



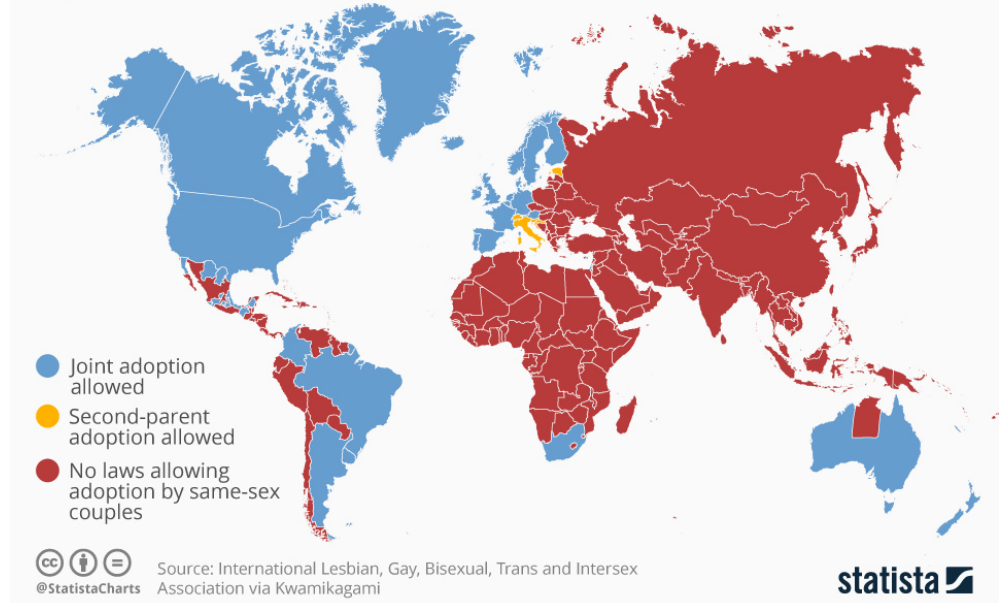
# Adoption Awareness - Modern Families

## Same-Sex Adoption Around the World

As of 2018 there are currently less than 30 countries in which same sex adoption is legal. Stipulations exist in some of the countries that allow Same-Sex adoption. For example, same-sex couples must be married in order to adopt, adoption can only be done by single individuals, or only allowing step-child adoption, in which a spouse adopts the child of their spouse. There are also countries, such as Mexico, where adoption has only been legalized in certain municipalities or provincial governments but not the entire country. There have been consistent cases of legalization around the world throughout the past ten years. 2018 brought the full legalization of same-sex adoption in Australia with legalization reaching the Northern Territory in March.

### Where Adoption Is Illegal For LGBT+ Couples


Legal status of adoption by LGBT+ couples worldwide in 2018



Where Adoption is Legal for LGBT+ Couples in 2018 (before Australia's Northern Territory Legalization Image: Statista)

## Adoption for Same-Sex Relationship Rights in Japan

As discussed in our June Newsletter, in Japan, adoption is the current legal alternative to same-sex marriage. In order to share certain rights and be considered one family, one spouse's family adopts the other spouse in order to grant the other rights only granted to family members. These adoptions generally do not result in residency in Japan, the foreign spouse will still need to make sure they satisfy residency requirements.



## Adoption for Foreigners in Japan

There are two types of adoptions in Japan, **regular** and **special**.

**Regular** adoptions do not sever ties with the child and the biological parents. A child adopted under a regular adoption will be registered as an “adopted son/daughter” in the family registry. These are not allowed for foreigners on a visitor's visa since they require a cohabitation time with the child in Japan before the adoption can be finalized.

**Special** adoptions will register the adopted child as a “natural child” in the family registry and ties with biological parents will be cut. These adoptions come with an age threshold for the children and have a probationary period of six months or more, to ensure a good match is made. These adoptions are allowed for foreigners who are residents in Japan.

**Intercountry adoptions** are also possible. In the case of intercountry adoptions the laws of Japan and the laws of the family's home country will need to be met since the adoptions do not necessarily result in guaranteed immigration. Adoption can be a long process and the use of a reputable program or agency and legal counsel is recommended in order to ease the journey. There are opportunities through the government, private organizations, faith based organizations, international services, and private adoptions.

### **References:**

Real life experiences <https://savvytokyo.com/adopt-japan-adoptive-parents-share-stories/>

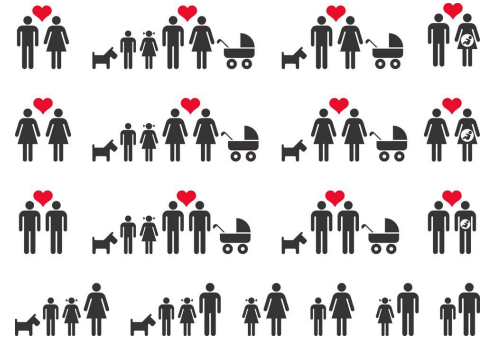
Overview of adoption (US focus) <http://adopt.com/japan/>

International Services Organization <http://www.issj.org/en/adoption/adopt/intercountry>

Japan Children's Network [http://crnjapan.net/The\\_Japan\\_Childrens\\_Rights\\_Network/res-about.html](http://crnjapan.net/The_Japan_Childrens_Rights_Network/res-about.html)

## Modern Families

Queer identities, social movements like Feminism, and the different ways to create a family have shifted and broadened how we understand families and how families come to be.



**The Nuclear Family** is a family in which two parents are present. Today the nuclear model has evolved beyond tradition. The parents in the family can be of different gender and sexual identities and the family can come to be in different ways. For example, two men could be raising a child under the nuclear model. The two men are of different racial identities black and latino, thus their home is bi-racial. They opted to adopt making their family an adoptive family. Their adoptive child is of a different racial identity than either of the parents making their family transracial.

@shutterstock.

**The Childless Family** is marked by partners living together without any children, through choice or circumstance. The partners live and work together to build a home. For example, two partners have decided that they are ready to settle down and build a home. After sometime, they decide that pet adoption is something that they'd like to pursue and they adopt a Golden Retriever from a shelter. The home now consists of the couple and their dog.



avocadosnumber.tumblr.com

Other examples of family structures like single parent, polyamorous, foster, blended, non-parent guardians, and those that may not fall into a category but are full of love.

## References:

<https://complicatingqueertheory.wordpress.com/queer-families/queer-time-and-space-family-structures-and-kinship/>

## Diverse Families and Adoption- Representation in the Media

(possible spoilers ahead)

### Modern Family

As the name suggests, the show *Modern Family* portrays many different family dynamics, including a gay couple, Cam and Mitchell, who choose to adopt a vietnamese baby girl.



@flickr



### Grey's Anatomy

In *Grey's Anatomy*, the protagonists Meredith and Derek get to adopt their adorable Zola by the end of season 7.

@wikimedia commons

### Brangelina

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie made headlines with their multicultural family of six children.



@getty

## Reminder

The theme for our December Newsletter is “Queer in Review” and we want to incorporate you, the members of Stonewall Japan and your stories and experiences into our Newsletter!

All around memories of 2018, what impacted your year and wishes and resolutions for the year to come are welcome!

You will have until **NOVEMBER 16th** to send us your short stories or sentences as a DM to the Stonewall page and we will pick some to publish in our newsletter. (Please state if you'd like to stay anonymous)

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

