

IAFL Press Release: Support for Equal Marriage in Hong Kong

PRESS RELEASE

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Statement in Support of the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights for Civil Partners and LGBT Hongkongers

The International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) reaffirms its commitment to the legal protection without discrimination of families and children across international borders.

The IAFL applauds the Hong Kong Judiciary and Government for affirming the fundamental human rights of same-sex couples. We welcome the ongoing efforts to introduce legislation to recognise such relationships. We encourage the Hong Kong Government to consider the introduction of marriage equality for same-sex couples, as the best mechanism to protect families.

The IAFL further encourages the Hong Kong Government to consider the rights and status of heterosexual couples in civil unions (also known as civil partnerships) celebrated abroad. Civil unions are celebrated in at least 42 countries across all continents. The children and partners of such unions are families under international human rights law and entitled to equal protection to the families of persons in marriages. However, there is currently no framework for protection of such families in Hong Kong law. We invite the Hong Kong Government to introduce legislation to allow for the recognition and dissolution of such relationships on terms of equality with marriage.

The IAFL Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee has worked hand in hand with the IAFL Executive Committee in raising awareness, educating its members, and providing this public statement of support concerning Human Rights for LGBTQ+ persons.

IAFL is an international organisation of over 1,000 practicing lawyers from 128 jurisdictions who are recognised by their peers as the most experienced and skilled family law specialists in their respective jurisdictions. See www.iafl.com.

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