

# MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Civil Marriage for Gay and Lesbian People

## Same love, different rights?



**Help us fill in the missing pieces.**

Visit [www.marriagequality.ie](http://www.marriagequality.ie) today and  
join the campaign for **EQUALITY** for same sex couples,  
our families and our children.

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## Same Love

just love?



### Why is marriage equality important?

Marriage is a unique legal status conferred by and recognized by governments the world over. It brings with it a host of reciprocal obligations, rights and protections. Yet it is more than the sum of its legal parts; it is also a cultural institution. The word itself is a fundamental protection, conveying clearly that you and your life partner love each other. It represents the ultimate expression of love and commitment between two people, and everyone understands that. No other word has that power and no other word can provide that protection.

In Ireland, the family (with or without children) based in marriage is protected by the Constitution from attack, and must be 'guarded with special care'. This means that other families (with or without children) do not have this special, elevated and protected status in Irish law.

### Marriage—More than just a word

Marriage matters. And to quote Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry in the US 'Gay people want the freedom to marry for the same reasons that non-gay people do'. When you say 'We're married', 'She's my wife' or 'He's my husband' it means that the person you're talking about is the person you've chosen to spend the rest of your life with, and build a future with. Together.

Not everyone may want to get married, but everyone should have the **choice** to marry the person that they love.

**73% of Irish people support the right of same-sex couples to marry.**

## Different Rights

just love?

Do you believe that Ireland is an equal society, where everyone is afforded the same basic rights?

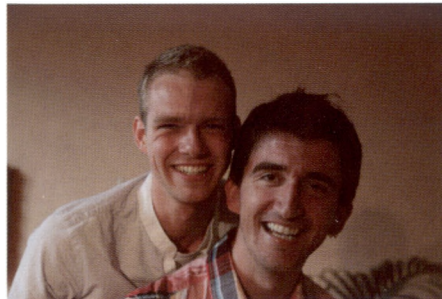
On 1 January 2011, Civil Partnership was introduced in Ireland. This allowed same sex couples for the first time to form a legal partnership that recognized their loving, committed relationships. It gave same sex couples a number of rights, in relation to property, inheritance, tax and pensions.

This historic step was welcomed by people across Ireland and marked a huge achievement for all those who had campaigned for so long.

However, there are over 150 discrepancies between Civil Partnership and Civil Marriage. Some will have a major impact on families. Others are smaller, but still represent discrimination.

### Civil Partnership:

- Does not permit children to have a legally recognized relationship with their parents—only the biological one. This causes all sorts of practical problems for hundreds of families with schools and hospitals as well as around guardianship, access and custody. In the worst case, it could mean that a child is taken away from a parent and put into care on the death of the biological parent.
- Does not recognize same sex couples' rights to many social supports that may be needed in hardship situations and may literally leave a loved one out in the cold.
- Defines the home of civil partners as a 'shared home', rather than a 'family home', as is the case for married couples. This has implications for the protection of dependent children living in this home and also means a lack of protection for civil partners who are deserted.



## Invest in MARRIAGE EQUALITY TODAY

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Town/City:

County:

Email:

Telephone:

### I would like to make a once off donation to Marriage Equality's work of €

Visa  Mastercard  Laser  Cheque

Card Number:

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### I would like to make a monthly donation to Marriage Equality:

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### Instruction to your Bank to pay Standing Order

Name and Address of your Bank Branch:

Bank Name:

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Date standing order is to commence:

Please pay to Marriage Equality Limited's Bank Account:

Bank: AIB Address: Capel Street, Dublin 1.

Account No: 3959 4027 Sort Code: 93-11-01

Signature:

Date:

Please post this form to: **Marriage Equality, 105 Capel Street, Dublin 1.**  
Thank you for your support.



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## Do you believe in equality?

Most Irish people do and they want to see an Ireland where everyone is treated equally. We share this vision and we've been working hard to make marriage equality a reality.

### Successes to Date

Marriage Equality has achieved significant success to date. As a result of this work and the dedication of many other committed organizations, Civil Partnership has been introduced and popular support for marriage equality has increased from 56% to 73% over the past three years. This is a major achievement.

### During our 3-year campaign, Marriage Equality has:

- Demonstrated evidence of increasing positive support amongst the general public for marriage equality by commissioning independently conducted attitudinal polls and mobilizing allies to participate in public marches of support;
- Increased visibility of lesbian and gay people and their families via its 'We Are Family' poster/postcard campaign, and positive media profiling of 'real-life' stories of why lesbians and gay men should have the right to marry;
- Mobilized grassroots support for the campaign and won support from dozens of TDs through an innovative 'Out to your TD' initiative;
- Highlighted the differences between Civil Partnership and Civil Marriage in the media and in legal debates, offering examples of legal solutions and case law in other countries that support why marriage equality is so necessary and important.

**As a modern country, Ireland should be at the forefront of social change. Be a part of that change—log on to [www.marriagequality.ie](http://www.marriagequality.ie) today.**



**We want to continue our campaign and we want you to help us.**

**Support Marriage Equality today and let's make equality for all our families a reality.**

**Join our online community:**

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105, Capel Street  
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E-mail: [info@marriagequality.ie](mailto:info@marriagequality.ie)

Website: [www.marriagequality.ie](http://www.marriagequality.ie)

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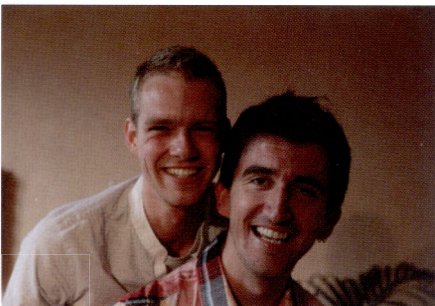
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