

May 19, 2013

## “OUI DO”: FRANCE CELEBRATING THE PASSING OF GAY MARRIAGE BILL

BY MIRCHAYE SAHLU

Washington D. C: - On May 18, 2013, after a year of attaining the presidency, French President Francois Hollande signed the country's “gay marriage” act into law. It is quite obvious that 'gay marriage' has been the most talked about topic not only in France, but the entire world. Gay people have fought their right to marry their partners and to assure that same sex marriage



A couple expressing their joy after the news

be legalized. In this regard, France is the 14th country to legalize gay marriage.

President Holland's decision to approve gay marriage in France is pursuant to his

promise during his campaign for the country's 2012 presidential election that he would legalize

gay marriage within the first year of his administration. This law allows all married couples to

tie the knot and adopt children together; however it does not provide state aid to help same-sex couples procreate.



It was on November 7, 2012 that the Socialist Government introduced 'Bill 344' to the National Assembly. The National Assembly reviewed

and approved the Bill by February, 2013 by 10 votes. Two months later, on April 12, 2013, the Senate approved the Bill with amendments by 6

votes, followed by its approval by the National Assembly again on April 23, 2013 by 106 votes. Finally, on May 17, 2013, the Council endorsed the law as

endorsed the law as a constitutional one and President Hollande signed the Bill.

The news spread out so fast and by Saturday May 18, 2013 supporters were celebrating the

signing of the Bill on the streets of Paris, leaving opponents of gay marriage in total disappointment. According to French law, couples must register to marry in city hall and wait at

least 10 days before holding a ceremony so that anyone objecting to the union, such as existing spouse, can intervene. Since the signing of the bill, numerous gay couples have registered to get

ples have registered to get married before the end of the month.

Though the law was signed and approved in both Houses of Parliament, the protests are still taking place. Religious leaders and conservative groups, with the support of others, plan to stir violence until they have same sex marriage restricted. These opponents are determined to leave no stone unturned to fight against gay marriage. They are

planning to stage yet another protest on May 26, 2013 --- only 3 days before the first gay wedding France will ever witness on its soil.



Protests against gay marriage in Paris (May 2013)