

MARRIAGE INEQUALITY HAS AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON HEALTH & WELLBEING

A ban on same-sex marriages disadvantages same-sex attracted people by sending out the message that they are less capable of love and commitment than heterosexual people.

It says their relationships are less stable, less resilient and of less value to the partners involved and their family and friends.



SAME SEX COUPLES WANT TO MARRY FOR ALL THE SAME REASONS AS YOU



PWD Yard
The Castle
Jamestown
22133



Equality & Human Rights
Commission

EQUALITY IN MARRIAGE



"When any society says that I cannot marry a certain person, that society has cut off a segment of my freedom."

Dr Martin Luther King Jr

MARRIAGE IS ABOUT LOVE NOT GENDER

The Benefits of Same-sex Marriage

ALL SAINTS WANT TO BE TREATED EQUALLY

Restrictions on who gay and lesbian Saints can marry, is a violation of their fundamental human rights, in the same way the rights of inter-racial couples were violated in much of the world in the 1950's.

Young people who are growing up in St Helena, are afraid of being themselves because of the fear of being discriminated against. This will cause our young people to leave the Island in search for more welcoming communities around the world.

THE OTHER BENEFITS

Allowing same-sex couples to be included in a universal and valued institution like marriage will provide them and their families with real social and cultural benefits. Research by the University of Massachusetts, found that same-sex partners overwhelmingly:

- felt marriage had increased their commitment, sense of responsibility, and strengthened their relationships
- believed their children were better off after their marriage, through legal protection and enhanced feelings of security, stability and acceptance
- felt participation and acceptance in their extended families and communities had increased because of their marriage

There is also a growing body of research showing that married partners, including same-sex married partners, are, on average, healthier, happier and longer lived, than their cohabiting peers, or singles. Even rates of heart disease, drug use and stress are lower among married partners.

MARRIAGE INEQUALITY EN- COURAGES DISCRIMINATION

Exclusion of same-sex marriage sends out the message that discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is accepta-

ble.

Same-sex attracted people are vulnerable to prejudice, discrimination and unequal treatment. Surveys have consistently found that LGBT people experience unacceptably high levels of discrimination in the workplace, and other aspects of their lives including at school and in their families, and hate-motivated assault. Studies have also directly linked bans on same-sex marriages to higher levels of discrimination. While marriage equality will not remove *all* prejudice, discrimination and unequal treatment against same-sex attracted people, it will be an important step towards this goal.

