

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2010 7:21 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: (Gay) International News #843- 21 June 2010

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS #843  
June 21, 2010  
by Rex Wockner

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Iceland legalizes same-sex marriage  
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The Icelandic parliament, Alþingi, legalized same-sex marriage June 11. The vote was 49-0. Fourteen MPs skipped the vote.

Same-sex couples will be able to marry starting June 27.

The registered-partnership apparatus that gay couples used in the past will no longer be available.

The national LGBT association, Samtökin 78, said Iceland had removed the last obstacle to equal rights for all.

Iceland is the ninth nation where same-sex couples can marry nationwide and the 11th nation where same-sex marriage is possible.

Icelandic Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir is openly lesbian.

Gay marriage also is legal in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Mexico City, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

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