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Where Utopia and Reality meet

# LGBTQ Families

# Outline

- International perspectives of social acceptance or lack of LGBTQ identities;
- Society, LGBTQ identities and families
- Reality vs. utopia
- Role of social work
- Conclusions

# Identifying 'family'

- Contested term
- Traditional families
- Family today consisting of:
  - Two persons
  - One person
  - Children
  - No children
  - Non-blood related ties

# Defining LGBTQ



- Internationality
- Variations of the term

# LGBTQ worldwide

- Vast legal and social experience
- Legal rights in modern history
- Minority group
- 'deprived' group

# Legalizing homosexuality

- 1950s
- Gay and lesbian rights

# Gay marriage

- Legalizing gay marriage for the first time: September 2000 in the Netherlands
- Followed: Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Spain, South Africa, Canada, Mexico City and some US States, in the 2000s
- More nations in the following years; approximately 20 countries worldwide.
- Civil unions

# LGBTQ legal and social rights worldwide

- Africa → civil marriage to criminalization and death penalty
- Bangladesh → religious view
- Covert discrimination and liberal ideas
  - Germany
  - UK
- Japan → legalizing homosexuality
- Greece → legal rights and the Greek Orthodox Church
- More recent advancements → Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico City, Colombia, Brazil, France, Denmark and New Zealand.



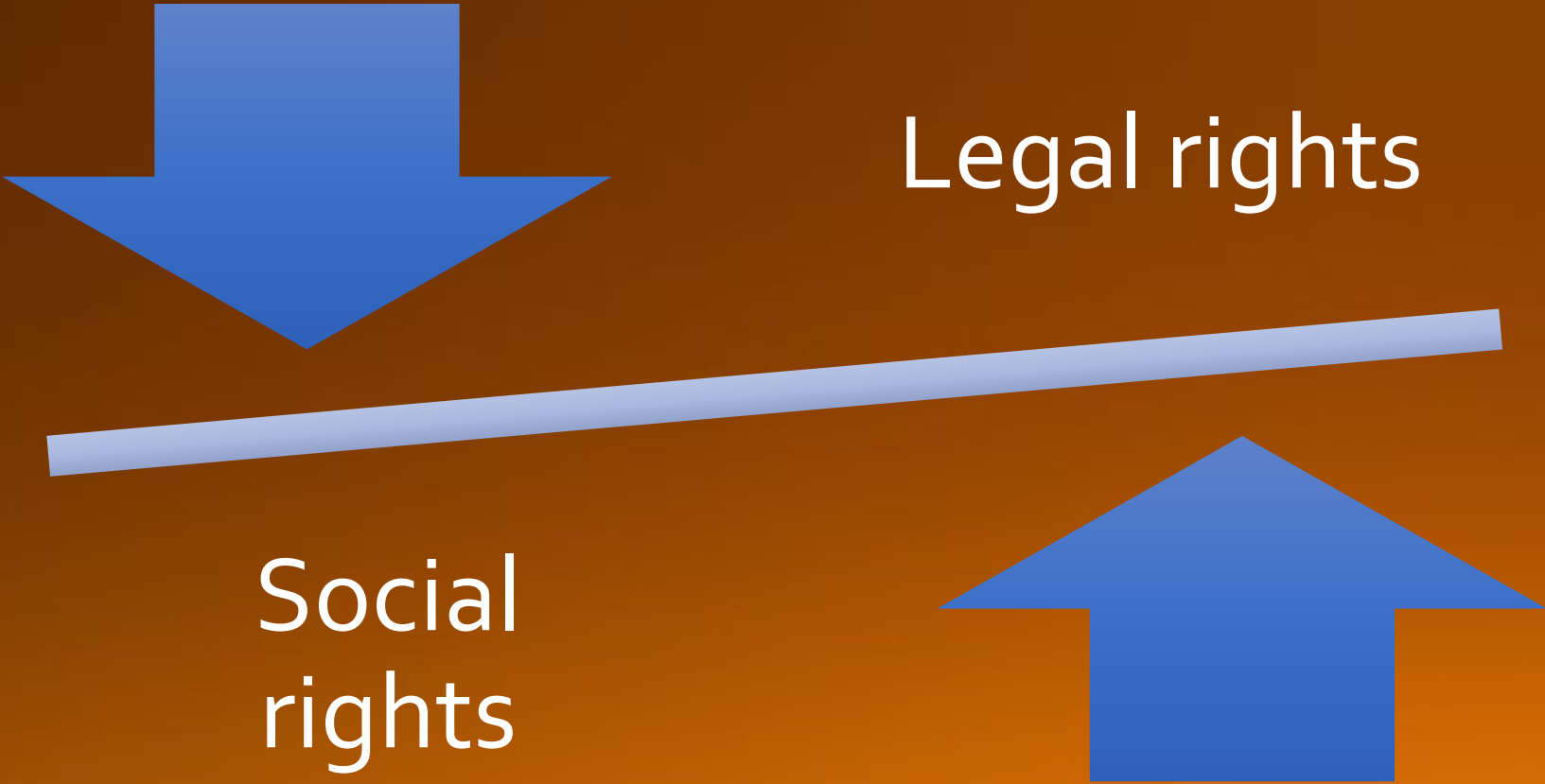
# Criminalization of homosexuality

- Misconceptions towards the LGBTQ community; Russia
- Banning and criminalizing homosexuality (e.g., Trinidad, Tobago, Malawi, etc.)
- Anti-gay laws (e.g., Cameroon, Nigeria, Uganda etc.)
- Death penalty
  - Iran
  - Yemen
  - Mauritania
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Afghanistan

# Social attitudes

- USA (Goldberg & Allen, 2012; Wilteck, 2014) – shift in attitudes toward LGBTQ families
- ILGA-Europe & IGLYO (Takács Judit, 2006) – social exclusion of young LGBTQ people in Europe
  - Family/ home
  - Community
  - Circle of friends
  - Media
- HIV/ AIDS
- Bullying at school
- Discrimination

# An uneven relationship



# Impact

- Self-worth
- Self-denial
- Sense of belonging
- Sense of identity
- Double life strategy (Takács Judit, 2006)
- Disengagement from family
- Stigma
- Fear or social stigmatization of the other

# Reality vs. utopia

- Legal vs. social rights
- Right to marry
- Globalization/ migration
- Negative feelings about self

*Is the individual considering themselves worthy of a family?  
Does the individual allow themselves to have a family?*

# Social work

- Human rights
  - Dignity
  - Worth
- Social justice

# Conclusions

- Contestations of LGBTQ identities; legal and social rights
- Impact on self
- LGBTQ families are increasing
  - Movement Advancement Project  
(<http://www.lgbtmap.org/policy-and-issue-analysis/lgbt-families>)
- Welfare for all

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# Thank you

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