Majlis Perundingan Malaysia Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao

Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism

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MCCBCHST: We appeal to the cabinet to uphold position that both parents consent is required before a minor can be converted.

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) notes with alarm and regrets the stand taken by the Attorney General's office at the lawsuit filed by M Indira Gandhi and 13 others challenging provisions in several State enactments relating to conversion of minors (FMT 03/02/2026). Senior Federal Counsel Ahmad Hanir bin Hambaly submitted at the High Court that a minor's conversion to Islam requires the consent of only one parent or guardian despite the earlier unanimous decision in the Federal Court case of INDIRA GANDHI A/P MUTHO V / PENGARAH JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM PERAK AND 2 OTHERS.

2. The MCCBCHST appeals to the cabinet to uphold the position that both parents MUST consent before a minor can be converted. Both parents have equal rights over the child under the Federal Constitution and it would be in his/her interest and welfare to require both parents consent before he/she could be converted. This is also clear position of the Law as held in Indira Gandhi's case where the Federal Court in applying the purposive interpretation of Article 12(4) ruled that the consent of both parents was required before a minor could be converted. Any move to allow a single parent to convert would be unjust, immoral, against the interest of the child and family and against the said Federal Court decision.

3. We appeal to the cabinet to discuss this matter on an urgent basis and take steps to ensure that both the parents' consent should be mandatory before a minor could be converted and to introduce legislation in Parliament if necessary to crystalise this. This is necessary to prevent unnecessary challenges in the future and to protect the minor's welfare and interest.

Statement Signed by:

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