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Unleashing Equality's Embrace: Unravelling the Radical Transformation Triggered by Granting Same-Sex Marriage Legalization in Unrecognized Nations

Siddhartha Gupta^a

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The paper explores the significant and transformative outcomes that emerge when same-sex marriage is granted legal recognition in nations where it had been previously unrecognized. By providing insights into the profound societal changes resulting from this crucial milestone, the study uncovers the extensive impact on various aspects such as equality, societal acceptance, and progressive advancements. By analyzing real-life examples of nations that have overcome initial opposition to embracing same-sex marriage, this research sheds light on the diverse and wide-ranging effects experienced by individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Keywords: *human rights advancement, cultural transformation, progressive governance.*

INTRODUCTION

In the landscape of civil rights movements, few issues have ignited such fervent debate and impassioned discourse as the quest for equal recognition of same-sex marriage. Few issues have been as hotly debated as same-sex marriage in the fight for equal rights. While many countries have legalized same-sex marriage and granted the LGBTQ+ community greater rights and protections, there are still nations where same-sex marriage is not legally recognized, leaving same-sex couples without the same rights and privileges as their heterosexual counterparts. This

lack of recognition deprives same-sex couples of legal benefits such as inheritance, hospital visitation, and child custody rights and perpetuates discrimination and inequality. However, the tide is turning, and more nations recognize the importance of legalizing same-sex marriage for equality and social progress.

The journey for LGBTQ+ rights has been a long and difficult one, marked by significant progress but with many ongoing struggles. Among the most contentious issues has been the recognition and legalization of same-sex marriage, with some countries and societies fiercely opposed to its acceptance. Despite this resistance, same-sex marriage has become a global movement with an increasing number of countries granting legal recognition to same-sex couples. However, many nations still do not recognize same-sex marriage, resulting in unequal legal rights and protections for same-sex couples compared to heterosexual couples¹.

Same-sex couples are often treated as second-class citizens and denied the dignity and respect that should be afforded to all individuals. However, there is hope on the horizon. The fight for same-sex marriage recognition and legalization has gained significant momentum in recent years. Many nations recognize the importance of granting equal rights to all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study has been undertaken to investigate how the legalization of same-sex marriage impacts society and law in countries where it is not yet recognized. The main aim of this study is to analyze the consequences, both socially and legally, of legalizing same-sex marriage and the positive impact it can have on the LGBTQ+ community and society as a whole. To achieve this, the study has set out several objectives, which include examining the experiences of countries where same-sex marriage has been legalized, identifying the challenges faced by countries where same-sex marriage is not recognized, investigating the strategies used to promote LGBTQ+ rights and legalizing same-sex marriage, emphasizing the importance of

¹ Angie R Wootton et al., 'Impacts of Marriage Legalization on the Experiences of Sexual Minority Women in Work and Community Contexts' (2019) 25(3) Journal of GLBT Family Studies
<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6508647/>> accessed 25 May 2023

legalizing same-sex marriage in unrecognized nations, and providing a comprehensive analysis of the social and legal implications of such recognition.

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- To examine the experiences of countries where same-sex marriage has been legalized and understand the social and legal implications of such recognition.
- To analyze the challenges faced by countries where same-sex marriage is not recognized and identify the legal and social barriers that prevent same-sex couples from gaining equal recognition under the law.
- To investigate the strategies used to promote recognizing LGBTQ+ rights and legalizing same-sex marriage in unrecognized nations, including legislative efforts, public education campaigns, and legal challenges.
- To shed light on the importance of legalizing same-sex marriage in unrecognized nations and its potential to break the chains of prejudice and promote greater equality and social progress.
- To provide a comprehensive analysis of the social and legal implications of legalizing same-sex marriage and its benefits for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Same-sex marriage has a long and complex history that has varied widely across societies and periods. For instance, in ancient Greece, same-sex relationships between men were celebrated and even considered noble, with examples of such relationships recorded in art, literature, and history. For example, the sacred bond between the Athenian general, Harmodius, and the young Aristogene was celebrated in poetry and music. However, in ancient Rome, homosexuality was viewed as deviant and immoral, and those who engaged in same-sex relationships were punished severely².

