



جَمْعِيَّةُ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَالمُدرِّسِيْنَ الدِّينِ اِسْلَامِيَّةٌ بِسِنِغَاپُورَةَ

Persatuan Ulama dan Guru-Guru Agama Islam (Singapura)

PERGAS

Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teachers Association

## MEDIA STATEMENT

19 September 2018

### PERGAS DO NOT SUPPORT AND REJECTS THE ATTEMPT TO REPEAL OF SECTION 377A OF THE PENAL CODE

We refer to the various media reports discussing the retain or repeal of section 377A.

2 Pergas as the association that represents the Muslim scholars and religious teachers in Singapore, do not support the attempt to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code. This stand is based not only on religious grounds, but also due to our concern towards moral and social values, that can affect the family institution as well as the fabric of society.

3 The repeal of this Act can cause several worrying implications. Among them, it will threaten the importance of the traditional family unit as the foundation of a society. According to the principles of maqasid (or Syariah objectives), the purpose of a family unit is to give birth to the new generation, as well as to protect the existence of mankind. To achieve these objectives, Islam emphasises on the formation of a family through legal marriage between a man and a woman.

Allah s.w.t says in the Quran, in surah al-Syura verse 11:

فَاطِرُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ أَزْوَاجًا  
يَذَرُوكُمْ فِيهِ لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

Meaning: “[He is] Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you from yourselves, mates, and among the cattle, mates; He multiplies you thereby. There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing.”

4 Another negative implication if Section 377A is to be repealed is that it would affirm and normalise the LGBTQ lifestyle. This conflicts with the government’s policy of building strong family units to strengthen the fabric of society. It is also in contrast with the view of the majority Singaporeans who still hold on to traditional family values, as according the survey done by Ipsos only 12% oppose section 377A. It may also cause confusion among the younger generation regarding morality and moral values. Pergas is of the opinion that if the act is to be repealed, it will further affect the population growth of this country, which we understand is a major concern of the government.

5 At the same time, Pergas call upon the community to uphold the values of humanity as taught in Islam in our engagement and relations with others. Our relationship with those from the LGBTQ community, just as how we interact with others, should be filled with mercy (rahmah) as we extend kindness to all.

6 Hence, one should never isolate, exclude nor insult those who feel they belong to the LGBTQ community. Instead, Pergas call upon Muslims to approach them with kindness, and to support them to return to the true teachings of Islam, as taught in the Quran, in verse 3 of surah Al-‘Asr:

وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ۝

Meaning: “...and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience.”

7 Pergas sincerely hopes that members of the society, especially the Muslim community, maintain good manners and act wisely in discussing this issue. Avoid insulting others, nor belittling others, as well as their opinions. In voicing our aspirations, concerns and opinions, Pergas hope that we can all spread the spirit of Islam that strongly emphasises good character. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Nahl verse 125:

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجِدِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ  
هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ۗ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ ۝١٢٥

Meaning: “Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided.”

8 Pergas would also like to advice individuals who are facing issues regarding their sexuality to seek religious advice from accredited asatizah and counsellors who hold true to Islamic principles. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Nahl verse 43:

فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ۝٤٣

Meaning: “So ask the followers of the Reminder if you do not know”

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