



An option for staff who can't get married in their countries, or can't travel in order to get married

OHRM_GLOBE to: OHRM_GLOBE

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From: OHRM_GLOBE/NY/UNO
To: OHRM_GLOBE/NY/UNO@UNHQ

Dear all,

One of the limitations of the current personal status policies in the UN system is that for your partner to be recognized by your employer, you must be legally married or in a domestic partnership, and registered under the jurisdiction of a local or national authority.

Not all of you may have this option. You may not be able to get married in the countries where you live or serve. Or you may not be able to afford travel to another country in order to get married.

For those of you in this situation, we wanted to share with you what a same-sex couple did in order to get their union recognized by WFP.

This couple, both of whom were deployed to remote field duty stations, and both of whom were from African countries, were able to register as domestic partners in the state of Nevada (in the United States) via the internet.

The state of Nevada allows you and your partner to register in a domestic partnership without requiring you be a resident or to register in person [*unless there have been changes to this, of course*].

After having registered, the couple submitted proof of their domestic partnership to WFP, who recognized it, and then amended their personal status from *single* to *partnered* .

Please consider this option if you find yourself in a similar situation.

However, please be aware that while such a domestic partnership should be acceptable as proof for your UN employer, it may NOT be acceptable should you want to secure a residency visa for your spouse in the United States, for example. Some countries require you to be married in order to be able to obtain a residency visa for your spouse. And it is countries that issue visas, not the UN.

Please read the information in the links below from the state of Nevada very carefully.

Please also understand that UN-GLOBE cannot help you register with the state of Nevada.

Best,

UN-GLOBE

<http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=269>

<http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=274>

<http://nvsos.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=1192>