

# Media Release

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## **Festival of Light brings darkness to the gay and lesbian community**

Far from bringing light, the Festival of Light family advocacy group is now putting heavy pressure on the Government to wind back the clock to the dark days of religious persecution and discrimination against gay and lesbian people.

“The Festival of Light is asking the Government to amend the Marriage Act 1961 to prevent state and territory governments legislating same sex couple recognition. This is of grave concern to Hear Our Voice,” NSW Senate candidate for Hear Our Voice, Toni McLennan said.

“Hear Our Voice’s media release of 20 August 2007 warned the gay and lesbian community that this election there will be a number of religious organizations actively working toward getting anti gay and lesbian candidates elected to parliament.

“The Festival of Light has gone one step further, by presenting the Prime Minister with 6000 signatures against same sex couple recognition. Who do you think the Prime Minister is going to support more, the gay and lesbian community or these extremists?” Toni McLennan asks.

According to Hear Our Voice, the Government is likely to discriminate in favor of the religious vote.

“The LGBTI community is politically weak because it is not unified, but if it were to unite it would become a real political force this election. We need more pro gay and lesbian politicians in the parliament and it is only the LGBTI community that can put them there,” Toni McLennan said.

“Hear Our Voice is asking the LGBTI community to fight for your rights by signing our petition which can be found on [www.hearourvoice.org.au](http://www.hearourvoice.org.au) Once we get more than 6,000 signatures supporting same sex couple recognition we will deliver them to the Prime Minister and demand equality under the law.”

### **Media Note:**

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