

10 good reasons against gay marriage: In the Times today www.gaymarriagenothanks.com

Parental campaign group: "Wellbeing of children being ignored in same-sex marriage debate"

Same-sex marriage is 'adult-focused' and 'gender-free'
Children have 'human right to be nurtured by both birth parents'
Campaign launch coincides with start of House of Lords Committee Stage of Same Sex Marriage Bill

An informal group of professionals and parents today (17 JUN) launches a new campaign to put the wellbeing of children at the centre of the same-sex marriage debate.

The move comes as the Coalition's controversial Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill begins its Committee Stage in the House of Lords today.

The 'Gay Marriage No Thanks' group brings together legal, educational, medical and sociological experts. It is driven by concerns that the impact on children has been overlooked in a debate that has concentrated instead on claims of equality and religious freedom.

In an [advert](#) aimed at Peers in today's Times newspaper the group presents Ten Good Reasons why the House of Lords should say No to the Bill. The majority of them focus on the impact that the proposed changes will have on children and young people.

The group has today also launched a dedicated website (www.gaymarriagenothanks.com) that is intended progressively to provide easy access to the wealth of evidence on the subject – for Peers, civil servants, media, parents and others. It operates under the tagline 'because children matter'. Alan Craig, a spokesman for the group, said: *"Talk of the rights of adults has dominated debate about the issue, whether those are homosexual rights or religious rights. But what about the rights of children? And what does the evidence say about the impact of these plans?"*

"We want to take some of the emotion out of the debate and help people engage with the actual evidence that shows how disruptive and damaging these changes will be for children and young people. After all, it is the next generation who will be most affected by these proposals"

Luca Volonte, Chair of the largest political grouping at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, welcomed today's launch saying: *"I very much welcome the launch of this new resource and campaign in the UK. Across Europe ordinary citizens are opposing same-sex marriage for the sake of their children. I am glad that the English are now engaged in this battle to save marriage as the best place for procreation and the nurture of the next generation."* Earlier this year, Californian Professor Robert Oscar Lopez, sparked debate when he told legislators in the US: *"Couples deserve to have love recognized, but I know as a child raised by my lesbian mother and her partner that there is something missing when a child is raised by two same-sex parent. ... We've heard a lot from same-sex marriage activists who feel they've earned property rights to children but we haven't heard enough from children's rights advocates in a full debate."*