



# PETITION IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE IN ALBANIA



*Sponsored by World Congress of Families*

Whereas the government of Albania has announced that it is preparing a bill to legalize so-called “same-sex marriage”

Whereas the nation’s religious leaders – Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim – are united in their opposition to this radical move

Whereas any attempt to re-define marriage will inevitably weaken an institution that is the foundation for a just and prosperous society

Whereas “same-sex marriage” severs the bond between marriage and child-bearing, by applying the label to couples who – by their very nature – are incapable of procreation

Whereas Romania, a member of the European Union, recently amended its Civil Code to define marriage as “the union freely consented to between a man and a woman,” and to specifically prohibit “same-sex marriage”

Whereas Portugal’s Constitutional Court recently refused to legalize “same sex marriage” in Portugal, also an EU member

Whereas neither the EU nor NATO make legalization of “same-sex marriage” a condition for membership

Whereas the European Court of Human Rights has always defined marriage as the “union between a man and a woman,” has repeatedly rejected recognition of “same-sex marriage,” and has never imposed a legal obligation on member states of the Council of Europe to legalize or recognize these unions

Whereas Article 16 of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that “men and women ... have the right to marry and found a family”

Whereas the Declaration also says “The family (*earlier defined as a man and a woman*) is the fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”

Whereas same-sex marriage is an attack on the natural family by the State

Whereas a threat to the family anywhere is a threat to the family everywhere

**Therefore, we the undersigned pro-family leaders, scholars, activists and office-holders from around the world state our unequivocal support for the natural family and our opposition to any attempt to redefine marriage or the family.**

**We call on the Albanian government to listen to the voice of the people – and the nation’s religious leaders -- and withdraw its proposal to legalize same-sex marriage.**

**Signed,**

