

Tricky Union No More

Australia could soon become the 23rd country in the world to legalise gay marriage. The country is in the midst of a non-binding postal vote on the issue, which will conclude on November 7. A survey published in a newspaper this week found that 59% of those who had returned their ballots backed the move while 38% were against it. *ET Magazine* looks at the countries which have preceded Australia and those which still criminalise same-sex sexual relations

:: G Seetharaman

US & GAY MARRIAGE

Americans' attitudes toward gay marriage have changed noticeably over the years

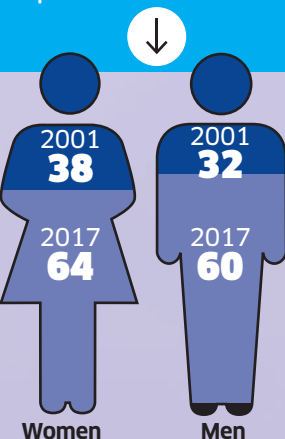
Those in favour



Those against

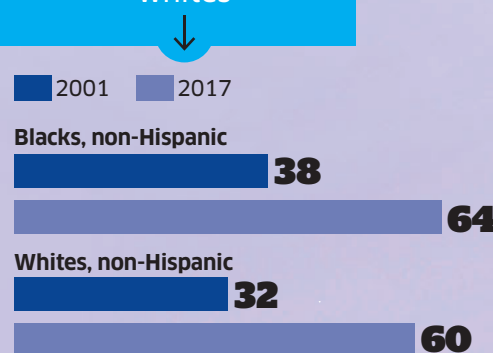


Women are more open to it than men



Figures in %
Source: Pew Research Center survey in the US

More blacks support gay marriage than whites



Figures in %

Source: Pew Research Center survey in the US

COUNTRIES WHERE GAY MARRIAGE IS LEGAL

2000#	2003	2005	2005	2006	2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013 2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2016	2017	2017
NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	CANADA	SPAIN	SOUTH AFRICA	NORWAY	MEXICO*	SWEDEN	ICELAND	PORTUGAL	ARGENTINA	DENMARK**	URUGUAY	NEW ZEALAND	FRANCE	BRAZIL	UNITED KINGDOM***	LUXEMBOURG	FINLAND	IRELAND	UNITED STATES	COLOMBIA	GERMANY	MALTA

#Year in which gay marriage was legalised

*In some jurisdictions | **Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, legalised it in 2015 | ***England and Wales did it in 2013, and Scotland in 2014

INDIA

One of 72 countries where homosexuality is illegal.

A law dating to 19th century criminalises sexual acts "against the order of nature".

Section 377 of IPC carries a maximum punishment of life imprisonment. The Delhi HC deemed the law unconstitutional in 2009, but the Supreme Court overturned the judgment in 2013

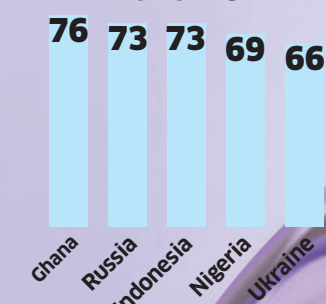
Gay rights activists are hopeful after the Supreme Court ruled that the right to privacy is a fundamental right:

"Right to privacy and the protection of sexual orientation lie at the core of the fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution"

Spaniards are the most enthusiastic backers of same-sex marriage



More Ghanaians are opposed to gay marriage than any other nationality



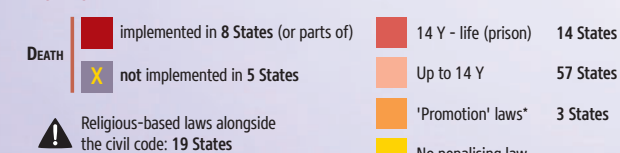
INDIA



Source: Online survey of 51,700 web users in 51 countries by ILGA, RIWI Corp

Criminalisation

72 STATES



DEATH

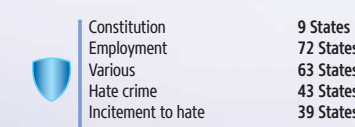
not implemented in 5 States

Religious-based laws alongside the civil code: 19 States

Protection

85 States

Many States run concurrent protections



In green, yellow and orange countries, same-sex sexual acts were decriminalised or never penalised: 124 States

*'Promotion' laws actively target public promotion or expression of same-sex and trans realities

Recognition

47 States

A small number of States provide for marriage and partnership concurrently



Source: "State Sponsored Homophobia" report by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)

Countries which implement the death penalty for same-sex sexual acts

Iran

Saudi Arabia

Sudan

Yemen

Somalia*

Nigeria*

Iraq**

*In some provinces
**IS-controlled parts of northern Iraq & northern Syria

Countries where the death penalty is in the law but not carried out

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Qatar

UAE

Mauritania

EU & DISCRIMINATION

47%

Respondents who had been discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on grounds of sexual orientation



20%

Those who had been discriminated against while looking for a job or at work because they are LGBT

59%

Respondents who had experienced violence in the previous 12 months who attributed it partly or completely to their being perceived to be LGBT

91%

Those who had heard negative comments or seen negative conduct because a schoolmate was perceived to be LGBT during their schooling

A 2012 survey of over 93,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in the 28 member countries found widespread discrimination