

Marriage Equality in Asia:

Legal & business case for LGBT equality

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presented by





28 countries with marriage equality

36 countries with some legal recognition (including 6 of the G7)

Argentina

Australia

Austria

Belgium

Brazil

Canada (G7)

Colombia

Denmark/Greenland

Ecuador

Finland

France (G7)

Germany (G7)

Iceland

Ireland

Luxembourg

Malta

Mexico

Netherlands

New Zealand

Norway

Portugal

South Africa

Spain

Sweden

Taiwan

United Kingdom (G7)

Uruguay

USA (G7)

+9 Countries with some
legal protections (Chile,
Croatia, Czech Republic,
Greece, Hungary, Italy

(G7), Slovenia, Switzerland)

+2 Countries the high court
ruled in favor of marriage
equality (Costa Rica, Nepal)



Marriage Equality in Taiwan





Marriage Equality in Taiwan

- May 24, 2017: Taiwanese Constitutional Court rules that denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry violates their constitutional rights (***Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 748***)
 - two years to bring the marriage laws into compliance
- November 24 2018: Referendum against same-sex marriage passes
 - 67% voted against same-sex marriage
- November 29, 2018: Judicial Yuan says referendums cannot contradict rulings by the Taiwanese Constitutional Court
- May 17, 2019: Bill Implementing Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 748, granting same-sex married couples almost all rights available to heterosexual married couples under the Civil Code, is passed in the Taiwanese legislature (taking effect on May 24, 2019). However, partners cannot jointly adopt.
- As of October 2019, approximately 2000 same-sex couples married in Taiwan



A photograph showing the lower legs and feet of a person wearing white trousers and white shoes, standing on a large, vibrant rainbow flag. The flag's colors—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple—are clearly visible. The person's shadow is cast onto the flag. A dark green rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Marriage Equality in Japan



Marriage Equality in Japan: Litigation

- Support at municipal level: 25 municipalities and one prefecture issue same-sex partnership certificates
- February 14, 2019: 13 same-sex couples in 4 cities filed lawsuits petitioning for the right to marry
- March 2019: Justice Ministry revokes a deportation order for Taiwanese national who has been living in Japan for over 20 years with his same-sex Japanese partner
- August 2019: a Fukuoka couple joins the lawsuit for equal marriage
- 18 September 2019: 1.1M yen damages awarded to a lesbian woman for unfaithfulness (the first judicial recognition of same-sex relationship) stating that "there is a high degree of necessity for giving certain protection to same-sex couples"





Marriage Equality in Japan: JFBA Opinion

On July 18, 2019, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (“JFBA”) issued an “Opinion on Marriage between Same-Sex Individuals,” urging the government of Japan to extend the freedom to marry to same-sex couples because:

“[t]he lack of same-sex marriage [in Japan] infringes upon the freedom to marry for those who are romantically attracted to those of the same sex, violates the principle of equality under the law, and is a serious infringement of human rights in light of Articles 13 and 14 of the Constitution”





Marriage Equality in Japan: Viewpoint

Viewpoint makes a business case for marriage based on the following key arguments

- More diverse and inclusive community

- International competitiveness

- More diverse and productive workplace

- Japan's readiness for marriage equality



Viewpoint Endorsements

As of 10 October 2019, **62 entities endorsed the Viewpoint on Marriage Equality**

