Equality on the Rise

There are approximately 9,000,000 homosexual individuals in the United States of America. 9,000,000 people in the United States alone are banned of rights that should be granted as an act of equality. Only seventeen of the fifty states have recognized this act of equality and have legalized gay and lesbian marriage. Proof supporting this claim is the nonexistence of physical or emotional damage to anyone, receiving benefits to help support families, and the fact that this act of discrimination sends a damaging message to youth. Homosexual couples should be granted the same rights as heterosexual couples.

Gay and lesbian marriage should be legal because it does not physically or emotionally harm anyone. With the legalization of gay and lesbian marriage, not only will homosexual couples benefit, but heterosexual couples will also. As argued in an article by Huffington Post, “Allowing same-sex couples to marry harms no one. Conversely, it enhances the lives of millions of LGBT Americans and their families and also benefits broader society, economically, culturally, and politically” (Lipp). One of the benefits of homosexual marriage is articulated in the article from the Reason Foundation, “What’s more, in states that have legalized gay marriage divorce rates have been lower, on average, than before legalization” (Hinkle). This is proof that gay and lesbian marriage is advantageous rather than destructive. Some argue that this is not viable proof to legalize gay and lesbian marriage, claiming that people are harmed by homosexuality. However, these arguments are invalid considering gay marriages have no affect on anyone but the couples. In fact, these statements are usually from individuals who feel being gay or lesbian is harmful in itself. Recognizing that homosexual marriage can be helpful, it is evident that gay and lesbian partners should be legally allowed to marry.

Allowing homosexual couples to be married is an act of equality that would benefit an entire family. As stated in an article by attorney, Lina Guillen, married couples will receive the right to joint adoption and custody, creating consistency for the children (Guillen). Parents who are both legally recognized for the care of the child provide a more stable environment. Another statement by Lina Guillen is that married couples receive housing benefits such as living in neighborhoods specifically for families (Guillen). Children will be able to grow up in family friendly neighborhoods with parents that are legally married. While debated that civil unions grant homosexual couples benefits, many are not included. Gay and lesbian marriage should be legal to improve the lives of families.

Not allowing homosexual couples to be married is an act of discrimination that sends a harmful message to youth. As expressed in a Huffington Post article, the legalization of gay marriage reduces the amount of homophobia in younger and future generations (Lipp). When children are exposed to normal events in society, they grow up knowing that it is common. If gay and lesbian marriage is legalized, younger generations will grow up knowing it is acceptable, reducing the amount of homophobia. Stated later in the Huffington Post article, “It also sends a damaging message to children within LGBT families that their parents are inferior, second-class citizens who are not worthy of equal treatment in society” (Lipp). This is not an acceptable belief for children to have because they know their parents are not being treated equally. It is a belief by many that children are not affected emotionally by the lack of equality towards lesbian and gay parents. Although very small children may not understand, elementary age, teenagers, and young adults recognize this and can be emotionally harmed. The damaging message sent to children by denying these rights proves that homosexual couples should be granted the right to marriage.

Homosexual couples should be given equal rights to heterosexual couples. Evidence supporting this claim is that only the couples are affected; no one is harmed, while married couples receive benefits that can improve families, and denying equality sends damaging messages to youth. A recent study shows that fifty-five percent of Americans are in favor of gay marriage as of May, 2014 (Gallup, Inc). In the past five years, the percentage of proponents has risen six percent (Gallup, Inc). The percentage of people in favor of homosexual marriage is on a continuous rise, and soon, all fifty states will have legalized gay and lesbian marriage.