² Venetia Kantsa, 'The price of marriage: Same-sex sexualities and citizenship in Greece' (2015) 17(7) *Sexualities* <<https://doi.org/10.1177/1363460714544807>> accessed 25 May 2023

Similarly, among the indigenous peoples of North America, same-sex relationships were accepted in some cultures, while others did not approve. For instance, in the Navajo culture, two-spirit individuals with male and female characteristics were respected and valued members of their society. However, same-sex relationships were not recognized among the Iroquois, and those who engaged in such relationships were punished³.

Throughout history, religion has also played a significant role in shaping attitudes toward same-sex marriage. In ancient Egypt, for example, there is evidence of same-sex relationships being accepted, even among royalty. However, in many Western societies influenced by Christianity, same-sex relationships were often condemned, and the Catholic Church opposed same-sex marriage and homosexuality in general.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement toward legal recognition of same-sex marriage in many parts of the world. The Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001, followed by several others in subsequent years⁴. However, many nations still do not recognize same-sex marriage, and the struggle for legal recognition and protection of LGBTQ+ rights continues.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN RECOGNIZED AND UNRECOGNIZED NATIONS

When it comes to same-sex marriage, there is a wide range of legal frameworks and policies that exist across different nations. Some countries have recognized same-sex marriage and have laws in place to protect LGBTQ+ individuals, while others do not recognize same-sex marriage and may even criminalize homosexuality. Some legal frameworks and policies govern how these marriages are performed and recognized in countries where same-sex marriage is recognized. For example, same-sex marriage was legalized in the United States in 2015, and individual states

³ Jeffrey S Jacobi, 'Two Spirits, Two Eras, Same Sex: For a Traditionalist Perspective on Native American Tribal Same-Sex Marriage Policy' (2006) 39 University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform

<<https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1347&context=mjlr>> accessed 14 May 2023

⁴ Sasha Issenberg, 'Netherlands legalizes same-sex marriage' (*Sasha*, 27 June 2021)

<<https://www.sashaisenberg.com/post/april-1-2001-netherlands-legalizes-same-sex-marriage>> accessed 15 May 2023

have laws and regulations regarding marriage licenses, adoption, and other issues related to same-sex marriage⁵.

In some countries, such as Canada and the Netherlands, same-sex marriage has been recognized for over a decade. These nations have established policies and procedures to ensure equal rights and protections for LGBTQ+ individuals⁶. However, there are still many nations where same-sex marriage is not recognized and where LGBTQ+ individuals may face legal and societal discrimination. In some cases, same-sex relationships are criminalized, and individuals can face imprisonment or even the death penalty for engaging in consensual same-sex activities.

Efforts to promote legal recognition of same-sex marriage and protect LGBTQ+ rights have been ongoing, with activists and organizations working to advocate for policy changes and legal protections. Some of these efforts have succeeded, while others face significant challenges and obstacles. Overall, the legal framework and policies on same-sex marriage vary widely across different nations, with some recognizing and protecting LGBTQ+ rights while others still have a long way to go. We can work towards a more just and inclusive society by understanding these differences and advocating for equal rights and protections for all individuals.

THE IMPACT OF LEGALIZING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Social and Cultural Impact: Legalizing same-sex marriage may lead to social and cultural conflicts as some individuals and groups may strongly oppose it due to their beliefs or cultural practices. This opposition may lead to protests, discrimination, and violence against the LGBTQ+ community, resulting in heightened tensions within the society.

Recognition and Validation of LGBTQ+ Rights: Legalizing same-sex marriage would serve as a strong statement that same-sex couples have the same rights and deserve the same legal protections as their heterosexual counterparts. It would promote greater social acceptance and reduce discrimination and stigmatization against the LGBTQ+ community.

⁵ Dhriti Yadav, 'Legal recognition to same-sex marriages solemnised abroad', (*Journal of Legal Research and Juridical Sciences*) <<https://jlrs.com/legal-recognition-to-same-sex-marriages-solemnised-abroad/>> accessed 11 May 2023

⁶ 'Same-Sex Marriage Around the World' (*Pew Research Centre*, 09 June 2023) <<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/fact-sheet/gay-marriage-around-the-world/>> accessed 02 June 2023

Legal Benefits and Protections: Legalizing same-sex marriage would provide same-sex couples with several legal benefits and protections, including joint tax returns, inheritance rights, medical decision-making rights, and other legal privileges. These benefits would help to promote greater stability and security within same-sex relationships.

