

## The Movement of Homosexual Marriage into the Public Sphere

**Solution**

“Marriage is and always will be a private contract between individuals. The boundaries of marriage in our country have been concrete for centuries. However, they are currently being questioned. Should marriage remain defined as the union between a man and a woman? ...

As Horowitz (2004) discusses, there is a difference between the private sphere and public sphere in a relationship, and according to him, homosexuals are perfectly acceptable if they limit themselves to the private sphere ...

In an expressive dimension, the roles of homosexuals as a part of society’s norm are still being defined ... Legally, homosexual couples have the right to be treated equally under the law, because, as I will argue, their liberty is otherwise lost ... To neglect their right and the benefits of marriage is taking away the acknowledgement of their partnership, which is valued in our society ...

Rights, as I am speaking of them, are the certain benefits that have already been outlined in each state’s marriage license, and grounded in each state’s legislature, that our government is obligated to give each individual when he or she becomes married. These rights include, but are not limited to: reductions in housing costs, income taxes, pensions, and insurance premiums (Horowitz, 2004, p.465). The right to adopt a child is ... grant[ed] to heterosexual couples, but is difficult for homosexual couples ... The importance of adoption by homosexual couples is an important topic, but will not be of discussion in this argument ...

As marriage becomes more culturally oriented, the social context of marriage keeps changing. This reflects a change in many people’s belief systems, but these beliefs can never change the rights or opportunities of any individual. These rights include, but are not limited to, the right to choose your own partner regardless of sex, and society is still conforming to this realization. Also, if Horowitz allows homosexuals to behave however they please in the privacy of their homes, he is recognizing that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with the two as a couple, he just does not wish to see them ...

The norm that homosexual couples would be incapable parents, for example, due to social stigmas is the fault of society, not their own. Recognition of homosexual marriage as a norm is the first step to removing these stigmas and others from society.”