



# HONG KONG GENERATIONS AND GENDER SURVEY (GGS)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP BRIEF SERIES



**GGS.HK**  
The Generations and Gender Survey

## Examining Public Opinion on Same-Sex Partnership Rights in Hong Kong

Stuart Gietel-Basten



### KEY POINTS

- ▶ The Hong Kong Generations and Gender Survey (HK-GGS) reveals a diversity in public opinion regarding same-sex partnership rights in Hong Kong.
- ▶ Nearly half (47.9%) of respondents of the HK-GGS were supportive of equal rights, 14% of respondents were in opposition, and 38% adopted a neutral or indecisive stance.
- ▶ Our analysis suggests that views on this issue are shaped by factors such as age, education, and cultural background.
- ▶ Future policy discussions could consider frameworks that aim to balance diverse views, aiming to reach a consensus that protects the rights of all citizens.

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### ISSUE

The Hong Kong government's proposal to grant limited partnership rights to same-sex couples was presented at the Legislative Council on September 10, 2025. Despite significant debate and growing public support for equal rights, the proposed bill failed to pass at LegCo. The outcome of this vote creates a complex policy challenge: balancing diverse societal values with the need for legal protections.

To inform this ongoing discussion, this thought leadership brief presents independent data on public attitudes from the first wave of the Hong Kong Generations and Gender Survey (HK-GGS) 2023. In addition to capturing public attitudes toward same-sex partnerships, the HK-GGS also provides comprehensive data on life-course trajectories, demographic characteristics, and intergenerational relationship dynamics among participants aged 18-61.

## ASSESSMENT

### Key Findings from the Hong Kong Generations and Gender Survey (2023)

The 2023 HK-GGS provides a robust snapshot of contemporary public opinion in Hong Kong. Among a study population of 4,551 individuals, 97.94% of respondents are currently in heterosexual relationships, with 2.06% reported as having a same sex or nonbinary partner. The survey also captures the attitudes of the participants towards LGBTQ+ rights through their response to the following statement: "*Homosexual couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples do.*"

When presented with the above statement, nearly half (47.9%) of the surveyed population expressed agreement. The breakdown in support for this statement comprised of 32.73% who agreed and 15.17% who strongly agreed. Conversely, 14% of respondents disagreed with the statement. A significant portion (38%) adopted a neutral or indecisive stance, thereby representing a critical demographic for understanding the full spectrum of public opinion.

### Factors Predicting Attitudes Towards Equal Rights

A multinomial logistic regression model was used to predict the association between various socio-demographic factors and public attitude towards the statement - "*Homosexual couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples do.*" We categorised responses to the above statement into three categories: Agreed (base category), Disagree, and Neither agree nor Disagree (neutral). This model predicts the relative risk ratios (RRRs) for disagreeing or being neutral relative to agreeing as the base category, based on various underlying factors.

**Age:** We find a positive association between age and opposition to equal rights for homosexual couples. For each additional year of age of the respondent, the relative risk of disagreeing with the statement compared to agreeing increases (RRR: 1.19).

**Gender:** Women are significantly more supportive than men in their attitude towards same-sex partnership rights. They are 49% less likely to disagree and 23% less likely to be neutral than their male counterparts.

**Education:** Higher levels of education predict stronger support for same-sex partnership rights. Respondents with higher education levels are 35% less likely to disagree with equal rights for homosexual couples compared to those with lower education.

**Religion:** Christian affiliation is a significant predictor of opposition. Christians are over four times more likely to disagree with equal rights compared to non-religious individuals.

**Employment:** Unemployed individuals are 46% more likely to disagree with equal rights than those who are employed.

**Nativity:** Individuals born in Hong Kong show stronger support; they are 32% less likely to disagree and 29% less likely to be neutral compared to those born outside Hong Kong.

Figure 1: Multinomial logistic regression model predicting attitudes towards equal rights for same-sex couples (Base Category: Agree)

VARIABLES	Disagree vs Agree (RRR) (95% CI)	Neutral vs Agree (RRR) (95% CI)
<b>Age</b>	1.19***	1.15***
	(1.09 - 1.30)	(1.08 - 1.22)
<b>Square of Age</b>	1.00***	1.00***
	(1.00 - 1.00)	(1.00 - 1.00)
<b>Gender of the individual (Male Ref.)</b>		
Female	0.51***	0.77***
	(0.41 - 0.64)	(0.66 - 0.91)
<b>Education (Low Ref.)</b>		
Medium	0.72*	0.85
	(0.50 - 1.03)	(0.65 - 1.11)
High	0.65**	0.61***
	(0.45 - 0.93)	(0.47 - 0.81)
<b>Religion (None Ref.)</b>		
Christian	4.49***	1.33***
	(3.49 - 5.77)	(1.07 - 1.65)
Buddhist/Taoist	0.93	0.97
	(0.64 - 1.34)	(0.76 - 1.24)
Other religions	1.32	0.51**
	(0.67 - 2.62)	(0.27 - 0.94)
<b>Employment Status (Employed Ref.)</b>		
Unemployed	1.46***	1.14
	(1.10 - 1.94)	(0.93 - 1.41)
<b>Internet Use (No use Ref.)</b>		
Light	1.49	1.54
	(0.15 - 14.88)	(0.30 - 7.95)
Heavy	1.06	1.26
	(0.11 - 10.56)	(0.25 - 6.45)
<b>Born in Hong Kong (No Ref.)</b>		
Yes	0.68***	0.71***
	(0.53 - 0.88)	(0.59 - 0.86)
Observations	3,319	3,319

The HK-GGS data reveals a diversity of opinion within Hong Kong. The fact that nearly 48% of the working-age adult population explicitly supports equal rights, compared to 14% who oppose them suggests a notable level of public acceptance. The presence of a large neutral bloc (38%) suggests that a substantial part of the population may be undecided or seeking more information on the issue. This diversity of perspectives underscores the complexity of the policy environment and the importance of evidence-based dialogue.

The regression analysis findings suggest that views on this issue are not monolithic but are shaped by factors such as age, education, and cultural background. This data can help policymakers understand the different constituencies within the public and the origins of their views.

## CONCLUSION AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

The data presents a nuanced picture of public opinion in Hong Kong. A plurality of citizens support equal rights for same-sex couples, a significant minority is neutral, and a smaller group opposes. To navigate this complex landscape, policymakers should consider the following:

**Utilise Data-Driven Dialogue:** The findings from this survey can serve as a neutral foundation for further constructive dialogue among stakeholders, helping to move the discussion beyond anecdotal evidence.

**Address the Information Gap:** The size of the neutral population suggests a potential need for broader civic education and fact-based resources to help citizens form informed opinions on the legal and social dimensions of partnership rights.

**Explore Inclusive Policy Options:** Future policy discussions could consider frameworks that aim to balance the range of views present in society, with the goal of finding a consensus that protects the rights of all citizens while acknowledging diverse perspectives.

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Continued examination of public attitudes through additional waves of the GGS or other research will be crucial for tracking the evolution of this issue and informing long-term policy development.



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