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Subject: Catholic adoption agencies and homosexuality  
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2010 18:37:37 GMT  
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Quote: The last Catholic adoption agency in the UK to refuse to serve gay couples has won its High Court appeal.

Leeds-based Catholic Care was appealing against a Charity Commission ruling which said it could not discriminate against gay would-be parents.

Today, the High Court allowed its appeal. Mr Justice Briggs ordered the Charity Commission to reconsider the case.

A Charity Commission spokeswoman said this afternoon she could not yet comment on whether the commission would appeal against the decision.

The charity had pleaded with the commission for an exemption from the law, saying it would close rather than place children with gay couples.

Catholic Care had wanted to take advantage of a clause in the 2007 Sexual Orientation Regulations which allows charities to discriminate by amending their charitable objectives.

However it was barred from doing so by the Charity Commission.

All other Catholic adoption agencies have severed their ties with the church or closed down since the 2007 Sexual Orientation Regulations came into power.

They were given a two-year window in which to comply with the law.

Earlier this month, bishops for the three areas the agency serves said that children would "suffer" if Catholic Care was forced to close.

The agencies have typically worked to find homes for the children with the most troubled histories.

In a statement, the Bishop of Leeds Arthur Roche said that children would be "seriously disadvantaged" if the court had not agreed with the charity.

He said: "Catholic Care has been providing specialist adoption services for over 100 years.

"We have helped hundreds of children through the recruitment, assessment, training and support for prospective adoptive parents as well as offering ongoing and post-adoption support to families that give such security and love for some of the most vulnerable children in our society.

"The judgment today will help in our determination to continue to provide this invaluable service to benefit children, families and communities."

If anybody has ever made a good moral argument against homosexuality at all, I've never heard it.

But more to the point, I've also never heard a good argument as to why a gay couple would be thought of as riskier adoptive parents than a straight couple. Until that argument is made, I'm not sure why that kind of discrimination is considered just.

But if there is one organisation in the world who, above all others, ought not to have authority over the welfare of children, it is the Catholic church. It has an official policy of protecting child rapists from the law, set up by Joseph Ratzinger (before he became pope, but it's still there), and the threatened penalty for breaking it (i.e. for co-operating with a police investigation, for example) is the most horrific punishment of the lot: hell.

I'm going to say that again. It's worth saying twice; it's worth saying a hundred times a day until somebody fucking does something about it. The Catholic Church has an official policy of protecting child rapists from the law, and the penalty you're threatened with if you broke it is the worst punishment it can think of to threaten anybody with.

Sadly, this organisation does have an enormous amount of control over the welfare of children, doesn't it? I can sum this situation up in one word: emergency.

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