

Legalizing Polygamy in the United States

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HCOM - 312

03/24/2020



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Introduction

Polygamy is the practice of having more than one spouse at the same time. This is a very old practice that has been used around the world for centuries. But for a more modern society like today, Polygamy does not seem like a common practice. In fact the legalization of polygamy marriages in the United States has the public opinion divided. Many people feel these families should have the right to live the way they want and others think that allowing these kinds of behaviors would have terrible consequences for society. Today I am going to talk to you about legalizing Polygamy in the United States and my standpoint on this topic.



What is Polygamy?

Polygamy is the practice of marrying multiple spouses at once....

Polygyny

When a man is married to more than one wife at the time, sociologists call this **polygyny**.

Polyandry

When a woman is married to more than one husband at a time is called **polyandry**. This practice is not very common.

Group Marriage

If a marriage includes multiple husbands and wives, it can be called a **group marriage**.

History of Polygamy



FRINCK MANGA BELL AND FAVORITE WIVES



- Polygamy dates back to the time before Jesus. Is found in the Old Testament and over 40 important figures had more than one wife.
- Early followers of Polygamy argue that God had required them to do so because some Old Testament prophets had more than one wife.
- Throughout history many religions like Christianity, Roman Catholic Church Hinduism, Buddhism and many others, have practice Polygamy at one point.
- Polygamy was a normal practice among wealthy man like royals who had the money to pay for more than one wife.
- In other cultures Polygamy was also allowed and seem as a way to bring wealth to the family because the more children they had the more the more hands to farm.
- LDS leaders announced plural marriages as an official Mormon Church practice in 1852

Cultures around the world that still practice Polygamy

- It shows that polygamy is permitted in countries predominantly in Africa and Asia, including Algeria, Mali, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Iran.
- Europe, Australia and America are included in the areas where polygamy is fully outlawed.
- Mormon communities in the U.S practice Polygamy
- In 2000, the overall prevalence of polygamy was 28 percent in the 34 countries



Why is Polygamy illegal in the U.S?

- Married couples in the U.S receive many benefits, it will be too expensive for the government to pay benefits to more than one spouse.
- Employers who provide health insurance for the employee and spouse, would have to pay more coverage if the employee has more than one spouse.
- Allowing polygamy would violate not only the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
- The Human Rights Committee said, it violates women's dignity rights and is an "inadmissible discrimination" against them
- Polygamist families also have a higher rate of child abuse and child neglect
- Is unconstitutional

Legalizing Polygamy Marriages in the United States

PROS

- Women may come to enjoy one another's company
- Reduce workload
- Supports population growth
- Free to practice their way of marriage
- Men would not have to look for women outside his marriage
- Source of labor

CONS

- Child abuse
- Child neglect
- Expensive for the government
- HIV/ AIDS
- Social security not enough for more than one wife
- Higher levels of poverty
- Gender inequality
- Jealousy competition

New Polygamy Ruling in Utah

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN-q8dBMko0&feature=youtu.be>



My Standpoint!

Polygamy should not be legalized in the United States

- Not a healthy environment for the wives and children
- Higher levels of poverty
- High cost for the government
- Having 3 legal spouses is not going to stop someone to cheat
- Fosters jealousy, competition, and conflict, with instances of co-wives poisoning one another's offspring
- Higher rates of child abuse and child neglect
- No coincidence that polygamy is practiced in all of the 20 most unstable countries on the Fragile States Index.

Questions for Audience

1. Do you think polygamy should be legal in the U.S? Why or why not?
2. Do you agree that polygamist marriage are less likely to cheat on their partners?
3. Can polygamy violate children's rights?



Thank You!!
