

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

CRWP-7116-2020

Date of Decision : October 01, 2020

Bhawna and another

..... PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

State of Punjab and others

.... RESPONDENT(S)

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR

Present: Mr. Rimple Saini, Advocate, for the petitioners.

Mr. Gaurav Garg Dhuriwala, Senior Deputy Advocate General,
Punjab.

...

Sanjay Kumar, J.

The petitioners claim to be married. By way of this writ petition, they sought protection of their lives and liberty, as they perceived a threat thereto from respondents No.4 to 7, the family members of the 1st petitioner, who were opposed to their relationship.

By order dated 11.09.2020, this Court directed the Senior

respondent herein, to take appropriate action upon the petitioners' representation dated 08.09.2020 and extend adequate protection to their lives and liberty, if necessary. This interim order was passed as the 1st petitioner produced no evidence in proof of her being a major as on that date. She claimed, by way of an affidavit, that her Date of Birth is 19.10.2001 but stated that her original age proofs and other certificates were in the custody of her parents.

Despite service of notice, the family members of the 1st petitioner, respondents No.4 to 7 herein, did not choose to enter appearance before this Court. Thus, this Court is left with no option but to accept the claim of the 1st petitioner that she is a major.

It may be noted at this stage that it is not for this Court to go into the validity of the marital status claimed by the petitioners or the legality of their marriage, if any. This Court is only concerned with the protection of the lives and liberty of the petitioners. Needless to mention, it is the bounden duty of the State to protect the lives and liberty of the citizens and maintain law and order in the society.

The writ petition is accordingly disposed of making the interim order absolute. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur, the 2nd respondent herein, shall take appropriate action, as warranted and in accordance with law, upon the representation dated 08.09.2020 made by the petitioners and extend adequate protection to their lives and liberty, if necessary. It shall be open to the 2nd respondent to verify and confirm the identity of the petitioners and the veracity of their claim, as and when required.

By way of abundant caution, it is reiterated 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.

No order as to costs.

October 01, 2020
Kang

(Sanjay Kumar)
Judge

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