

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

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**CRWP-10372-2021
Date of Decision:01.11.2021**

RamandeepKaur and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMOL RATTAN SINGH

Present:- Mr.V.S.Mahal, Advocate for the petitioners.

Amol Rattan Singh, J. (Oral)

By this petition, the petitioners seek protection of life and liberty at the hands of respondents no. 4 to 7, upon them having married each other (as contended) against the wishes of the said respondents, on 24.10.2021.

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.

As regards petitioner no.1, a copy of her Matriculation Examination Certificate, issued by the Punjab School Education Board, has been annexed with the petition (copy Annexure P-1), showing her date of birth as 06.12.2002, thus making her about 21 years of age.

As regards petitioner no.2, a copy of his Matriculation Examination Certificate, issued by the Punjab School Education Board, has also been annexed with the petition (copy Annexure P-2), showing his date of birth to be 12.02.2020, which learned counsel for the petitioners points out is obviously a typographical error, because even as per the photocopy of his educational qualification certificate

annexed with the petition, his date of birth is shown to be 12.02.2000, thus making him more than 21 years of age.

Consequently, since protection of life and liberty is a fundamental right of every citizen enshrined in 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, i.e. the Superintendent of Police, Bathinda and the Station House Officer, Sadar, SriMukatsar Sahib, 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, if upon verification, the age of any of the petitioners is found to be 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 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.

01.11.2021
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(AMOL RATTAN SINGH)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether Reportable : Yes/No