RIGHTS OF CHILD

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LAW, POLICY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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RECOGNISING ADOPTION AND PARENTING RIGHTS IN INDIA THROUGH THE LENS OF HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES: A LEGAL ANALYSIS

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Today, India has nearly 2.5 million LGBTQ+ in its population. Despite the community's large size and influence, since long it has always been the target of discrimination and societal shame in a developing country like India. The decriminalization of the draconian Section 377 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2018 in the landmark case of Navtej Singh Johar & Ors. v. Union of India, was generally praised as a sign of positivity for the community's future in Indian society. But even after almost half a decade, the community is still fighting for fundamental rights like marriage and adoption. While there are no restrictions on single members of the community adopting children, same-sex couples cannot adopt under the current legal framework. The existing regulations let only one of the two members of a same- sex relationship to adopt as a single parent, but, this deprives the other partner of any parental rights. The government still denies the consenting same sex couples the opportunity to adopt children. Different jurisdictions have passed a variety of legislations to safeguard the rights of those who belong to this community. However, very few nations have passed legislation ensuring the LGBTO+ community's right to adoption and parenting. People in the LGBTQ+ community still struggle to legally secure parental rights because of