

NCCS Statement: Following the sitting of Parliament on 29 November 2022, NCCS issued a statement in response to the Repeal of Section 377A of the Penal Code and the Enactment of Article 156 of the Constitution on 5 December. The statement may be found on the NCCS website. For your easy reference and dissemination, here is the [LINK](#)

MSF Addresses Church Concerns: The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) would like to assure Religious Organisations regarding requests for same sex weddings:

We would like to assure Religious Organisations (ROs) that they and their Licensed Solemnisers (LSs) may refuse to allow their premises to be used for the purpose of a same-sex wedding. As premises owners, there is the right at common law to exclude others from enjoyment or possession of the premises. In Singapore, there is also freedom of contract. Therefore, ROs may, at their discretion, decide on the use of their premises for any occasion which can include refusing to allow same-sex weddings or celebrations to be held on the premises.

ROs and their LSes cannot lawfully solemnise a same-sex marriage, as set out in the Women's Charter. In addition, ROs and their LSes have constitutionally protected rights to decide how to apply their own religious teachings and rites relating to marriage. Thus, they may refuse a request to conduct religious rites relating to a same-sex wedding.

License to Solemnise Marriages: It has been some years since NCCS began assisting our churches by processing their applications for licenses to solemnise marriages. Although not a primary function of NCCS, our office regards this additional service as a partnership with churches and The Registry of Marriages (ROM).

Please note that the annual submission deadline for applications for new as well as renewal of licenses is 31 December 2022. If you have already submitted your applications, NCCS office will forward them, with recommendations, to ROM in due course. A revised administrative fee of \$100 will be levied for applications processed on behalf of churches not on the NCCS membership list.

Living Quarters at Places of Worship. The Ministry of Manpower has issued Guidelines for Housing Standards in Living Quarters at Places of Worship (LQPW). If your church or related organisation houses religious/support workers and religious students of all nationalities (i.e., Singapore Citizens and Foreigners), you may wish to take note of these new guidelines. The guidelines aim to promote the well-being of all residents and strengthen public health resilience within LQPWs. If the guidelines are applicable to your church or organisation, please refer to this [LINK](#)

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