination at its heart that two Australian women will have their relationship formalised, recognised and protected under UK law and simultaneously have those rights denied by the country in which they participate as citizens in every day life” Ms Kilpatrick continued.

Australia has previously been criticised by the UN Human Rights Committee for denying same sex couples equal treatment under the law, in contravention of Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The ACT Government has introduced a bill to allow for Civil Unions which would address discrimination against gay and lesbian couples in that jurisdiction.

“We support the ACT bill and call on other States and the Territories to introduce similar legislation to address this discrimination” said Ms Kilpatrick.

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