

Thumbs down for divorce and homosexuality

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THE divorce rate is high. Local gay-rights event Pink Dot continues to draw bigger crowds each year.

Yet, when it came down to personal views, it appears that most Singaporeans are against divorce and homosexuality.

More than three quarters of those surveyed by the Institute of Policy Studies said that sexual relations between two adults of the same sex is always or almost always wrong.

Four in 10 said the same of divorce.

Muslims felt the strongest against homosexual sex, with nine in 10 Muslim respondents saying it was wrong. For divorce, six in 10 Protestants were against it, as were more than half of Catholics.

But while most were unambiguously against homosexuality, the issue of divorce was more contentious.

About a third of respondents said it was wrong only sometimes, the largest ambiguous response for any of the social issues addressed in the survey.

More than four in 10 objected to divorce, while about two in 10 did not feel that divorce is wrong.

A gay couple adopting a child appears to be more acceptable than gay marriage.

About 61 per cent of respondents said the former is wrong, while 73 per cent said the same for the latter.

More than half said that premarital sex is always or almost always wrong. But living with a partner before marriage was more acceptable, with only 44 per cent saying the same.

Dr Mathew Mathews, who led the survey, said that such conservatism is a product of "values which have been instilled in them through their religious beliefs and also what they see as the normal".