

## PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

**WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESIDENTS OF CANADA**, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

**WHEREAS**, equality means that all people are treated fairly, without discrimination.

**AND WHEREAS** individuals holding Christian beliefs in Canada are experiencing discrimination in that some laws are contrary to the practice of their religious or conscience beliefs. They are confronted, as a result, with restrictions on the practice of their religious beliefs and have been subjected to penalties for failure to conform to certain laws, whether within their place of employment, educational institutions, or other areas of the public sphere, or during public discourse.

**AND WHEREAS** Section (1) of the *Canadian Bill of Rights S.C. 1960, c. 44*, recognizes and protects freedom of religion; freedom of speech; and freedom of assembly and association, and Section (2) provides that every law of Canada must be construed and applied so as not to infringe any right or freedom recognized in the *Canadian Bill of Rights*.

**AND WHEREAS** the practice of the Christian faith is protected under the guarantees of freedom of conscience and religion s.2 (a); freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression in s. 2(b); freedom of association in s. 2(d) and s.15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and in s.3 (1) of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c H-6.

**AND WHEREAS** the law on assisted suicide, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)*, S.C. 2016 c. 3 provides insufficient protection for physicians, nurses and pharmacists and others who are unable to comply with the provisions of this Act because of religious or conscience reasons.

**AND WHEREAS** the law legalizing same sex marriage, the *Civil Marriage Act (2005)*, S.C. 2005, c. 33 provides protection for officials of religious groups to refuse to perform marriages that are not in accordance with their religious beliefs, but provides no protection for church-run facilities such as daycares, parish halls, schools and universities, nursing homes and other housing facilities, hospitals, and adoption and counselling services, among others. Therefore religious groups are required to provide services in these institutions contrary to their religious or conscience beliefs.

**THEREFORE**, we the undersigned residents of Canada call upon the House of Commons to permit Christians to robustly exercise their religious beliefs and conscience rights both in their private and public acts, without coercion, constraint or discrimination by

1. amending section 241 of the *Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* and the *Civil Marriage Act* to provide Christians and their faith based institutions, protection from its provisions that are contrary to their religious and conscience beliefs; and
2. enacting a policy to provide a review of any new legislation as may be in future brought forth by the government to ensure it does not impinge upon the religious rights of Christians in accordance with the historic continuity of the Canadian Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

First and Last Name * Please Print	Full Mailing Address *including postal code	Email Address	Signature

**Please mail petition with original signatures to REAL Women of Canada PO BOX 8813 Station T Ottawa ON K1G 3J1**