

Taiwan unveils Asia's first draft law on same-sex marriage

Taiwan on Thursday proposed a draft law to allow same-sex marriage in Asia's first such bill.

The draft law would give same-sex couples similar legal protections for marriage as **heterosexuals**, but marriage in civil law would remain defined as between a man and woman. Taiwan's parliament is expected to vote on the draft bill by late May, a deadline for legislation set by the constitutional court in May 2017 when it ruled that same-sex couples had the right to legally marry.

heterosexual 异性恋的

However, the legislation was criticized by rights activists and conservative groups amid a heated debate over marriage equality.

Jennifer Lu, **coordinator** of Marriage Equality **Coalition** Taiwan, said the draft did not give complete legal protections to same-sex couples. She acknowledged the pressure on the government from all sides, but said activists will continue to fight for equal rights.

coordinator 协调者

coalition 联合; 结合

Conservative groups that opposed same-sex marriage during the **referendum** said they will fight the draft bill too. The Coalition for the Happiness of Our Next Generation on Thursday called the draft "unacceptable".

A government official said the bill respected the referendum results, although activists had said a separate law for gay marriage was **discriminatory**.

referendum 全民公投

discriminatory 歧视的; 有辨识力的

"Controversies are expected about the proposal, but I really hope our homosexual friends can wait a bit longer," he said in a statement, "This might **fall short of** expectations, but after all it's a start."

fall short of 达不到; 辜负