

WEEK 10

Changes to my code

- Added some clickable buttons to explain why perceptions towards the LGBTQ+ community have changed
- Lines in code:
 - index.html: 91 – 140
 - 377appstyle.css: 153 – 193
 - 377main.js: 167 – 192

Q1 What is your project about?

The LGBTQ+ community faces discrimination and stigmatisation on the daily, from applying and obtaining basic necessities such as housing and being subjected to “conversion therapy”. There is a severe breach of basic human rights, where certain individuals within our community experience unfair treatment and harsh judgements simply based on their sexual orientation or what gender they identify with. Even a mere five second scene of a same-sex kiss shot up the ratings for a Pixar animation, Lightyear, from G to NC16, highlighting just how taboo and unnatural the LGBTQ+ community is perceived to be in Singapore.

Section 377A of the Penal Code is a colonial-era law that penalised sex between men, and has always been a highly contentious issue. It also signals to the society that the government’s stance towards the LGBTQ+ community is rather negative, which translates to individuals of the society holding prejudices and stigma towards members of the community. The LGBTQ+ community views it as discriminatory, while many who supported the law cited reasons such as their religious beliefs and social norms.

Given how negatively this community is viewed in the past, I want to find out whether perceptions have changed with the repeal of Section 377A, a signal from the government marking an era of greater acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

Q2 What is the data you plan to use?

Change in perception from 2013 to 2018:

- [S'poreans more liberal towards homosexuality compared with five years ago, IPS survey finds - TODAY](#)

Change in perception from 2018 to 2022:

- [Attitudes towards same-sex relationships shift towards greater inclusivity in Singapore | Ipsos](#)

Difference in acceptance levels between the younger generation (Gen Zs) and the older generation (Baby Boomers):

- [Same-Sex Relationships: Majority of Singaporeans Supportive of Penal Code Section 377A | Ipsos](#)

Q3 What is the question you plan to answer?

(One sentence that ends with a question mark that could act like the title of your data story)

Is the repeal of Section 377A enough to change Singaporeans' perceptions about the LGBTQ+ community?

Q4 Why is this an important question?

(Three sentences, each of which has some evidence, e.g., "According to the United Nations..." to justify why the question you have chosen is important)

For too long, the LGBTQ+ community has been unfairly discriminated against due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, being subjected to hate crimes and higher levels of also experiencing more aversive mental health outcomes. The UN Human Rights Office for South-East Asia (OHCHR) hence welcomes the decision by Singapore's Parliament to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code, which for decades has criminalised consensual sex between men. Criminalisation of homosexuality is one of the root causes of pervasive human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and often the basis for broader forms of discrimination and violations that take place in society. This is indeed a positive development from the past, and could potentially point towards greater acceptance in a conservative society such as Singapore. However, decriminalisation is not the end point in tackling stigma and exclusion, but rather a vital first step forward towards greater acceptance.

Q5 Which rows and columns of the dataset do you plan to use, to answer this question?

(Actual names of the values you plan to filter (rows) or subset (columns) the data on)

1. IPSOS study (2022) – ATTITUDES TOWARDS SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS IN SINGAPORE¹

- Investigate change of perception from 2018 to 2022

Overall, 1 in 5 oppose Section 377A. A sentiment more strongly felt by those aged 18-29 years.

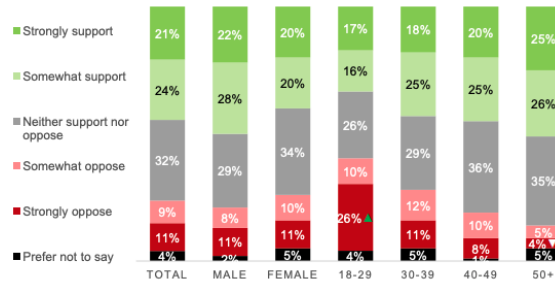
Those aged 50 and above show significantly lower opposition compared to the total.

Question A5: Section 377A of the Singapore Penal Code states that:

"Any male person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years."

To what extent do you support or oppose this section?

© Ipsos | LGBTQ+ 2022 SG Survey | Base: 500 online adults 18 – 75 years old Singapore



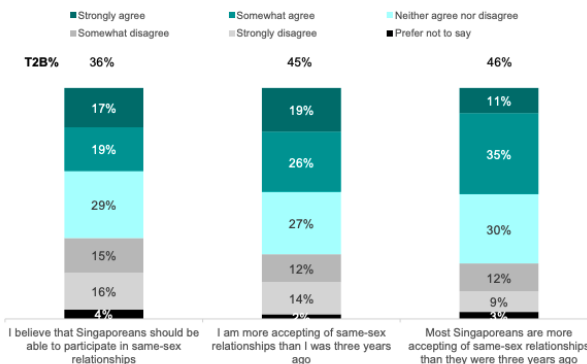
Over one-third of respondents believe that Singaporeans should be able to participate in same-sex relationships.

Nearly half indicated that they are currently more accepting of same-sex relationships than they were 3 years ago.

