



SAPC

South African Pagan Council

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CRL Commission Ignores Religious Minorities

The South African Pagan Council (SAPC) objects to the CRL Commission's exclusion of both SAPRA and the SAPC in the process of discussion on the proposed State regulation of religion, as well as that of religious leaders in our country.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva is reported to have said:

"The participants in the hearings were part of a random sample. Only religions which were broadly represented at a percentage above 3% were part of the hearings. So in this case, size did matter," she said.

"We already worked with Sapra concerning the witchcraft community. Their views were already canvassed," said Mkhwanazi-Xaluva."

Both Pagan submissions to the CRL Commission were ignored and the SAPC and SAPRA were never consulted on the proposal of State regulation of religion. Our submissions were simply swept aside and both orgs were excluded from participating in the debates which will affect us.

Mkhwanazi-Xaluva's words mirror the unconstitutional and widespread attitude that only the majority has rights, thus denying the rights and freedoms of our religious community.

For this denial of equality and the false delivery of the facts; we propose that the Chairperson be requested by Parliament, to step down from her current position. The CRL Commission should protect and promote equality of language, culture and religion, for all; even those minorities of "insignificant proportions". Her deliberate decision not to consider and involve the Pagan contingent, shows she is not impartial and is therefore not fit for the position.

Blessings & Gratitude

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