

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

Sr.No.111

**CRWP No.7203 of 2021
Date of Decision: 03.08.2021**

Sofia and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

(Heard through Video-Conferencing)

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA

Present: Ms. Satpreet Grewal Kapila, Advocate for the petitioners.

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MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA, J. (ORAL)

By way of this petition, both the petitioners have approached this Court for seeking the relief of the issuance of a direction to respondents No.1 to 3 to protect their lives and liberty as they apprehend threat to the same at the hands of respondents No.4 to 7, because they (petitioners) are living in relationship. It has also been mentioned in this petition that a representation (Annexure P-4) has already been moved to respondent No.2 in this regard.

Ms. Samina Dhir, learned Deputy Advocate General, Punjab, has joined the proceedings on behalf of respondents No.1 to 3 in this case, in pursuance of the copies of this petition having been sent to the respondent-State in advance.

Heard.

Learned counsel for the petitioners restricts her prayer to the issuance of a direction to respondent No.2 to take appropriate action on

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the said representation of the petitioners, i.e. Annexure P-4.

Learned State counsel has no objection for the same.

However, it is pertinent to mention here that as per the copy of the Matriculation Examination Certificate (Annexure P-2) of petitioner No.2-Harpreet Singh, his date of birth is 15.04.2001 meaning thereby that he has not yet attained the prescribed marriageable age, i.e. 21 years.

Be that as it may, keeping in view the intent of the fundamental right as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution of India which ensures the protection of life and liberty to the citizens and without commenting or expressing any opinion on the legality and validity of the relationship between the petitioners, respondent No.2-Senior Superintendent of Police, Batala, Police District Batala, is hereby directed to look into the afore-said representation of the petitioners, i.e. Annexure P-4 and if it is found that the petitioners genuinely deserve any protection, then to take appropriate action in accordance with law.

It is further clarified that this order shall not be construed to be a shield to the petitioners against any proceedings already initiated or intended/contemplated to be initiated by the competent authority/person against them on account of their afore-said relationship and permissible under any relevant provisions of law.

This petition stands disposed of accordingly.

03.08.2021
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(MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes

Whether Reportable

No