Question A5a: And to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

- I believe that Singaporeans should be able to participate in same-sex relationships.
- I am more accepting of same-sex relationships than I was three years ago.
- Most Singaporeans are more accepting of same-sex relationships than they were three years ago.

© Ipsos | LGBTQ+ 2022 SG Survey | Base: 500 online adults 18 – 75 years old Singapore



2. IPS study (2018) – ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY: 2013 VS 2018²

¹ ATTITUDES TOWARDS SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS IN SINGAPORE (p. 16). (2022).

https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2022-06/Ipsos%20Report_Attitudes%20towards%20same-sex%20relationships%20in%20SG_June%202022.pdf

² S'poreans more liberal towards homosexuality compared with five years ago, IPS survey finds. (n.d.). TODAY. Retrieved March 18, 2023, from

<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/singaporeans-more-liberal-towards-homosexuality-ips-survey-finds>

- Investigate change in perception from 2013 to 2018, based on the below statements:
 - “Sexual relations between two same-sex adults is always wrong.”
 - “Gay marriage is always wrong.”
 - “A gay couple adopting a child is always wrong.”

3. IPSOS study (2018) – Public Support Split on Section 377A of Singapore Penal Code³

- Investigate perception towards LGBTQ+ community split based on age

Support for Section 377A of the Penal Code

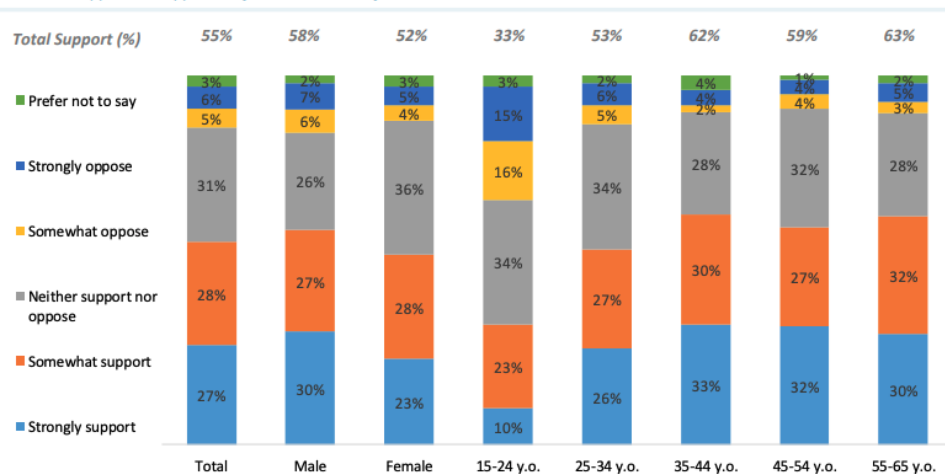
When asked the extent to which they supported or opposed Section 377A of the Penal Code, more than half of all Singaporeans (55%) indicated that they supported the Section, while 12% indicated that they opposed.

Levels of support varied according to gender, with males significantly more likely to have ‘strongly’ supported Section 377A (30%) than females (23%).

Sentiment also differed by respondents’ age:

- those aged 15-24 years were significantly more likely to have opposed the Section (30%); and
- those aged 55-65 were significantly more likely to have supported the Section (63%).

Chart 1: Support and opposition for Section 377A of the Penal Code



³ McPhedran, R. (2018). *Public Support Split on Section 377A of Singapore Penal Code* (p. 7). Ipsos. https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2018-09/singapore_public_support_split_on_337a_rep_ort_sept_2018.pdf

Chart 2: Agreement and disagreement with the statement 'I believe that Singaporeans should be able to participate in same-sex relationships'

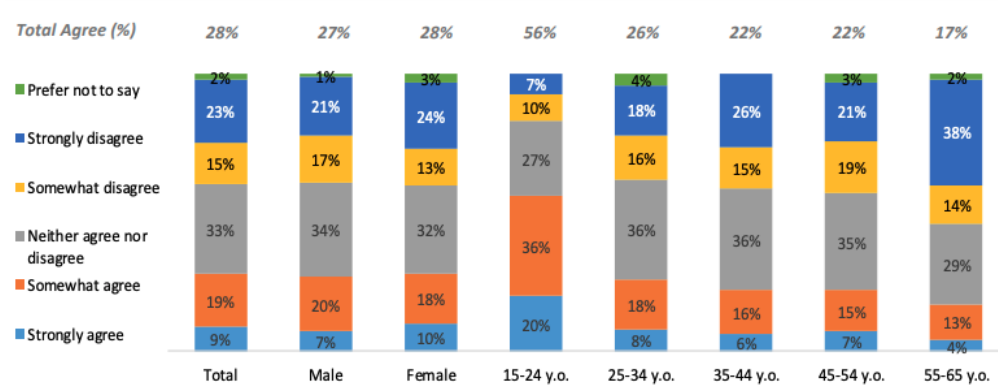


Chart 3: Agreement and disagreement with the statement 'I am more accepting of same-sex relationships than I was five years ago'

