

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CRWP No.3777 of 2021

Date of Decision: 20.04.2021

Pooja Meena and another

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and others

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMOL RATTAN SINGH

Present: Mr. Vinod K.Kanwal, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

AMOL RATTAN SINGH, J. (Oral)

Case heard via video conferencing.

By this petition, the petitioners seek protection of life and liberty at the hands of respondents no.4 to 8, upon them having married each other (as contended) against the wishes of the said respondents, on 17.04.2021.

On a specific query put to learned counsel for the petitioners, it has been stated that neither are the petitioners in any prohibited relationship to each other, nor has any of them been married earlier. He states that he has obtained specific instructions from the petitioners in that regard.

Consequently, since protection of life and liberty is a fundamental right of every citizen under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, without making any comment whatsoever on the validity of the marriage, or otherwise, this petition is disposed of with a direction to respondents no.2 & 3 to ensure that the lives and liberty of the petitioners are not put to any harm or threat at the hands of the aforesaid respondents, or at their behest.

However, it is made clear that if any of the averments made in

the petition is found to be incorrect, specifically with regard to either the petitioners being in any prohibited relationship to each other, or as regards their previous marital status, this order shall not be construed to be a bar on proceedings initiated as per law.

It is also made clear that there being absolutely no firm proof of the age of either of the petitioners, naturally, if petitioner no.1 is found to be below the legally marriageable age for females in terms of the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, this order shall not bar proceedings against petitioner no.2 and others 'involved' in conducting any such marriage, under the provisions of that Act in any case.

(AMOL RATTAN SINGH)
JUDGE

20.04.2021
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Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether reportable	No