



# Press Release

## Of 23 Countries Surveyed, Majority (65%) in 20 Countries Support Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Unions

**New global study finds 47% of respondents believe that “same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally” while another 18% believe that “same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition, but not to marry”**

**New York, May 29, 2015** - On the heels of Ireland becoming the first country to legalise same-sex couple marriage through a referendum, a new BuzzFeed News/Ipsos poll of citizens in 23 countries indicates a majority (65%) of all surveyed support some legal recognition of same-sex unions. In total, 47% of respondents believe that “same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally” while another 18% believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition, but not to marry”. Alternatively, 18% indicate that same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry or obtain any kind of legal recognition” and 16% are “not sure”. The survey was taken just before the Irish referendum.

***Of the 23 countries surveyed, a majority (65%) in 20 countries support some legal recognition of same-sex unions...***

Of the 23 countries surveyed, (15 which were surveyed with the same questions in 2013 and their individual changes are noted) a majority in 20 countries support some legal recognition of same-sex unions. Those countries were led by Spain (86% -9) followed by Great Britain (84% +2) Sweden (82% +9), Ireland (81%), Belgium (78% -0- ), Germany (78% -1), France (76% -4), Canada (75% -1), Argentina (75% +4), Italy (75% -4), Australia (74% -0-), Mexico (70%), United States (68% +4), Brazil (61%), China (58%), South Africa (58%), Japan (58% +7), Poland (56% -4), Hungary (54% +1) and South Korea (53% -4). Those countries in the minority included India (47%), Turkey (46%) and Russia (20%).

### ***Methodology Overview...***

*The study is based on interviews conducted via Ipsos’ Global Advisor online Omnibus from April 24th – May 8th 2015 interviews with 17,030 adults across 23 countries. Of those surveyed, 15 countries yield results that are balanced to reflect the general population: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. The nine remaining countries surveyed –Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey – reflect online populations that tend to be more urban and have higher education/income than the general population. As such, for total population comparisons the total global group surveyed can be referred collectively as Primary Consumer Citizens.*

***Of the 23 countries surveyed, a majority of respondents in 11 countries believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally...***

Of the 23 countries surveyed, almost half (47%) in total, with a majority of respondents in 11 countries, believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally. These include those in Spain (77%) followed by those



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in Sweden (74%), Belgium (69%), Germany (68%), Great Britain (67%), Ireland (66%), Canada (62%), Argentina (59%), Mexico (54%), France (53%) and Australia (53%). Those in the minority were led by Italy (48%) and the United States (48%) followed by those in South Africa (45%), Brazil (40%), Hungary (31%), Japan (30%), India (29%), China (29%), Turkey (27%), South Korea (27%), Poland (21%) and Russia (11%).

### **While not supporting that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally, one in five (18%) support legal recognition...**

One in five (18%) of those surveyed in the 23 countries indicate that same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition, but not to marry. Those of this opinion are most likely to be found in Poland (35%) followed by those in China (29%), Japan (28%), Italy (27%), South Korea (26%), France (23%), Hungary (23%), Australia (21%), Brazil (21%), United States (20%), Turkey (19%), India (18%), Great Britain (17%), Argentina (16%), Mexico (16%), Ireland (15%), Canada (13%), South Africa (13%), Germany (10%), Spain (9%), Belgium (9%), Sweden (8%) and Russia (8%).

### **One in five (18%) are against any form of same-sex marriage or recognition...**

One in five (18%) indicate that same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry or obtain any kind of legal recognition. This is most likely to be the case in Russia (66%) followed by those in Poland (32%), South Korea (29%), India (29%), South Africa (27%), Turkey (25%), Hungary (24%), Brazil (22%), China (21%), United States (19%), Mexico (18%), Australia (14%), Italy (11%), Canada (11%), Germany (11%), Argentina (10%), France (9%), Sweden (9%), Ireland (8%), Belgium (7%), Great Britain (7%), Japan (7%) and Spain (5%).

### **16% just don't know which option to choose...**

Of all respondents in the 23 countries questioned, 16% indicate that they "don't know" which option to choose between. The undecided are most likely in Japan (35%) followed by those in Turkey (29%), India (24%), Hungary (23%), China (20%), South Korea (18%), Brazil (17%), South Africa (15%), France (15%), Russia (14%), Belgium (14%), Canada (14%), Argentina (14%), Italy (14%), Poland (13%), Australia (12%), Mexico (12%), United States (12%), Ireland (11%), Germany (11%), Spain (9%), Sweden (9%) and Great Britain (8%).

*The study is based on interviews conducted via Ipsos' Global Advisor online Omnibus from April 24th – May 8th 2015 interviews with 17,030 adults across 23 countries. Approximately 500 interviews conducted in each of Argentina, Belgium, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, Hungary, India, and Ireland. Approximately 1,000 interviews conducted in each of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the United States. Respondents were age 18-64 in the US and Canada, and age 16-64 in all other countries. Data are weighted to age, gender, region and household income based on recent Census and/or population figures for each country. The global numbers were calculated such that each market was given equal weight when aggregated (unweighted base size = 500 for all) Where internet penetration is more than approx. 60%, the data output is comparable to the general population. Of those surveyed, 15 countries yield results that are balanced to reflect the general population: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. The nine remaining countries surveyed –Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey – reflect online populations that tend to be more urban and have higher education/income than the general population. As such, for total population comparisons the total global group surveyed can be referred collectively as Primary Consumer Citizens. The precision of Ipsos online polls are calculated using a credibility interval. In this case, a poll of 1,000 is accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and one of 500 is accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points in their respective general populations*



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