

When is “Gay” Going to be Okay? by Sophie Ragano

Approximately 9 million Americans identify themselves as gay or lesbian. These 9 million people have had to fight for the right to marry the person they love. But why should they have to? Why should their right to happiness be any harder to achieve than yours? Same sex marriage should be legal so that America can truly become a free nation.

"Preventing gay people from getting married is not an act of religious freedom; it's an act of religious oppression." This was stated by Hank Green, an entrepreneur and YouTuber. Religion and law are two completely separate matters. Americans are born with the right to freedom of religion, but they cannot interfere with the law just because that's what they believe. Denying someone their right to get married isn't just people "practicing their faith." The first amendment clearly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." People are allowed to openly oppose gay marriage, but they are not allowed to force their beliefs on the legal system. Congress simply cannot ban gay marriage on the grounds of religion.

Being gay or lesbian is not a choice. This has been proven in multiple studies. There is a stretch on the X chromosome that is related to homosexuality. This is known as the "gay gene" and even though it's often overlooked, there is support proving it to be real. Also, in Sweden there were brain scans that show how a lesbian woman's brain activity is similar to a heterosexual male's, and vice versa. Both of these experiments show that gay people don't choose their sexuality any more than they choose the color of their eyes. If someone is born a certain way, why should they be denied any human rights? While many people like to say that gay people "choose their lifestyle" there is overwhelming evidence that proves that to be untrue.

Many people who oppose gay rights argue that children need both a mother and a father. However, many studies have proven otherwise. Children born into gay marriages scored 6% higher on health and family cohesion. While this isn't marginally higher than in heterosexual marriages, it certainly isn't lower. Also, children raised by two moms rate higher in social and academic competence. Finally, gay fathers were shown to be "well-adjusted as those adopted by heterosexual couples." This evidence suggests that gay people can be and are just as good at parenting.

Too many people are unaware of the struggles that homosexual people face every day. A lot of people don't understand just how serious this problem is. Regardless of their sexuality, homosexual people born in America are still Americans, and they deserve every right that other Americans have. In order for the United States to truly become a free nation, gay marriage needs to be legal.

Works Cited

(abc7 San Francisco) (ProConorg Headlines) (The Imagine Conservative)(Bruni