

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

**CRWP-4861-2022 (O&M)
Date of decision: 23.05.2022**

Amisha Devi and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present:- Mr. Jaswinder Singh, Advocate for the petitioners.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

This petition has been filed under Article 226/227 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the official respondents No.1 to 3 to protect the life and liberty of the petitioners at the hands of respondent Nos. 4 to 8.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that petitioner No.1 is major, but petitioner No.2, though major, is not of marriageable age. The petitioners are from different castes. They are living together in live-in relationship. They would solemnise marriage, after attaining the marriageable age by petitioner No. 2. He further submits that parents of petitioners were informed, but the parents of petitioner No. 1 are issuing threats to the petitioners regarding their live-in relationship. Petitioner No.1 has already submitted a representation dated 14.05.2022 (Annexure P-3) to respondent No.2-Senior Superintendent of Police, District Rupnagar, for redressal of their grievance, but no action has been taken thereupon.

Learned counsel for the petitioners further submits that the petitioners are living in a constant danger as they have every apprehension that the private respondents would catch them and carry out their threats and might go to the extent of even committing their murder. The petitioners are, therefore, running from pillar to posts for protection of their life and liberty.

In support of his contentions, learned counsel for the petitioners relies upon the judgments passed by the ***Hon'ble Supreme Court of India*** in '***Nandakumar and Anr. Vs. The State of Kerala and others***', ***2018(2) RCR(Civil) 899***. Wherein it was held that *even if the boy was not competent to enter into wedlock, they have right to live together even outside wedlock. It would not be out of place to mention that 'live-in relationship' is now recognized by the Legislature itself.* He also relies upon the order dated 25.09.2020 passed by a Coordinate Bench in **CRWP-7659-2020** titled as ***Banshi Lal and another Vs. State of Haryana and others***.

Notice of motion to the respondents No.1 to 3 only.

On the asking of this Court, Mr. Mr. Ajay Pal Singh Gill, DAG Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of respondents No.1 to 3.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

Article 21 of the Constitution stipulates protection of life and liberty to every citizen and that no person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

It is the bounden duty of the State as per the Constitutional

obligations cast upon it to protect the life and liberty of every citizen. Mere fact that petitioner No.2 is not of marriageable age would not deprive the petitioners of their fundamental right as envisaged in the Constitution, being citizens of India.

In view of the above discussion, I dispose of the present petition with a direction to respondent No.2- Senior Superintendent of Police, District Rupnagar, to decide the representation dated 14.05.2022(Annexure P-3), moved by petitioner No.1 in accordance with law and grant protection to the petitioners, if any threat to their life and liberty is perceived.

It is made clear that this order shall not be taken to protect the petitioners from legal action for violation of law if any committed by them.

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

23.05.2022
Parveen kumar

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