

First same-sex marriage in France



June 5, 2004

Twenty years ago, the mayor of Bègles, a town near Bordeaux, officiated the first same-sex marriage in France between Stéphane and Bertrand. However, same-sex marriage would not become legal until nine years later.

At the time, several Green mayors were ready to officiate these same-sex unions, which were not yet legal, and Noël Mamère announced this to the press in Bègles. This marked the beginning of a story that was both very serious and farcical—serious because of the violence of the homophobia it unleashed. For a few months after the mayor's announcement, protesters eyed each other warily and made their presence known. The pressure didn't come only from opponents: the political class got involved. President Jacques Chirac and his Prime Minister openly opposed same-sex marriage. While it provoked a strong reaction from opponents of marriage equality, the Bègles marriage marked a turning point in the history of the struggle for the conjugal and parental rights of gay men and lesbians. Since then, the town has been particularly committed to defending the rights of LGBTQIA+ people.

**For more information,
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Sources: https://actu.fr/nouvelle-aquitaine/begles_33039/l-histoire-du-premier-mariage-gay-de-france-celebre-a-begles-entre-menaces-de-mort-et-naissance-d-un-droit_61157940.html