Economic Impact: Legalizing same-sex marriage would have economic impacts as it would generate revenue for businesses related to the wedding industry. It would also encourage tourism as individuals from nations that do not recognize same-sex marriage would travel to countries where it is legal to marry.

Global Impact: Legalizing same-sex marriage in unrecognized nations would have a global impact by promoting greater recognition and acceptance of LGBTQ+ rights. It would set a precedent for other nations to follow and help to reduce discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community worldwide.

CASE STUDIES: THE REVOLUTIONARY IMPACT OF LEGALIZING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN UNRECOGNIZED NATIONS

Case Study 1: TAIWAN

Taiwan has been at the very front of LGBTQ+ privileges in Asia, and its choice to legitimize same-sex marriage in 2019 denoted a critical achievement for the locale. Before this notable move, Taiwan confronted the test of being an unnoticed country, with restricted global acknowledgment. Be that as it may, the effect of legitimizing same-sex marriage in Taiwan has been downright progressive⁷.

Milestone Court Administering: Before sanctioning same-sex marriage, Taiwan saw a memorable court administering in 2017. The Sacred Court pronounced that the current marriage regulations were illegal for barring same-sex couples, giving an unmistakable sign of the need to perceive and safeguard their freedoms.

⁷ Thompson Chau, 'Taiwan recognizes transnational same-sex marriage' (*Nikkei Asia*, 22 January 2023) <<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Society/Taiwan-recognizes-transnational-same-sex-marriage>> accessed 02 June 2023

Regulative Forward Leap: because of the court governing, Taiwan's assembly passed the 'Represent Execution of Legal Yuan Understanding No. 748' in 2019, turning into the primary Asian country to legitimize same-sex marriage. The law conceded same-sex couples the option to wed and partake in similar legitimate securities and advantages as other gender couples.

Public Mandate: In 2018, a public mandate was held in Taiwan to measure popular assessment on the issue of same-sex marriage. Regardless of a few contradicting sees, most of the electors upheld the legitimization of same-sex marriage, certifying the interest in equity and basic liberties for LGBTQ+ people.

Marriage Uniformity Benefits: With the sanctioning of same-sex marriage, LGBTQ+ couples in Taiwan acquired different legitimate advantages, including legacy privileges, medical services dynamic power, and qualification for joint reception and child care. This legitimate acknowledgment brought a feeling that everything is good and secure to same-sex couples and their families.

Influence on LGBTQ+ Freedoms Development: Taiwan's effective excursion towards sanctioning same-sex marriage significantly affects the worldwide LGBTQ+ privileges development. It has roused activists and supporters around the world, adding to progressing conversations and endeavors to get equivalent freedoms and acknowledgment for LGBTQ+ people in different areas of the planet.

Case Study 2: Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, the excursion towards authorizing same-sex marriage has been set apart by critical lawful and cultural changes. As of not long ago, same-sex marriage was not perceived in the district. Be that as it may, a few critical regulations and case regulations assumed a pivotal part in melding the way toward marriage uniformity⁸.

Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013: This regulation, passed by the UK Parliament, authorized same-sex marriage in Britain and Ribs. While it didn't consequently reach out to

⁸ Peter Coulter, 'Same-sex marriage now legal in Northern Ireland' (BBC, 13 January 2020) <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-51086276>> accessed 14 May 2023

Northern Ireland, it impacted the talk encompassing same-sex marriage in the district. It touched off discussions and support for marriage uniformity, provoking the requirement for change in Northern Ireland.

Legitimate Difficulties and Court Decisions: Different lawful difficulties and court decisions prepared for same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland. In 2014, the Northern Ireland High Court decided that the area's restriction on same-sex marriage penetrated common liberties regulations. This milestone administering set a trend for the acknowledgment of equivalent freedoms for same-sex couples.

Northern Ireland (Leader Development and so on) Act 2019: without a working lapsed government, the UK Parliament passed this demonstration, which included arrangements for the sanctioning of same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland. It expected the locale's administration to acquaint regulation with granting same-sex marriage by a particular cutoff time.

