

I submit my support of the request by the Lesbian Action Group for a temporary exemption under s 44 (1) of the Sex Discrimination Act. The exemption was requested in order to hold a lesbian only event at the Melbourne Pride Centre.

It is shocking that lesbians and women need to apply for an exemption at all.

How is it possible that in 2023 women are not allowed to gather without the presence of men? In plain language this is what your decision to deny the exemption amounts to. Men who think they are women are MEN. They have no place in lesbian or women's spaces.

What is the point of the Sex Discrimination Act if it doesn't protect women and grant them the right to hold their own meetings & events. Are women entitled to have their own spaces & gatherings? If not, why not?

I urge you to use common sense and interpret the Act in the way it was intended. Please grant the exemption.