



HARDSHIPS: **LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN JAPAN**

NESTOR JERONIMO

OVERVIEW



EARLY LGBT+ HISTORY IN JAPAN

LGBT+ HISTORY DURING & AFTER WWII

THE ISSUE

COMING OUT

DISCRIMINATION

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

EARLY LGBT+ HISTORY IN JAPAN

EDO PERIOD

- Shintoism, tolerance towards people of all sexualities
- Same-sex practices
 - *Shudo*, *wakashudo*, and *nanshoku*
- No taboo or stigma associated with male-male sexual

MEIJI & TAISHŌ PERIOD

- *Seiyoku* in novels and writings
 - Borrow from western countries
- “*Hentai* boom”
 - Queer *seiyoku*
 - Female-female interest



Handscroll of Ten Homoerotic (Nanshoku) Scenes.
Miyagawa Chōshun 宮川長春. Retrieved from THE MET

LGBT+ HISTORY DURING & AFTER WWII

- Japan's ideology pre and postwar times
 - Heterosexuality and pronatal
- Homosocial, mostly Japanese men
 - Military brotherhood
 - "Love between comrades" (*sen'yūai*)
- Postwar, traditional sex and gender ideology were loosened up
 - "curiosity seeking" (*ryōki*)
- Early 1970's Japan and onwards:
 - LGBT+ activism
 - Rise in lesbian (rezubian) identity
 - First ever pride parade



lgbt flag of Japan. Maxim Studio. Retrieved from Shutterstock

THE ISSUE



TW Queer Japan: LGBTQ Icons in Japan Today.
Retrieved from TW

Despite these historical advancements, Japan still has a long way to go:

- LGBT+ members are still facing many mistreatments

THE HARDSHIPS

- **Discrimination**
 - Homophobia, transphobia, etc
 - National-level recognition
 - Legal issues
- Something as simple as coming out can be a struggle in Japan

COMING OUT IN JAPAN



Coming out of the closet. IAN BERRY, CNN

Japan has relatively few openly-queer individuals:

- Discrimination
- Lack of legal protection

COMING OUT TO PARENTS

- Abusive responses
- Nothing changes (negative)

REASONS NOT TO COME OUT

- Heteronormativity
- Age gap
- Fear
- Family issues

DISCRIMINATION

ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION:

- Hate speech & Bullying
 - Heightened risk of suicide
- Homophobia
- Housing & Financial Benefits discrimination
- National-level Recognition
 - Marriage equality
- Transphobia
 - Gender reassignment surgery issues
 - Physical & Verbal violence
 - Ignored or excluded



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

What's next for the LGBT+ community in Japan

- Continue with LGBT+ activism
- Shed a spotlight on the LGBT+ community in Japanese media
 - Drag Race Japan
 - Less queerbaiting
- Move in a better direction
 - Re-educate
 - Shifting Attitudes
 - Awareness



Transitional Rule for Transgenders in Japan.
Retrieved from CGS



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THANK YOU