Gay adoption is adoption of children by lesbian or gay people. While there has been a recent trend of countries allowing gay adoption, most countries do not allow it. In 2009, Uruguay became the first Latin American country to allow same-sex couples to adopt. Other countries that have legalized adoption by same-sex couples include, but are not limited to, the Netherlands, South Africa and Sweden. Adoption laws for same-sex people in the United States vary widely. Most states allow gays and lesbians to petition individually to adopt children. Florida, however, explicitly bans adoption by all homosexuals. Advocates of gay adoption argue that same-sex adoptions are needed because there are so many children waiting to be adopted and same-sex couples are able to provide the children with stable homes and families. Opponents contend that gays and lesbians cannot provide the upbringing of a traditional family and that the children raised in homes with same-sex parents will suffer.

Pro/Con and Essential Question

**Should gays and lesbians be allowed to adopt children?**

**Yes.** Gays and lesbians should have the same rights as heterosexuals.

- Adoption Bills Put Religion Ahead of Kids
- Ban Political Exploitation of Children
- Suit: Allow Same-Sex Couples to Adopt in N.C.

**No.** Gays and lesbians cannot provide the upbringing of a traditional family.

- Adoption Overhaul Seen As Anti-Gay
- Justices Leave Fla. Ban on Adoption by Gays Intact
- Q: Does Adoption by Gay or Lesbian Couples Put American Children...
Perspectives

"The child welfare system has come to understand that placing a child in a gay or lesbian family is no greater risk than placing them in a heterosexual family."--Bryan Samuels, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

"Making children who have already endured abuse or neglect and the trauma of being removed from their homes wait any longer than necessary is cruel and unconscionable. Yet Florida continues to disqualify hundreds of prospective adoptive parents, simply because of their sexual orientation."-- Nan Rich, state senator (D), Weston, Florida

Critical Thinking & Analysis

1. Is gay adoption healthy for children?
2. Is good parenting ability related to sexual orientation?
3. Are children raised in homosexual households more likely to identify themselves as homosexual than children raised in heterosexual families?
4. Does a child need both a male and a female role model in order to grow up as a healthy and well-adjusted adult?

Additional Resources

Research Guide for the Critical Thinker
Writing a Mini-Research Paper
Creating a Powerpoint Presentation
Debate Guide
Academic Writing Help
SIRS Citation Guidelines

Related Articles

Topic Overview: Adoption
ProQuest LLC 2014; 9K, SIRS Issues Researcher

Topic Overview: LGBT Rights
ProQuest LLC 2014; 11K, SIRS Issues Researcher

Summary:

This article provides an overview of Gay Adoption. Perspectives and analysis questions are also provided.

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