

## The Western Hegemony and the Legalization of LGBT Rights in Japan: A Lesson for Muslims

### News:

Japan passed a controversial bill aimed at promoting understanding of the LGBT community, despite criticism that it lacks human rights guarantees and may indirectly condone discrimination. As the only G7 country without legal protection for same-sex unions, Japan faced pressure, particularly from the United States, to recognize same-sex marriage. However, the newly passed law falls short of those expectations. The bill's original draft, which emphasized the need to "not tolerate" discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, was modified to state that there should be "no unfair discrimination." Critics argue that this change allows for potential bigotry. Although the majority of Japanese citizens support same-sex marriage, the partnership rights currently provided do not match those of marriage. ([CNN](#), 16/06/2023)

### Comment:

Amidst Japan's demographic crisis, the country's decision to legalize LGBT rights highlights its lack of independence in domestic politics. From a rational perspective, one could argue that Japan should prioritize protecting its citizens by promoting traditional marriage, fostering prosperity, and banning activities such as free sex and same-sex marriage. However, due to Japan's perceived alignment with Western political control or hegemony, the country struggles to formulate policies based on its own interests and destiny. This reality demonstrates the inherent risks of relying on Western colonial power. Additionally, Japan's membership in Western forums like the G7 can become a trap, compromising its state sovereignty and preventing it from acting in its own best interests. It is important for Japan to recognize that international forums and organizations do not necessarily foster equal relations among members; rather, those with greater power tend to exert control over the direction of global affairs. Similar dynamics can be observed in other international organizations like the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and International Monetary Fund, which are often seen as tools for Western states to promote secular and liberal ideologies and assert dominance worldwide.

This phenomenon should serve as a lesson for Muslims worldwide, helping them understand the negative impacts of establishing close relations with Western powers, whether through bilateral or multilateral engagements. It is not inherently unlawful to cooperate with non-Muslim countries, but certain requirements must be considered, such as ensuring that the cooperation does not conflict with the interests and principles of the Muslim world or align with enemies of Islam. Cooperation should be rooted in Islamic principles rather than relying solely on secular, liberal, and capitalist agreements. Most importantly, the relations with Islamic states and others should be based on the objective of da'wah, seeking to establish an Islamic-controlled world. This approach represents the only way to spread mercy (*rahmah*) to the Ummah and humanity while safeguarding against the influence of destructive ideologies and powers that pose a threat to human life and the universe.

**Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by  
Abdullah Aswar**