Presentation of the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Guidelines (Northern Ireland) 2019: because of the 2019 Demonstration, same-sex marriage turned out to be legitimately perceived in Northern Ireland from January 2020. The guidelines gave the structure to the solemnization, enlistment, and festivity of same-sex relationships, guaranteeing equivalent privileges and securities for LGBTQ+ couples.

Developing Cultural Mentalities: Close by lawful turns of events, there has been an outstanding change in cultural perspectives towards same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland. Expanded acknowledgment and backing for LGBTQ+ privileges, as well as changing popular assessment, have affected the push for marriage equity and the possible sanctioning of same-sex marriage.

Case Study 3: Hong Kong

In Hong Kong same-sex marriage isn't lawfully perceived, and the city as of now doesn't have regulations explicitly tending to marriage uniformity for LGBTQ+ people. Be that as it may, the issue of same-sex marriage has ignited conversations and backing endeavors lately.

Acknowledgment of same-sex relationships: While same-sex marriage isn't lawful in Hong Kong, the public authority perceives same-sex relationships that are legitimately acted in different locales. This acknowledgment permits same-sex couples who have hitched abroad to get specific privileges and advantages, like spousal visas for unfamiliar accomplices. In Hong Kong Same-sex marriage isn't lawfully perceived, and the city as of now doesn't have regulations explicitly tending to marriage uniformity for LGBTQ+ people. Be that as it may, the issue of same-sex marriage has ignited conversations and backing endeavors lately.

Hong Kong's Road to Recognition: In 2020, the Hong Kong government announced plans to amend existing legislation to grant same-sex couples equal rights in areas such as tax, inheritance, and hospital visitation. This proposal demonstrated a shift towards recognizing and acknowledging the rights of same-sex couples. While legislation specific to same-sex marriage is still pending, these proposed changes signify progress and a growing recognition of the need for equality.

General Assessment and Cultural Acknowledgment: Throughout the long term, there has been a noticeable change in popular assessment toward a more prominent acknowledgment of LGBTQ+ freedoms in Hong Kong. Pride occasions, LGBTQ+ associations, and the expanded permeability of LGBTQ+ people have added to bringing issues to light and encouraging comprehension and acknowledgment among the general public⁹.

LGBTQ+ Privileges and Segregation Regulations: Hong Kong has established regulations to safeguard people from separation in light of sexual direction. The Sex Segregation Statute and the Handicap Separation Mandate give a few legitimate securities against segregation in different regions, including business, training, and arrangement of labor and products.

Evolving Cultural Attitudes: Hong Kong's society has witnessed a gradual shift in cultural attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community. Increasingly, there is a greater acceptance and understanding of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. The growing visibility and

⁹ Lisa Wang et al., 'What Are Your Rights As A Same-Sex Couple In Hong Kong knowledge?' (*Mondaq*, 17 May 2022) <<https://www.mondaq.com/hongkong/family-law/1193678/what-are-your-rights-as-a-same-sex-couple-in-hong-kong>> accessed 03 June 2023

advocacy efforts of the LGBTQ+ community, coupled with increased media representation and public dialogue, have contributed to this positive change in societal perceptions.

CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

Tangled Legitimate Bunches: Exploring Lawful Structures and Definitions: Unnoticed countries face the test of changing existing regulations that characterize marriage as between a man and a lady, requiring extensive lawful changes. Blending legitimate structures with developing cultural qualities turns into a complicated errand, requiring cautious thought of sacred standards and common freedoms. The complicated course of administrative change frequently includes drawing in different partners, lawful specialists, and policymakers to explore the legitimate complexities.

Culture Conflict: Moderate Cultural Perspectives and LGBTQ+ Freedoms: Moderate cultural perspectives well established in social or strict convictions can make huge protection from legitimizing same-sex marriage. Conquering profoundly imbued biases and misguided judgments requires broad instruction, mindfulness missions, and endeavors to advance inclusivity and acknowledgment. Overcoming any barrier between custom and progress is fundamental for building a more comprehensive society that perceives and regards the privileges of LGBTQ+ people.

