



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah condemns Department of Education's proposals for unisex bathrooms

The Al Jama-ah Party says it vehemently opposes any moves by the Department of Basic Education to turn bathrooms at schools into unisex and to remove pronouns indicating gender of persons.

The party says it supports the outcry from civil society and the public who are rejecting the department's proposals. "This is a direct assault on the constitutional rights of learners coming from homes with religious, faith and cultural objections to LGBTQ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer). God fearing citizens must stand up against these atrocities as in our silence we would be leaving a disgraceful legacy for the future generations," says Al Jama-ah's leader in Parliament, Hon Ganief Hendricks.

Already learners are not safe in the bathrooms at schools and unisex bathrooms will further encourage such attacks. The party objects to any policy by the department to remove pronouns such as 'he' or 'she'. "Religious communities have a right to be protected against any measures to force down a LGBTQ agenda on them," he says.

The party calls on the government to rather focus on establishing safe separate bathrooms for boys and girls. Bullying at South African schools have become widespread, and the education system is failing in its legal and moral duty to provide safety for all learners in and around the school. Al Jama-ah will call for a debate on national importance in addition to a motion on the proposed banning of same sex bathrooms in schools. The Party will submit a question to the Minister to investigate whether there are officials in her department dealing with sex education with a LGBTQ agenda.

It is a known fact that bullies and sexual abusers choose the bathrooms at schools for their deeds because they are unsupervised. "We call on government to stop wasting resources meant for education on matters such as LGBTQ agendas which are not welcome to a largely faith-based South African society. We say NO to attempts to normalise LGBTQ in this country," says Hendricks.

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