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American pressure will make gay marriage a reality in Britain

By [Alex Singleton Politics](#) Last updated: January 7th, 2010

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I don't suppose you follow New Hampshire's politics, but if you do you'll know that the state has just legalised gay marriage. Cheered by this good news, American supporters of gay marriage are saying that the US Supreme Court should strike out bans on gay marriage across the whole of that country. [Writing in today's New York Daily News](#), Bob Levy of the libertarian Cato Institute points out that the US constitution's 14th amendment says that it's illegal to "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws" – something that bans on gay marriage arguably violate.

A Supreme Court ruling against restrictions on gay marriage couldn't come soon enough, if you ask me, because if the whole of America legalises gay marriage, there'll be a huge cultural pressure on Britain to follow suit – pressure that British politicians will struggle to resist.

Bigots will foam at the mouth at the very suggestion, but fully fledged gay marriages are the mark of a civilised society. Just as it is wrong for governments to judge people by their skin colour or sex, it is unethical for them to discriminate by sexual orientation. By letting heterosexuals get married, while treating homosexuals as second-class citizens by only offering them civil partnerships, our government acts immorally.

Tags: [Bob Levy](#), [Cato Institute](#), [gay marriage](#), [homosexuality](#), [New Hampshire](#), [US Supreme Court](#)

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