

一視同仁

yi2 shi4 tong2 ren2

A senior immigration officer is challenging the law for denying his same-sex partner spousal benefits. He has filed a landmark judicial review that seeks to revamp Hong Kong's family law and definition of "marriage."

The law in Hong Kong neither allows nor recognizes same-sex marriage. The officer married his partner in 2014 in New Zealand, where same-sex marriage is allowed and legally sanctioned.

Similar challenges are being made in different parts of the world, and more places are giving similar treatment to same-sex marriages. What is being sought is for everyone to be "一視同仁" (*yi2 shi4 tong2 ren2*).

"一" (*yi2*) is "one," "視" (*shi4*) "to look at," "to regard," "同" (*tong2*) "alike," "equal," and "仁" (*ren2*) "benevolence," "kindness." Literally, "一視同仁" (*yi2 shi4 tong2 ren2*) is "to look at all with equal kindness."

Idiom by Lon Yan

"一視同仁" (*yi2 shi4 tong2 ren2*) means to view everyone in the same manner, "to treat all alike without discrimination," "to act fairly to all," "to extend the same treatment to all." "一視同仁" (*yi2 shi4 tong2 ren2*) is the core spirit of anti-discriminatory laws - that everyone be treated fairly, which of course requires, in certain situations, doing more for the disadvantaged groups.

We need these laws to prevent "厚此薄彼" (*hou4 ci3 bo2 bi3*), literally "thick this and thin that," which means "showing favoritism," "to favor one over another," "to be unfair" - the exact opposite of "一視同仁" (*yi2 shi4 tong2 ren2*).

Terms containing the character "仁" (*ren2*) include:

仁愛 (*ren2 ai4*) - kindness to fellow man;

仁厚 (*ren2 hou4*) - is of a kindly disposition

當仁不讓 (*dang1 ren2 bu2 rang4*) - in good causes do not lag behind

蝦仁 (*xia1 ren2*) - shelled shrimp meat