

# Hiroshima City Partnership Oaths



In place  
since  
January 2021

## What is the Partnership Oath System?

When one or both partners are of a sexual minority, a couple may submit a written oath to the City of Hiroshima proclaiming that they acknowledge each other as life partners and that they will support one another in their daily lives. As proof of this, the City of Hiroshima will issue Partnership Oath Certificates and Partnership Oath Cards.

While this system has no legal force, the City hopes that recognition of these relationships by local government will raise social awareness regarding sexual minorities and help create a society where sexual minorities can live with peace of mind.

パートナーシップ宣誓書受領カード	
広島市パートナーシップ宣誓の取扱いに関する条例の規定に基づき、パートナーシップ宣誓書を受領したことを証します。	
宣誓者 【本人】 氏名	【パートナー】 氏名
( 年 月 日生)	( 年 月 日生)
住所	住所
宣誓日 年 月 日	
交付番号	広島市長 印

↑ Partnership Oath Card

## Who can make an Oath?

Couples that swear an oath to the Mayor of Hiroshima and meet the following criteria will be presented with Certificates and Cards:

- One or both have an address inside city limits
- Both are legal adults
- Neither is married (including common-law marriage)
- Neither has a Partnership Oath with anyone else
- They are not close relatives\*

\*Lineal relatives (a direct ancestor and descendent) by blood, collateral relatives (not lineal) by blood within the third degree of kinship, or lineal relatives by marriage. Excludes people related by adoption.

## How to make an Oath

If you want to swear a Partnership Oath, contact the office below to make an appointment via phone, fax, or email.

In general, this must be at least one week before the day you wish to swear the Oath.

For more information, including the Hiroshima City Partnership Oath System Guidebook, which explains the details of the application process, visit the Hiroshima City website.

Hiroshima City Partnership Oath

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## Any questions?

Human Rights Education Division  
Human Rights Education Department, Citizens Affairs Bureau, The City of Hiroshima  
1-6-34 Kokutaiji-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima  
Tel: 082-504-2165 Fax: 082-504-2609  
Email: [jinken@city.hiroshima.lg.jp](mailto:jinken@city.hiroshima.lg.jp)

## What does “sexual minority” mean?

“Sexual minority” refers to people whose sexual orientation or gender identity is different from the majority of society, such as LGBT people.

### Sexual orientation

Refers to who you are attracted to as a romantic or sexual partner, such as their gender or sex.

Specific examples include straight, gay, lesbian, and bisexual, among others.



### Gender identity

How you identify about being a man, a woman, both, neither, or otherwise outside the traditional binary.

Gender identities are diverse. There are people whose gender identities do not match their physical sex assigned at birth, people who identify as somewhere between a man and a woman, people who can't or don't want to define themselves, and more.



## What does “LGBT” mean?

Have you heard the term “LGBT” before? It stands for:

- Lesbian:** Women attracted to the same sex
- Gay:** Men attracted to the same sex
- Bisexual:** People attracted to both sexes
- Transgender:** People whose gender identity does not match their physical sex



The term “sexual minority” covers a diverse range of people, including LGBT people, people who are questioning (yet to define themselves), people who feel no attraction to men or women, and others.

## How to respond when someone comes out to you

Coming out is when someone voluntarily reveals to someone else that they are a sexual minority. If someone comes out to you, it is because they trust you and wish to continue their relationship with you.

First and foremost, be accepting. Some things that may be helpful to say include “Thank you for sharing this with me” and “Is there anything I can do for you?” Also, make sure to confirm with the person who you may or may not tell this information, to avoid outing that person.



### Outing is unacceptable

Revealing someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity without their consent is called “outing.” Outing someone is a flagrant violation of their personal rights and privacy. It is unacceptable behavior.

## What can we do?

Even if you think that there is no one around who is a member of a sexual minority, it is a good idea to act as if there is.

- ❑ Do not use offensive terms or make discriminatory remarks (e.g., “disgusting” or “strange”). They are hurtful to sexual minorities and their loved ones. Likewise, if you hear someone say such things, avoid laughing along or otherwise going along with their behavior.
- ❑ Avoid using heteronormative phrasing (phrasing that assumes that a “normal” couple is a man and a woman).
- ❑ Take opportunities to increase your understanding about gender and sexuality, including your own (e.g., read books about sexual diversity), and to discuss these issues with your friends and family.