

CWP-PIL-248-2024

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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-PIL-248-2024

Date of decision : 22.01.2025

Narender Kumar Malhotra

.....Petitioner

Versus

Union of India and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present: Mr. Satish Chaudhary, Advocate, and
Mr. Narender Kumar Malhotra – Petitioner in person.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India, with
Ms. Neha Sharma, Advocate,
for respondent No.1 – UOI.

SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

1. This petition has been filed as PIL praying for the following
reliefs :-

- (i) *Declaration of the celebration of festival of “Karwa Chauth” by women folk irrespective of their status of being widows, separated, divorcees and the women in live-in relations;*
- (ii) *This “Karwa Chauth” festival may be declared as a festival of good fortunes of women folk or Maa Gaura utsav or Maa Parvati utsav; and*
- (iii) *Govt. of India and the State of Haryana may be directed to take suitable measures for implementation of the same provision by doing relevant amendments in law to ensure participation of all the sections and classes of women in the Karwa Chauth Puja held in the evening of the day of festival and the denial or refusal*

by any group of persons to such participation must be declared punishable and such action on their part being untenable and liable to be quashed.

2. The principal grievance which is projected as a social cause by the petitioner appears to be that certain sections of women, especially widows, are not allowed to perform the rituals of “Karwa Chauth”, therefore, a law be promulgated making it compulsory for all women, without any discrimination, to perform “Karwa Chauth” rituals and in case of default, the act of default should be made punishable.

3. The said subject falls within the exclusive domain of the legislature and this Court, therefore, declines interference in the present matter.

4. At this juncture, learned counsel for the petitioner prays for withdrawal of this petition.

5. Dismissed as withdrawn with a token costs of Rs. 1,000/- to be deposited by the petitioner with the Poor Patient Welfare Fund, PGIMER, Chandigarh.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

January 22, 2025
narotam

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No