

The following is the English translation of the speech given by Mr. Howard Lai of Parents for The Family Association on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2014 in Legco:

The Honorable Chairman, Government Officials and Councilors,

My Association is extremely distressed and helpless in our stance of **not** opposing the proposed Marriage (Amendment) Bill. We appeal to the government that she should conduct an extensive public consultation with adequate assessments before enacting any amendment thereof. If things were done hurriedly lacking the necessary prudence, we are afraid that such amendment(s) may lead to the eventual change in the “one man to one woman marriage” as mandated in Hong Kong’s Marriage Ordinance. Worse still, the situation could deteriorate to such a dilemma that future marriages could become unions of any two or more persons at their wish irrespective of their biological and even preferred genders!

I have a weird thought. What if marriage is just like drinking a glass of water as one wishes so that one can decide when to have or discard it. Should it be that marriage were stretched to embrace any 2 or more persons according to their will and wish, would that be a big breakthrough?

Nevertheless, the human society cannot repeal the marriage institution. For instance, the former USSR had once adopted the advocacy by Alexandra Kollontai in 1918 under the ideology of free love (also commonly known as “a glass-of-water” ideology). Accordingly, the traditional marriage institution of the Soviet society was so liberated as to get rid of its traditional constraints especially on women. Sex and love did become free, liberated and casual which quickly resulted in the phenomenal increases in chaotic relationships, promiscuity, sadomasochism, unmarried mothers, orphans with unknown parent. In the end, the Soviet government had to implement rather repressive measures to bring the situation back to control!

Human rights, equal opportunity and minority rights are so prevalent today. Yet, the rights of the family and parents are largely neglected! We like to ask if we

(as basically a Chinese society) still need the guiding principle of personal maturity and the proper stewardship of the family (修身齊家原則)? Do our children still need their parents' nourishment? Is marriage really like drinking a glass of water? I would say that we need an even stronger marriage institution nowadays. Otherwise, it will be impossible for Hongkongians (Hong Kong belongs) to live peacefully and to work enjoyably.

As a result of the ruling in W's appeal case in the Final Court of Appeal, the traditional marriage will be diluted and weakened beyond hypothesis. We urge those who cherish the traditional family values to even more cherish their families and spouses. As it has been said, "Do pick the flowers when they are blossoming as one would be greatly disappointed when the flowers are gone!"

I wish also to offer the following poem from the Hungarian patriotic poet (Petőfi Sándor) as translated in Chinese, namely, "Life is precious. Love is invaluable. Yet, I shall give up both of them for True Liberty!" to W. I apologize I will not come to your wedding as I cannot offer honestly my blessings to you. However, I'd urge you to cherish your life especially before you do have true liberty. No matter what will be coming, I hope you would agree to the principle of personal maturity and the proper stewardship of the family.

As I know some of you (here today) are Christians, may I ask, "Should all your effort fail to gain you the Eternal Life, what then can you offer up for the Eternal Blessing for yourself?"

This is my speech. Thank you.