



■ @heatherchen_ Sun Aug 28 02:07:10 +0000 2022

First CNN analysis piece (and more about issues around Southeast Asia to come): Why Singapore's Repeal 377A is a double-edged sword for LGBTQ activists <https://t.co/Shydq4PVja>

PM was right: the entire thing is highly contentious. One view that played out over the course of the week has been that taking issue with future of same sex marriage after Sunday's announcement, will diminish victory of Repeal—which the queer community has fought for for years

Journalist opinion disclaimer applies here: Repealing 377A IS a huge victory. No one can touch that. But to not focus on the state of marriage for same sex Singaporean couples to come is questionable. And is short sighted.

Quite a prominent pro-gay rights Singaporean lawyer gave our intern an extremely difficult and uncomfortable time during a phoner interview when he put forth my questions about this. Refused to answer him, demanded to see how the piece would be written. I excluded his voice.

Even Sg govt ministry officials don't do that and to behave that condescendingly to someone who's clearly young is unnecessary and just appalling lah. People, honest

Back to the story: I caught up with Gary and Kenneth, the couple who challenged 377A in the High Court back in 2012. They were v forthcoming about about Repeal and about gay marriage going forward: "We expected that to happen, but it isn't the end." <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/singapore-gay-couple-seeks-to-abolish-gay-sex-law/>

Gary and Kenneth: <https://t.co/ax2lx7gHUZ>

"Getting married would be a nice acknowledgment of our relationship and love for each other but at this point, it isn't the most important thing," Chee said.

"But it (puzzles me) how our marriage would affect straight marriages, that I don't understand," he added.

"I hope that the conservatives can one day see gay people are not dangerous or a threat to them or their children. They don't have to fear us."

"And maybe in the future we can all forge a relationship and work together."