

From: [Victorian Women's Guild](#)
To: [Legal Mailbox](#)
Subject: Lesbian Action Group Application for a Temporary Exemption under the Sex Discrimination Act 1984
Date: Monday, 28 August 2023 8:48:52 AM

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Victorian Women's Guild (VWG) is writing to make a submission to you regarding the Victorian Lesbian Action Groups's application for an exemption to meet together as lesbians.

Victorian Womens Guild works to defend the rights of women and girls in the State of Victoria. We are concerned about the erosion of sex based rights.

For further information see our web site at: victorianwomensguild.org

Today we are writing to urge you to grant an exemption to the Lesbian Action Group.

We believe lesbians are a distinct group who should have the right to meet as a self defined group of same sex attracted women of the female sex.

We deplore the action of the Victorian Pride Centre in denying the Lesbian Action Group a place to meet. Lesbians are one of the groups in the LGBTIQ+ demographic supposedly served by the Victorian Pride Centre.

The Pride Centre offers other groups exclusive use of its meeting rooms. For example Trans only functions at which so called CIS people are not welcome.

It is unconscionable that they then deny a group of lesbians similar access without demanding that this lesbian group include other groups from the LGBTIQ+ demographic with which they have no affiliation or cultural cohesion.

This is blatantly discrimination against lesbians.

We believe this lesbian group has the right and is entitled to define themselves and who they will include in their group.

It is not the place of the Pride Centre or Queer culture or even the Anti Discrimination Board to impose a foreign and unwelcome definition of lesbianism on a lesbian group which has existed and met together for decades and who, in fact, created the definition of themselves as same sex attracted women. They specifically assert that same *gender* attraction is not a definition that applies to the women in this group.

We support LAG in their right to reject the imposition of same *gender* attraction and to meet as exclusively same sex attracted women. Lesbianism is not a sexual identity it is a sexuality. Failure to comprehend this is imposing oppression onto this group.

We draw your attention to the [recent statement by Reem Alsalem](#), the United Nations Rapporteur on violence against women and girls in which she condemned the bullying and intimidation of women and girls who speak out for the protection of sex-based rights.

The denial of the LAG the right to meet and to advertise their meetings as for female sex women only is such a denial of their human rights and a form of bullying and intimidation.

We therefore we strongly request that you grant an exemption to the Lesbian Action Group.

Victorian Women's Guild



Victorian Women's Guild

Protecting the sex-based rights of women and girls

<https://www.victorianwomensguild.org/>