

I have been living with my same sex partner for a period of 3 years now, and we have known each other for 14 years. Not one family member nor friend has shown us any inequality in the way we are treated, so why should our national Government?

I am appalled that the debate surrounding 'same-sex' marriage is even necessary. Not because I am desperately seeking to be married to my girlfriend, but because through the debate it is evident that in the government's eyes we are still considered 'different', 'unequal', and that our love is 'not legally acceptable'. When I consider that my circle of friends, my family and my community treat us no differently from anyone else, it begs the question whether **our** government really is a true reflection of the people's will?

EMILY GILHOME