

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

Notes & Cues:	Article: <p>Taiwan on Thursday proposed a draft law to allow same-sex marriage in Asia's first such bill.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>However, the legislation was criticised by rights activists and conservative groups amid a heated debate over marriage equality.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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".</p> <p>A government official said the bill respected the referendum results, although activists had said a separate law for gay marriage was discriminatory.</p> <p>"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."</p>
Summary:	