

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

arate Sex," which Koyama says is rife with similar misinformation such as that intersex people have "both male and female genitals." As she points out, no human has both sets of genitals; intersex people have mixed or atypically formed genitalia.

"I frankly do not care that the Traditional Values Coalition has chosen to include intersex among its long list of groups they hate, including LGBT people and women seeking abortion," Koyama says. "I do wish, however, TVC would stop misrepresenting facts about intersex conditions and about our movement, because there could be many supporters of TVC who have an intersex condition or a child with an intersex condition who could benefit from some accurate information. Nobody deserves to have their genitals mutilated without consent, even if you are a conservative Christian or a child of one."

ASIANS CONDEMN BAN ON MARRIAGE

A Seattle couple have joined a national coalition of Asian Pacific American leaders and organizations determined to fight marriage discrimination in their communities.

Mala Nagarajan and Vega Subramaniam, chief plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking to overturn Washington state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act, are members of Trikone-Northwest, an organization for "differently oriented" South Asians in the Pacific Northwest from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Africa, Canada and the United States.

"As South Asian American lesbians, we recognize the importance of marriage equality for the Asian American community," the couple said in a statement. "Marriage is not just about individuals but also about parents, families and community. When our marriage is legally recognized and no longer stigmatized by our government, we fulfill that family and community responsibility."

The coalition was formed by the Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality, which recognizes the historical legacy of marriage discrimination in the United States and its profound impact on Asian Pacific American families.

"Through anti-miscegenation laws, exclusion acts and immigration restrictions, APA families have faced a long, heartbreaking legacy of marriage discrimination in the United States," said Clay Kwong of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's People of Color Media Program. "That shameful legacy continues to impact thousands of APA same-sex couples who are currently denied access to protections that marriage would afford them and their children."



Mala Nagarajan and Vega Subramaniam are suing the state of Washington for the right to marry

The coalition also includes Japanese Americans Al and Jane Nakatani, who helped organize a 1998 campaign against a proposed anti-marriage amendment to the Hawaii Constitution, and Chinese American Mabel Teng, who made history by marrying the first same-sex couple in San Francisco earlier this year.

"For same-sex couples in our communities, the basic privilege of hospital visitation rights and health care benefits would be forever unattainable," explained Diana Ming Yin of Scripps College. "The goal of one day being able to sponsor noncitizen partners for immigration and naturalization would be forever unreachable. Ultimately, this amendment is anti-Asian American."

In recent months Asian Pacific American religious conservatives have organized rallies against same-sex marriage, but Andy Wong of Marriage Equality California said they "are not representative of our communities. Indeed, fair-minded leaders of our APA communities support equal marriage rights for same-sex couples and have played a pivotal role in spearheading the movement for marriage equality." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and MEG DALY

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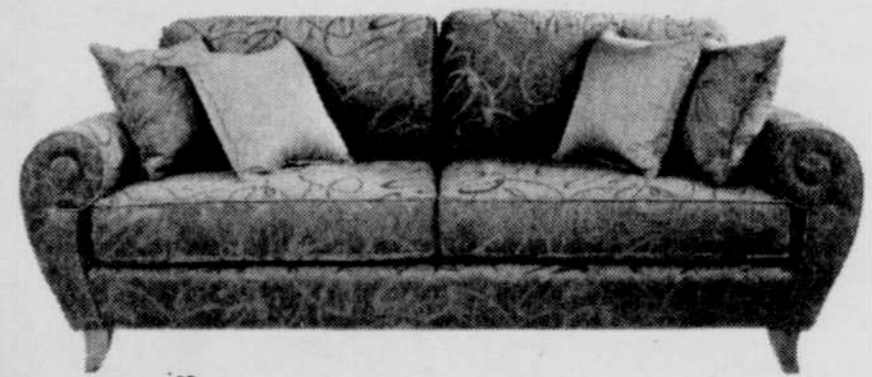
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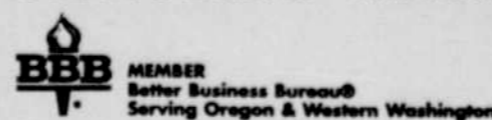
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