

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

123

**CRWP No.5857 of 2021
Date of Decision: 28.06.2021**

Mehakpreet Kaur and another

..... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMOL RATTAN SINGH

Present: Mr. Ruhani Chadha, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

AMOL RATTAN SINGH, J. (ORAL)

Case heard by video conferencing.

By this petition, the petitioners seek protection of life and liberty at the hands of respondents no.4 to 10, upon the petitioners having married each other (as contended) against the wishes of the said respondents, on 24.06.2021.

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 and 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.

There is no firm proof of age of either of the petitioners other than their Aadhar Cards, which is actually not a firm proof of age.

However, counsel for the petitioners has now forwarded to the Reader of this court (who has in turn forwarded to me by way of a Whatsapp communication) a copy of what is stated to be the matriculation certificate of petitioner no.1 showing therein her date of birth to be 9.12.2002, thereby making her about 18½ years of age as of the date of the marriage (as contended).

Yet, if any of the petitioners are found to be actually below marriageable age in terms of the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, this order shall not be construed to be a bar on any proceedings initiated under that Act, offences committed under the provisions of that Act being cognizable in terms of Section 15 thereof.

Further, 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.

June 28, 2021
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(AMOL RATTAN SINGH)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether Reportable

Yes
No