

Isn't Love Just Love?

Homosexuality in China.

On 2nd March 2016, China's State Administration of Radio and Television banned all TV series, both on television and online, in mainland China that contained homosexuality. Then on 13rd April 2018, 200 millions of Chinese users had an outcry after one of the biggest social media platforms in China Weibo (similar to Twitter) had released an announcement about shutting down 108 accounts and 62 topics related to homosexuality, one of which includes the *Voice of Homos*: the very first non-commercial magazine and campaign founded in 2009 aims at promoting public understanding from a more scientific perspective.



Image credit:
Yuxuan Yang

Announced by [Weibo official account](#), "in order to build a harmonious environment and follow the duty as an enterprise, we decided to carry out a three-month period cleaning operation according to nation's laws...". The action was called off three days later after an outcry from millions of users and criticism from the whole nation, its initial purpose and actions towards homosexuality will not be tolerated by many Chinese people.

"I don't see the point, our situations have already been tough enough..." says Dongzhi¹, a university student who studies in China. It can be hard for a conservative family-centred nation to widely embrace diversity like some Western countries do, but the idea of continuously banning the LGBTQ+ community is not a proper solution to this.

Sexual preference is nothing to do with whether the public think it's right or wrong. [American Psychological Association](#) argues: "Many think that nature and nurture both play complex roles; most people experience little or no sense of choice about their sexual orientation." Therefore, individual's natural preferences should not be judged or undermined just because of being different to the majority's, nor should be restricted from the community.

"Why should we be treated differently if we did not do any harm to others?"

Dongzhi asked. As an only child who was raised in a traditional Chinese family, Dongzhi found himself particularly stressed as he had tired of pretending to be "normal" for years, but more importantly, he did not want to let his parents down and break their hearts. The same situation may be similar to a large number of Chinese today. [Zhu and others' research](#) (2018) around homosexuality in China reveals the data that nearly half of the participants barely feel reasonably happy, but found themselves frequently under stress, and even, feel worthless, with 49.7%, 49.4% and 45% respectively.

As a Chinese person who also has a shared student identity in a multi-cultural country here, I deeply feel the higher acceptance towards these certain issues in Britain. Under the pressure from some Western countries that have already

legalized homosexual marriages, Chinese citizens have started to stand up against improper actions like this compared to two years ago, China may also find it difficult to continue its banning solution towards this and need to develop itself at the same time as well.

After all there is so much effort that goes to promote equality and in the end, we all have the right to love whoever we want.



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1. Name has been changed due to personal privacy.

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