

Why Did Taiwan Reject Gay Marriage?

I'm actually physically here in Taiwan and I've come outside to stand in front of a pretty old building in order to really drive home the fact that I'm physically here very very exciting hello hello my fans they're everywhere Taiwan has gained a pretty good reputation when it comes to LGBT rights they're relatively progressive in legislation have one of the largest LGBT Pride festivals in the whole of Asia and also that some of the sexiest of the men's Aziz's I would also look like it was gonna be the first place in the whole of Asia to have same-sex marriage and to legally recognize it it was really exciting last year one of the courts decided that within two years there had to be some kind of legislation recognizing same-sex couples legally so that they would have the same rights as married straight couples all we needed was the rubber stamping of actual legislation and it looked like my quest for a Taiwanese husband was gonna go really really well unfortunately the new Taiwanese president ended up dragging her feet on the issue this is because the base of her party the DPP tend to be older working-class more socially conservative if you think about kind of like the equivalent of the Rust Belt in the USA or the industrial north in the UK she drew lead added for like a year and a half unfortunately some anti LGBT people saw it as an opportunity this is when a conservative group who have ended up calling themselves [social justice writing prompts](#) the Shiite in coolie and Mong which is the Coalition for the happiness of our next generation they saw an opportunity and for goodness sake there the name may as well been when somebody think of their children in Taiwan Christians only make up about 4 percent of the population but they were very much at the forefront of this attempt to counteract the ruling by the court that said that same-sex couples should have some kind of legal recognition they therefore had to work together with a load of more traditional and conservative groups across Taiwanese culture oh and they also hired this guy in brown you have noticed him before he is one of the cofounders of the National Organization of Marriage open brackets between a man and a woman and nobody else closed brackets he was behind the proposition 8 campaign in 2008 that overturned equal marriage in that state before the Supreme Court in the u.s. then overturned that decision lots of overturning the inclusion of somebody like Bryan Brown is very much the latest manifestation of the phenomenon of American homophobes exporting their expertise in hate mongering since same-sex marriage became legal in the USA it's so nice that they're continuing to spread to the hate this coalition of parents were scared that their son might be gay because he doesn't do sports decided to exploit a new law which allows referendums to be put to a public vote if they are able to get signatures on a petition that equals one point five percent of the population by using this law they managed to get three questions on the ballot that was then going to be put to a national vote because why have one homophobic question when you can have three I'm now going to take you somewhere else with a slightly different backdrop because I mean why not I'm a proper video journalist now I try to do some filming in front of the presidential palace but the lighting was bad and the police were looking at me funny so here we are in a pagoda because what could be more Taiwanese say the anti-gay marriage group ended up being able to get enough signatures for three questions to end up being put to the public in a referendum they included first of all that whether or not mouth should be redefined as just between a man and a woman because we know that's always always been the case one restricting the LGBT Q+ education in middle school and third making sure that any future recognition of same-sex couples wouldn't change previous definitions of marriage because you know when gays start getting included in definitions of actual like real marriage we get glitter everywhere and it is a nightmare to get out I'll give you that this took the pro gay marriage groups and coalition's like completely off-guard and frankly it took them a really long time to be able to come up with an appropriate response their response to this response to the original court ruling yes it is getting complicated ended up being two more questions being put on the ballot paper one of them asking whether or not marriage should be now recognized for same-sex couples and the other one defending lgbtq+ education in schools it is this is a mess and it sounds like a mess it's a mess the campaign was equally chaotic as I said Christians only make up 4% of the population here so they couldn't just rely on invoking Leviticus such a shame when that happens isn't it so they started to appeal to traditional Confucian values that have very strict familial hierarchies man-woman son daughter etc etcetera it's very it's very strict and it's what quite a lot of East Asian culture is based on and that's like how the homophobes get you here but

