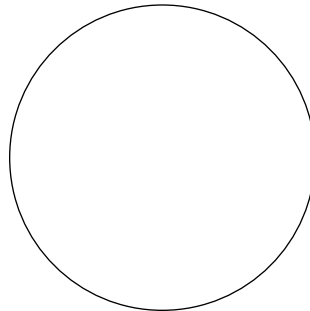
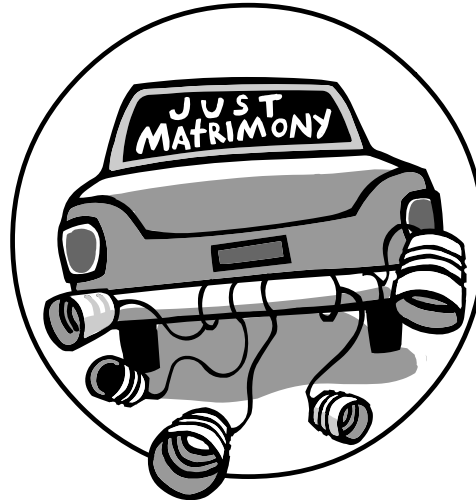


Did you know,
millions of Americans are
denied this joyous right?

Just Matrimony
4450 Fieldston Road
Bronx, NY 10471
(718) 548-4445
www.justmatrimony.org

Congratulations
on your upcoming
Wedding
Celebration!



But you can help!



What is Just Matrimony?

Marriage is a wonderful affirmation of life and love that should be available to all couples. Just Matrimony educates wedding couples, celebrants, and communities about the unequal treatment of gay and lesbian couples in America today.

Imagine if you and your partner—no matter how much you loved each other, how long you had been together, or even if you were raising children—were denied the right to marry. Millions of gay and lesbian couples are denied this right today.

By supporting Just Matrimony, you can further justice and human dignity and aid in re-consecrating the institution of marriage.

Why Just Matrimony?

Marriage Is an Evolving Institution

Some worry that allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry will weaken the institution of marriage. The truth is that marriage has long been an evolving and changing human activity. Wives used to be considered the property of their husbands, and only relatively recently has the right to marry been fully extended to divorced and infertile couples. Until 1967 some U.S. states forbade interracial marriages. Recognizing the equality of gay and lesbian couples is simply the next step in the ongoing evolution of marriage.

Marriage Conveys Special Rights

In addition to the emotional and psychological pain gay and lesbian couples experience from being denied the basic right to form a legal family, their lives may be greatly complicated because they are deprived of over 1,000 legal advantages that married couples enjoy. These include:

- the automatic right to custody of a child should a spouse die;

- the right to make emergency hospital decisions and have primary visitation rights;
- the right to share property and make tax-exempt bequests;
- the right to be covered by a partner's health-insurance policy and to receive survivors' Social Security and disability benefits.

Some states allow gay and lesbian couples to petition for some rights, but this often means costly legal battles and endless paperwork. Federal rights would still be denied to gay and lesbian couples.

Would your marriage be threatened in any way if same-sex couples had the same rights as you?

Equal rights for all Americans

The Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 overrides state laws that legalize gay and lesbian marriages. A current attempt to amend the Constitution further seeks to circumvent the rights of gay and lesbian couples.

Other nations allow gay couples to marry, but these marriages are not honored in the United States. This can cause enormous problems for visiting couples.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that "separate but equal" is unconstitutional in regard to racial segregation. For the same reasons, separate "domestic partnership" agreements are by definition unequal to legal marriage.

By refusing to recognize the equal importance that

gay and lesbian couples place on family, faith, and monogamy, the denial of marriage rights reinforces negative stereotypes, fosters suspicion and fear, and fuels the distrust of gay individuals that can lead to hate crimes.

How you can help

If your values recognize the equality of all people, please support Just Matrimony. Take a moment to consider taking the following actions:

1. Tell others about the Just Matrimony campaign.
2. Contribute to Just Matrimony. Your gift will educate celebrants, congregations, and marrying couples about the current inequality in American marriage laws.
3. Mention Just Matrimony on your wedding invitation or program or during your wedding reception.

For more information

If you would like information on mentioning Just Matrimony in your invitation, program, or reception and/or on taking further action to equalize marriage laws, please see www.justmatrimony.org.

Once again, congratulations. May you and your marriage be blessed.

We would like to help Just Matrimony educate Americans about the current unequal treatment of gay and lesbian couples.

Contribution amount: \$ _____

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Send to: **Just Matrimony**
4450 Fieldston Road
Bronx, NY 10471

Your contribution is fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.