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**Principles Being Used as CCK Evaluates Laws Regarding Sexual Orientation  
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There have been adopted by several municipalities in Kentucky and proposed at the statewide level (most recently in Senate Bill 140 and House Bill 171) laws that add “sexual orientation” and/or “gender identity” to the classes protected under the civil rights laws.

As future legislative proposals are introduced, the following are the principles that will be used in evaluating these bills or similar legislation.

- In union with the universal Catholic Church and her constant teaching, the four Roman Catholic Bishops of Kentucky reaffirm the fundamental principle that each and every human person is equal in dignity and possesses a sacred nature, being created in the image and likeness of God.
- This dignity is possessed by all persons by virtue of their existence and is not diminished by one’s personal characteristics, choices, preferences, or actions. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible... They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* No. 2333)
- The concern about any legislation of this type is to what extent it might go beyond prohibiting unjust discrimination and cause unintended consequences. Concerns could include an inadequate distinction between sexual inclination and behavior, religious liberty protections, and the extent to which such legislation has as a focus the redefinition of marriage from its proper understanding as the permanent and exclusive bond between one man and one woman whose two-in-one-flesh communion of persons is an indispensable good at the heart of every family and every society.

As efforts to combat unjust discrimination proceed, the Catholic Conference of Kentucky stands ready to work with all interested parties to ensure that efforts to eliminate one injustice do not give rise to others.

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