other than going the Christian route this appeal to like the Confucian ideals is what ends up restricting LGBT rights in general despite hope especially in urban areas and especially with areas with lots of students and especially in this city here where I am at the moment in Taipei the gay marriage questions lost badly along with the LGBT education questions the anti equal marriage coalition saw an opportunity pounced and and they won it wasn't YouTube here what this meant for equal marriage in Taiwan we have these two really important decisions made one by the court who said that there has to be some kind of recognition of same-sex couples and one by plebiscite by the lender that have ended up deciding that the people don't actually want gay marriage it's not clear which takes precedent which is the most important and so I sat down with a journalist here William yang who has also kind of been in and around to the campaign for equal marriage here in Taiwan and he kind of explained what the fallout is gonna be when you see me on my own again I'm also gonna be in a different place and that's an exciting thing to hold out for what happens now because we have I mean it ended up being like three referendums on marriage equality specifically and all of them went kind of like the ante yeah LGBT way yeah but then you still have this court ruling from last year that says that Taiwan is going to have to within like Bible by next year is going to have to have a recognition of same-sex couples yeah how do what's gonna happen with the courts saying one thing and the referendum saying another so the court ruling specifically only say that the current civil code denying gay couples the rights to get marry is unconstitutional and they urged the government in you know within two years to find a way to somehow implement this rights to get marry a more form partnerships into the law by May 24th 2019 mmm-hmm so that's exactly six months away from now the most likely outcome from here on is the legislature the Legislature will definitely have to like start negotiating and debating about this among all the political parties that have seats inside the legislature and because of the legal you know the the the outcome of the legally binding referendums it's likely that the ruling party is going to push and move forward towards the limited civil union right a full marriage equality because now they are not they can't afford to play like provocative or bald but they can only point to play safe how does this make you feel so I never had to go through a popular vote yeah okay it was all kind of like illegal but what is it like to kind of have your rights rejected by your people I don't want to put it in very dramatic in an animated way but that's what it will feel like to me yeah you know like it just one thing is it makes you wonder if that day you could ever happen you know as long as you live here will you have your life here or is it more realistic for you till I start thinking options outside of Taiwan you know like moving to countries that have that sort of rights that are guaranteed and it's a normal thing and the society is not really against it that that I mean one of the strongest feelings that I have last night was definitely you know like are we being welcomed or accepted into by the society or like are we still continuing to like live on the edge of it and we were living in this little small bubble of Taipei where yes we see a lot of acceptance or if not acceptance but people's tolerance towards LGBTQ movements or activities or like LGBTQ people but once you go outside of Taipei I wonder it that really makes me wonder if that's pretty much still the same or like once you go outside of type like that's just not something that you should buy you should just definitely be more aware of your behavior and yeah your words and like what you say or what what you do so that point that william made about looking for opportunities to go overseas because he didn't feel accepted her anymore really hits home and it's not he's not the only person that was feeling like that if you look at Google Trends searches for immigration in Taiwan rocket on the night of the vote when the votes were coming in there's no getting around it that's really sad at the end of the day this it doesn't look like this is the end of the world the legislature looks like it wants to find a balance between the will of the people and this Court ruling from last year and so it looks like they'll stop short at marriage but they will at least be some kind of recognition for same-sex couples on the island finally but I I came here to increase notice this is a gay district in in Taipei called Hong roll and I came here to kind of like get a bit of the vibe an outside of the metro station the load of young I would assume that activists standing proudly and honorably and with dignity just offering free hugs which is a cliché from like the early days that is right oh but it broke my heart to be rejected by your home and to then come out and to standards still be like cloud to exists and stuff I love this place I used to study here I used to live here I love Taiwan so very much and this vote really broke my heart because this is also a community that I feel part of um but this is gonna be okay it's not what we wanted and what we needed but this will be okay oh god it hurts they I know how to close this video go and follow William who's been really good value to follow on Twitter at the moment he's give him some great insights not only into

the marriage vote but also to the local elections in Taiwan and if you issue this kind of content then subscribe is the orb and then also like maybe watch my last documentary which is also a laugh riot I need to stop him serious things and make myself cry I've been running with oranges thank you very much for watching tiddly