

# Changing Hearts & Minds

The Journey to the Repeal of Section 377A in Singapore



# BACKGROUND

## 2007 Singapore Penal Code Review

### ~~Section 377~~

~~Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animals, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine. Explanation. Penetration is sufficient to constitute the carnal intercourse necessary to the offence described in this section.~~

### Section 377A

Any male person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years.

## BACKGROUND

### 2007 Parliamentary Debates and Petitions



“The Government does not act as moral policemen. And we do not proactively enforce section 377A on them [...] I think we have also been right to adapt, to accommodate homosexuals in our society, but not to allow or encourage activists to champion gay rights as they do in the West. So I suggest, Mr Speaker, and I suggest to the Members of the House, we keep this balance, leave section 377A alone.”

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

## BACKGROUND

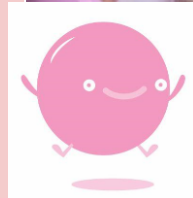
### Effects of S377A

- Perpetuates social stigma of LGBTQ+ people;
- Workplace harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, often with impunity;
- Denial of legal registration to LGBTQ+ organisations;
- Censorship of any positive portrayals of LGBTQ+ individuals and relationships in the local media;
- Absence of objective and comprehensive education in schools about gender identity and sexual orientation;
- Restrictions on the promotion of HIV prevention and treatment programmes by public health providers amongst the LGBTQ+ community.

PINK DOT SG  
2008 Ideation



# PINK DOT SG Campaigns



- Building allyship
- Telling our stories
- Proactive, not reactive
- Change public perception
- Inspire hope

PINK DOT SG  
2009











**2012-2013**

2 unsuccessful constitutional challenges  
mounted against S377A





## India's Supreme Court Decriminalizes Homosexuality in a Historic Ruling for the LGBTQ Community



2018

Indian Supreme Court reads down S377

3 new constitutional challenges filed in SG

Ready4Repeal Campaign launched







pinkdot11

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

1. Please stay calm and do not panic.
2. Please follow the instructions of the staff and security personnel.
3. Please do not touch or move any equipment or property.
4. Please do not use any mobile phones or cameras.
5. Please do not drink or eat anything.
6. Please do not smoke.
7. Please do not use any weapons or dangerous items.
8. Please do not use any profanity or offensive language.
9. Please do not use any inappropriate behavior.
10. Please do not use any inappropriate clothing or accessories.

Mar 2020

High Court ruled against constitutional challenges.  
Appeals were filed.

Feb 2022

Court of Appeals ruled against challenges

### Court of Appeal dismisses challenges to Section 377A, law criminalising sex between men to stay



The men mounting challenges to Section 377A, and their lawyers. (Photos: Facebook/Remy Choo Zheng Xi, Ching S. Sia, Facebook/Roy Tan)



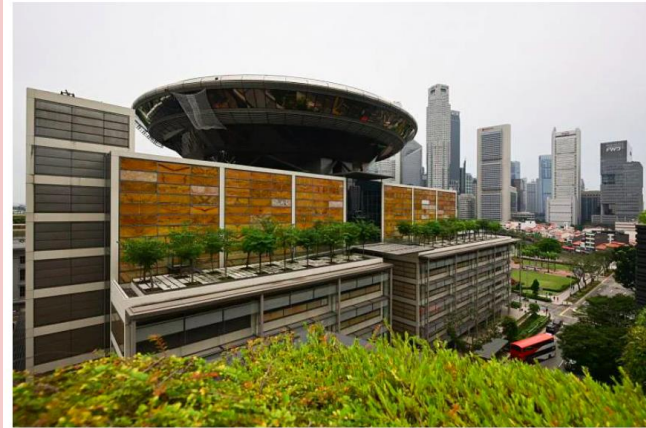
Lydia Lam

@LydiaLamCNA

28 Feb 2022 10:14AM  
(Updated: 28 Feb 2022 05:44PM)



Court of Appeal rules Section 377A stays but cannot be used to prosecute men for having gay sex





Mar 2022

Law Minister signaled at possible repeal

SINGAPORE

## **Singapore law minister: Government 'considering best way forward' on Section 377A**





Aug 2022

Prime Minister announces intention to repeal S377A



"I believe this is the right thing to do, and something that most Singaporeans will now accept. This will bring the law into line with current social mores, and I hope, provide some relief to gay Singaporeans."

PM Lee Hsien Loong at National Day Rally 2022

Aug 2022

Prime Minister announces intention to repeal S377A

NDR 2022: Govt will repeal Section 377A, but also amend Constitution to protect marriage from legal challenges





2022

Thank you!

