

Lee discriminated in various ways. Lee 2nowadays,

[Family](#), [Marriage](#)



Lee 1 "We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity"

(Goodreads 2018). This is a quote from George Takei who joined the LGBT equality movement. LGBT is the abbreviated form that collectively indicates lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, or simply sexual minorities.

LGBT is an unremitting contentious issue in several countries around the world. Sexual minorities have been suffering both mentally and physically due to discrimination. LGBT people have limited choice in daily lives including marriage and military service. The freedom that is inherently granted is not allowed for them and their basic human rights are being threatened. Sexual minorities are the same with the others. They are our neighbors and the citizens residing in the same society. Thus, there is no doubt that they must be given the same rights as any other individuals.

A Pew Research survey of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) is based on the Americans' perceptions on discrimination. A new nationally representative survey of 1,197 LGBT adults answered that they felt they have been traumatized by the society. According to statistics, "About four-in-ten" (39%) say that at some point in their lives, they were rejected by a family member or close friend because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; 30% say that they have been physically attacked or threatened; 29% say that they are mostly unwelcomed in a place of worship; and 21% say that they have been treated unfairly by an employer. About six-in-ten" (58%) say that they've been the target of slurs or jokes. (A

Pew Research Center 2013) These statistics represent how many homosexuals are discriminated in various ways. Lee 2 Nowadays, some

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countries have adopted federal laws regarding gay marriage and are becoming increasingly supportive with LGBT rights. Despite the developments regarding homosexuality, life is actually getting more severe for LGBT people, especially for those who are living in Russia, Yemen, Iran, and Eastern Europe.

Although "Marriage" is a basic right that is given to everyone in the world, it is not allowed for homosexuals. For example, Russia is one of the worst countries for LGBT people to inhabit. According to figure 1, "about three-quarters of Russians don't think same sex marriage should be accepted by society" (Pew Research Center, 2013).

In addition to the Russian public's reluctance toward homosexual marriage, Russian government has passed a law which bans gay "propaganda" on June 29. In Russia, gay teenagers are being tortured and forcibly outed on the internet against a backdrop of laws that look completely out of step with the rest of Europe. In what is being described as rolling the "status of LGBT lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people back to the Stalin era", President Putin has passed a number of anti-gay laws, including legislation that punishes people and groups that distribute information considered "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations". The country also now has powers to arrest and detain foreign citizens believe to be gay, or "pro-gay" (Saner 2013).

Even now, Russian public's perception toward LGBT people is apparently negative. Discrimination and violent action against sexual minorities are extremely pervasive in Russia. It is hard for LGBT people to expect marriage

or impartial treatment in Russia, and it is predicted to take longer time to enhance the situation. Lee 3 Homosexual discrimination can be found in military services as well. American LGBT people can serve in military services today, but sexual discrimination and unfair discharge from the military was a common issue in the past.

In 1993, Bill Clinton signed a law called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), which was the military service law for adopted for LGBT people. DADT policy was practiced for 17 years until the presidency of Barack Obama in 2011. It started with good purpose, but the conditions for LGBT soldiers didn't improve.

Approximately 13,650 LGBT soldiers were forcefully discharged from the military. This law states that the homosexuals who are serving in the military are not permitted to reveal their sexual orientation and commanding officers are not authorized to ask any soldiers' sexual orientation. LGBT soldiers were allowed to serve in the military if they kept silence, but they still suffered emotional distress from hiding their identity. They claimed that their freedom of equality has been threatened. Representatively, Katherine Miller was an elite in US Military Academy (West Point), but she renounced her academic life because she was tired of hiding homosexuality. She is just one of the victims of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Today, LGBT soldier discrimination in military has not been completely solved. "Everyone knows that gays have served honorably in the military since at least the time of Julius Caesar. You don't need to be 'straight' to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight" (Goldwater).

Throughout history, it has been proven that the potential of LGBT soldiers are limitless. Homosexuality cannot be a reason to discriminate and drag them down. In modern society, LGBT people are being discriminated for different reasons including religion, legal, social, and cultural history of the nation. There are a number of people who detest homosexuals, commonly known as "Homophobes". They discriminate and do not accept homosexuals and homosexuality. One famous example of homophobes is Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Homosexuals were one of the targeted groups by the Nazis, and were persecuted and tortured for no reason. The only reason that homosexuals were eliminated during that period was because Hitler hated them for being different from the others.

However, there is no logical reason for them to be disrespected and disdained. Currently, homosexuality is still illegal in 76 countries around the world. Is it rational to discriminate and contempt them just for being different? In the phrase "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness", it is clear that everyone has the freedom to pursue happiness. There must be more policies like DADT and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which support the sexual minorities. LGBT conflicts are no longer individual problems, but a global concern.

"The rights of homosexual people are human rights, and human rights are for everyone," said Ricky Martin. Discrimination, regardless of the reason, should no longer be a threat and obstacle in LGBT people's lives.