Political Dormancy: Absence of Determination for Change: The shortfall of political will or prioritization to address LGBTQ+ freedoms can introduce a significant hindrance to legitimizing same-sex marriage in unnoticed countries. Political pioneers might wonder whether or not to take a position on questionable issues, dreading reaction from moderate groups or losing support from compelling gatherings. Conquering political latency requires solid initiative, public strain, and grassroots developments supporting equivalent privileges and marriage equity.

Looking for Worldwide Acknowledgment: The Difficult Task for Global Help: Unnoticed countries frequently face difficulties in earning worldwide respect and backing for LGBTQ+ freedoms, which can hamper endeavors to sanction same-sex marriage. Strategic and backing endeavors are critical in building coalitions with worldwide associations, persuasive nations,

and common society associations to gather support. Worldwide strain and examination of common liberties can assume a critical part in molding homegrown strategies and advancing LGBTQ+ freedoms.

STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Partners in the Fight: Manufacturing Far-fetched Unions: LGBTQ+ freedom promoters can team up with basic liberties associations, women's activist gatherings, and other civil rights developments to intensify their voices and make a unified front. Shaping coalitions with moderate ideological groups and legislators who champion equity can assist with accumulating support inside the authoritative bodies. The building spans persuasive superstars, competitors, and well-known people who support LGBTQ+ freedoms and can use their foundation to bring issues to light and drive change.

Winning Hearts and Psyches: Bridling the Force of Stories: Sharing individual stories and encounters of LGBTQ+ people and their families can adapt to the battle for marriage balance and develop compassion among the overall population. Teaming up with producers, craftsmen, and scholars to make convincing stories that challenge generalizations and feature the significance of adoration and acknowledgment can shape popular assessment.

Walking for Uniformity: Preparing Grassroots Activism: Putting together pride marches, LGBTQ+ celebrations, and permeability occasions can make a feeling of the local area, fabricate fortitude, and intensify the interest in equivalent privileges. Engaging neighborhood LGBTQ+ associations and furnishing them with assets, preparation, and support can reinforce grassroots development for a change.

From Courts to Change: Vital Case and Lawful Support: Chasing after essential prosecution by bringing milestone cases to courts can assist with laying out legitimate points of reference and challenge prejudicial regulations. Teaming up with experienced LGBTQ+ freedom attorneys, legitimate associations, and basic liberties commissions can give the important lawful aptitude and direction.

The Force of Schooling: Advancing Comprehensive Educational Programs: Supporting comprehensive educational programs in schools that show acknowledgment, variety, and regard for every single sexual direction and orientation personality can make a more comprehensive and grasping society.

CONCLUSION

The process of making same-sex marriage legal in unrecognized nations is intricate and multifaceted. The challenges and obstacles are significant, ranging from religious opposition and bureaucratic hurdles to legal barriers and societal opposition. Notwithstanding, by taking on an extensive and vital methodology, conquering these deterrents and preparing for marriage equality is conceivable.

Alliances and coalitions are crucial in navigating these obstacles. LGBTQ+ rights advocates can amplify their voices and form a united front by forming partnerships with human rights organizations, feminist organizations, and progressive political parties. Establishing ground-breaking case laws that pave the way for legal recognition is made possible through collaboration with legal experts, human rights commissions, and seasoned litigators.

Education and public awareness are important tactics for changing people's minds. Misconceptions and stereotypes about LGBTQ+ issues can be challenged through storytelling, inclusive media representation, and comprehensive educational initiatives, fostering empathy and comprehension. The gap can be bridged and space for acceptance created by engaging religious institutions in dialogue, promoting inclusive interpretations, and emphasizing shared values of love, acceptance, and equality.

Through pride parades, festivals, and other visibility events, grassroots activism generates a sense of community and solidarity. To win the support of the general public and effect change, it is essential to empower local LGBTQ+ organizations and mobilize allies. The cause is also helped by diplomatic engagement, strategic litigation, and highlighting the economic benefits of marriage equality.

While the street to authorizing same-sex marriage in unrecognized countries might be testing, the force of diligence, key promotion, and joint effort can't be undervalued. Unrecognized nations can overcome obstacles, challenge discriminatory laws, and build a society that is more welcoming and equal for LGBTQ+ people and their families by implementing these strategies. We can achieve true marriage equality for everyone, regardless of where they live, by working together and remaining committed to human rights.