

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH.**

Criminal Writ Petition No. 4022 of 2020

Date of Decision : June 22, 2020

Ujala Rani and another

..... PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

State of Punjab and others

.... RESPONDENT(S)

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR

Present: Mr. Ritesh Pandey, Advocate, for the petitioners.
 Mr. Suveer Sheokand, Additional Advocate General, Punjab.

...

Sanjay Kumar, J.

The petitioners are both majors. They claim to be married. However, the validity and legality of their marital status and relationship is not the subject matter of this writ petition. The petitioners apprehend threat to their lives and liberty from relations who are opposed to their relationship. The petitioners claim to have made a representation to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur (respondent No. 2), in this regard.

Trite to state, it is the bounden duty and obligation of the State to protect the lives and liberty of the people.

The writ petition is accordingly disposed of directing the

Senior Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur (respondent No. 2), to take

appropriate action, as warranted and in accordance with law, upon the representation dated 18.06.2020 (Annexure P-5), and to extend adequate protection to the lives and liberty of the petitioners, if necessary. It shall be open to the police authorities concerned to verify and confirm the identity of the petitioners and their claim.

It is made clear that this Court has not gone into the validity or legality of the marital status claimed by the petitioners and this order shall not be construed as this Court's approval of the said relationship or certification of its validity. All the more so, as the petitioners belong to different faiths/religions and there is no proof of any conversion of faith/religion by either of them whereby they can claim to have performed a valid marriage under the rites and customs applicable to one of them.

No order as to costs.

June 22, 2020
Kang

(Sanjay Kumar)
Judge

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No