Jane Irish Ayop

BAESL3B

Introduction

Whether gay marriage should be allowed or not, has always been a controversial topic. People seem to be concerned about the matters of legalizing the partnership of same-sex couples. The Philippines despite being considered one of the most “gay-friendly” countries in the Asia and Pacific region with 73% believing that homosexuality should be accepted (Pew Research Center, 2019), still lacks legislative measures to afford equal rights and privileges for same-sex couples that are enjoyed by heterosexual couples. This may contribute to the Philippines also being a Catholic-majority country and there would be conservatives that think that marriage is solely for procreation which gay couples can’t do.

Thesis statement: Same-sex union should be legalized in the Philippines.

Preview

Marriage should be for anyone. The Philippines should legalize same-sex union despite being a Catholic-majority and conservative county for three motives: Human rights, Legal rights/benefits, and love/mental health.

Body

1. Human rights

A. To deny the LGBTQ++ community the option to marry would be discriminatory and a violation of human rights (United Nations General Assembly, 1966, art. 26)

B. Same-sex civil unions are based on the constitutional right to freedom of association. The Bill of Rights in the Constitution protects “the right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law.”

C. The fight to legalize same-sex marriage in the Philippines has always been put to uncertainty due to the dominance of Catholic belief in the country and the legislation. The LGBTQ++ community counters the argument of conservative faith as they are pushing for legality more than morality.

1. Legal rights/benefits (based on House Bill 6595)

A. Same-sex couples should have access to the same benefits enjoyed by heterosexual married couples.

B. Social security and insurance

C. Adoption. According to data from the Philippines Orphanage Foundation (2019), out of the over 109 million population in the country, there were at least 2 million orphaned children.

1. Love and Mental Health

A. For the sake of love itself. We should not deprive any person of the right to be happy.

B. There are 41% of respondents that are in favor of the proposal on the legalization of same-sex unions as a civil partnership in the country (CNN Philippines, 2019)

C. A study (Wight, et. al., 2013) found that same-sex married couples were “significantly less distressed than lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons not in a legally recognized relationship.”

Summary

It’s time for the Philippines to be a truly “gay-friendly” country and join Taiwan at the forefront of Asian countries with marriage equality. Gay couples have the right to be legally protected. Civil unions, according to House Bill 6595, would be given “all benefits and protections as are granted to spouses in a marriage under existing laws.” Couples in civil unions could legally separate, adopt, and be entitled to child custody and support. Like married couples, civil partners legally owe each other respect, fidelity, support, and assistance. They are expected to live together and are jointly responsible for managing their household. House Bill 6595 allows civil union couples to legally adopt children which could help alleviate the orphan crisis in the Philippines. A study also found that same-sex married couples were “significantly less distressed than lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons not in a legally recognized relationship.” We don’t want to risk more mentally unstable people when there’s a solution that is clearly attainable.

Conclusion

In conclusion, not allowing gay couples to marry in the Philippines jeopardizes the fundamental rights of LGBT partners and families. Why should we deprive them of the right that heterosexual couples have when it’s not within their control to be homosexual. With same-sex union, it gives them the hope that they can also have a future. This community has always been the subject of hate and discrimination just by existing. Their right to marry whomever they wish irrespective of gender or sex is the least the Philippines could do.