

VIEWS ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND RELATED ISSUES IN ITALY

1. Italy has been divided on issues relating to homosexuality and LGBT rights, with fierce debates ongoing since the 2000s.
2. Between political parties, some are extremely vocal about LGBT rights, while others are firmly against same-sex relationships.
3. In 2016, Italy was the last Western European country to recognise same-sex unions. This was after a compromise between political parties, and more than a decade of attempts, in the Courts and at the national level.
4. But even when the law was finally passed, it stopped short of recognising parenting and reproductive rights for same-sex couples. This meant that same-sex couples could not adopt, and in-vitro fertilisation and surrogacy were not permitted.
5. The passing of the law did not mean that Italy's position on homosexuality, and related issues, was settled.
6. After the general elections in Italy in 2022, Italy has a Government with a Prime Minister who staunchly opposes allowing same-sex couples to have children through adoption or surrogacy.
7. The newly appointed Speaker of the lower house of Parliament – the third most powerful position in Italian politics – is also well known for his strong opposition to homosexuality & same-sex unions. In his words, families with same-sex parents “don't exist”.
8. Italy's new Family Minister has argued that the civil unions bill damaged the traditional family, and has said that she wanted to either abolish or significantly modify the bill.
9. So, while the new Italian Prime Minister has said that she will not roll back any existing legislation, it remains to be seen whether Italy's position on LGBT issues will change under their new Parliament and Government.